



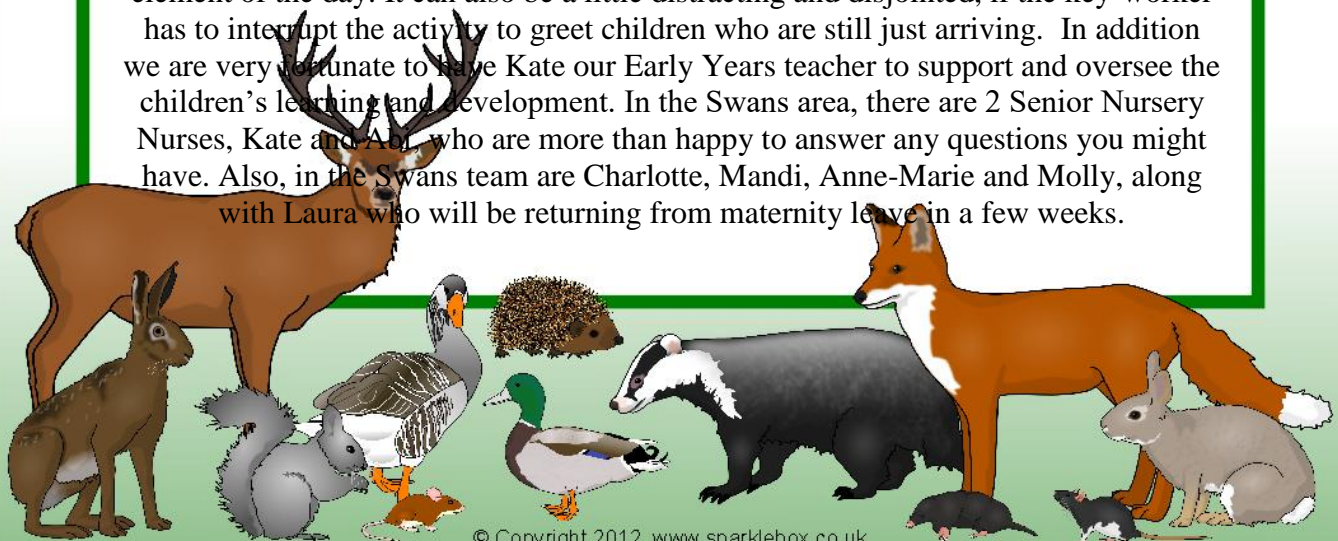
Illustration of the badger by Chris Madden
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January 2020-Newsletter.

Welcome to everybody, we are a month in to the new academic term and all the children are really settled in well, forming bonds with their key-workers and friendship groups.

Some children naturally due to their 'age and stage' from time to time do take a little longer to settle. This is all quite normal, and nothing that we haven't experienced before. As a team, we are more than happy to support you with this. Our best advice is to do the 'handover' quickly. We are always happy for you to phone later in the day to see how your child is doing. The nursery telephone number is: 01823 251257.

As well as new children coming to the setting, some of our existing children have also been in transition. Some from the Ducks (2 year olds) have moved into the Swans (pre-school) where suddenly they seem to become more independent and all the activities are based around school readiness in preparation for school. In the mornings their 'family time' starts at 9.30am this is a key point in their day. This is a structured time with planned activities for individual children in mind to support the children in their development and to achieve their next steps. We are not a school, and you are free to come and go as and when you like. However we would respectfully ask where possible if the children can arrive in time for this important element of the day. It can also be a little distracting and disjointed, if the key-worker has to interrupt the activity to greet children who are still just arriving. In addition we are very fortunate to have Kate our Early Years teacher to support and oversee the children's learning and development. In the Swans area, there are 2 Senior Nursery Nurses, Kate and Abi, who are more than happy to answer any questions you might have. Also, in the Swans team are Charlotte, Mandi, Anne-Marie and Molly, along with Laura who will be returning from maternity leave in a few weeks.





Some of the Ducklings (babies) have been 'promoted' to the Ducks (2 year old area) this is a big step for them into a totally different room. They have all coped very well, and it is always a busy area, 'a hive of activity' and learning. Introducing Circle time and for some potty training. At this point we do normally stop the daily diaries, as the children are a lot more active and writing the books takes that all important attention away from your busy little one. If, however this is something you would like, it is not

something we are averse to, please speak to your child's key-worker. Siobhan and Claire are the Senior Nursery Nurses in the Ducks and oversee the learning and development and care and welfare of our 2-year olds. Ultimately preparing them for their next step into the pre-school area. Siobhan and Claire are supported by Abbey, Zoe, Poppy and Chelsy.

Our Ducklings area is a smaller room for our very youngest children, our babies. Ratios of staff to babies is higher, it is a very nurturing environment and for most children and families the very first experience of nursery life. The babies are offered all the same opportunities as the older children but in an age appropriate way. It is their safe haven, and all the staff in there endeavour to make their first experiences of nursery a positive one for your baby and you! Due to the babies requiring more intimate care the structure of the team is slightly different. All staff allocated to that room have all worked with babies before, and some are Mum's themselves. We have

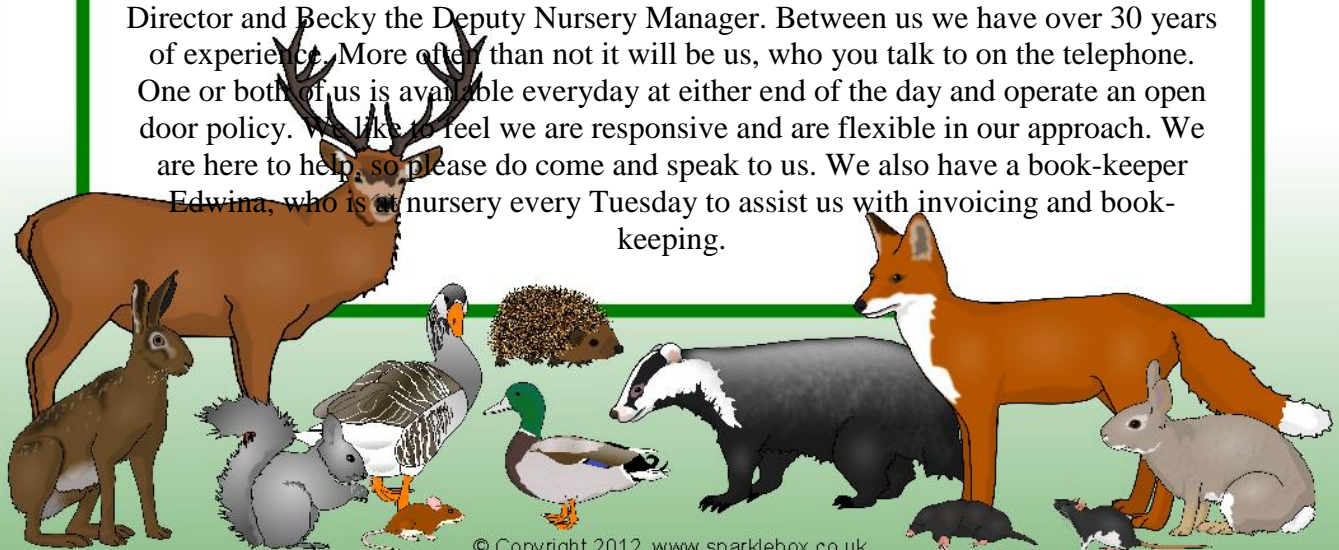
2 Senior Nursery Nurses in that room, who are Gemma and Naomi and they are supported by Sarah, Emily, Tilly and Lauren.

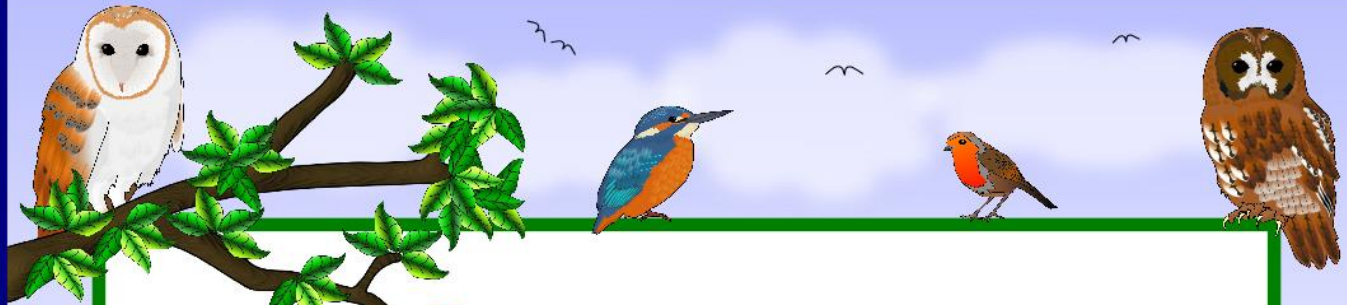
We also have Jenna, Sacha and Holly who are currently on maternity leave but who you will see from time to time doing their 'keeping in touch' days.

In the kitchen are Ashlie and Darren who prepare all the food daily, using fresh and seasonal produce provided by local suppliers. They also cater for all of your child's dietary requirements and those more fussy eaters! Our menu is varied, and we include a roast dinner every week, and foods from every food type.

Darren is also our 'handy man' so you will see him about the place doing his DIY and general upkeep of the building. Keeping our nursery looking nice.

Deana and Becky make up the senior management team; Deana is the Nursery Director and Becky the Deputy Nursery Manager. Between us we have over 30 years of experience. More often than not it will be us, who you talk to on the telephone. One or both of us is available everyday at either end of the day and operate an open door policy. We like to feel we are responsive and are flexible in our approach. We are here to help, so please do come and speak to us. We also have a book-keeper Edwina, who is at nursery every Tuesday to assist us with invoicing and book-keeping.





Newsletters are normally produced once a term but we also have a Facebook page and Web-site to keep you up to date with all the latest happenings!

Talk for writing project.

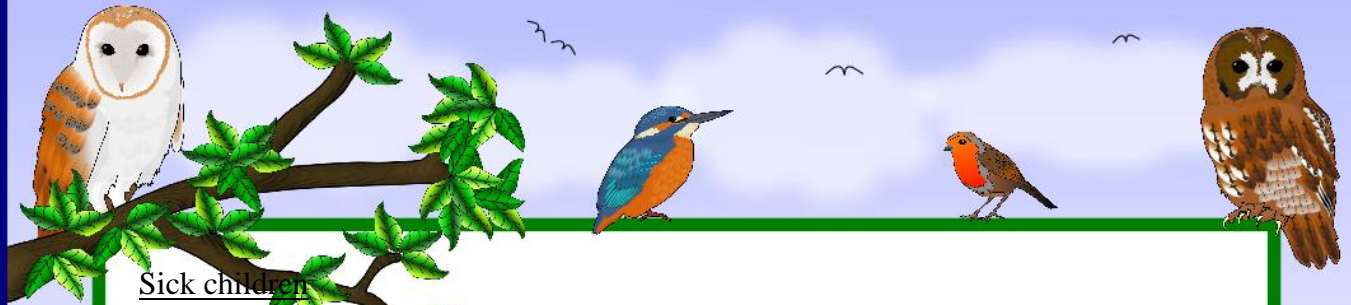
As a setting one of the teaching methods we use is 'Talk for Writing'. The hope is that by the time your child moves onto school, many of the traditional tales will be truly embedded. The children listen to the chosen story everyday and our planning of activities and curriculum is based around the story in order to support the children's learning. During this half term, the story for the 'Swans' is 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' for the Ducks, 'Gruffalo Child' and for the Ducklings 'Dear Zoo'.

'Talk for writing' is an innovation of Pie Corbett, who has compiled a method of storytelling and story making that, promotes and supports children in becoming confident and creative writers. Storytelling using actions and props, links into children's natural ways of learning and enables children to become familiar with the structure and sequence of stories, the characters featured, the range of vocabulary and the flow of language within stories that in turn will inform their construction and writing of stories.

Security

We are required to keep a daily signing in and out register for all the children and visitors who attend the nursery. Whereby we ask parents to sign their child in and out each day. This must be completed on arrival and departure. The security of your child while at nursery is our responsibility, it is therefore essential that we are given full information if your child is to be collected by someone other than yourselves on every occasion. This helps to avoid embarrassment to staff and those concerned. For our children's safety, once collected from their key worker your child becomes your responsibility even if still on nursery premises.





Sick children

Unfortunately under normal circumstances staff CANNOT undertake the care of sick children, especially those with infectious diseases, diarrhoea, vomiting or high temperatures. A child who is unwell should not attend the nursery. If a child becomes unwell whilst at nursery, parents will be asked to collect them at the earliest opportunity. In order to prevent the spread of illness, any child suffering from vomiting or diarrhoea must be kept at home until clear of symptoms for a minimum of 48 hours. Fees are payable during this period of absence. We have Calpol at nursery to administer in an emergency which we can give with parental permission. However if you bring your child to nursery knowing they may need medication, we would politely ask that parents provide this and sign our relevant paperwork.

Personal toys and belongings.

It is lovely for children to bring in toys and books to share from time to time, from home. Which the children have out for a short while and then are encouraged to put them back in their bag. However please ensure these are named and unfortunately they are bought in at your own risk and the staff cannot be held responsible for any personal toys that get lost or broken. Thank you for your co-operation with this matter.

Family books

In early years there are many theorists, Vygotsky, Montessori, Reggio Emillo to name but a few. As a setting we don't favour one particular theorist, instead choosing to adopt a little bit of everything. One thing we do as part of that and the Reggio Emillo approach is make every child a family book of photographs. This is used to help the child to feel secure in the environment. If you haven't already, please can you provide some family photos so that we can make a family book for your child? Many thanks.

Appropriate outdoor wear.

Now that there is a wintery nip in the air. Please can we ask you to provide appropriate outdoor clothing? For the babies their shoes and all in ones are very helpful.

Brock House Day Nursery Wet bags

Help us to reduce our carbon footprint. We now have Brock House Wet bags available to buy for £7.50 each. They are available in the office, please if you would like one could we ask that you bring the correct money in a named envelope.





Dates for your diaries

18th January-National Nursery recognition Awards in Leicester-Brock House Day Nursery is a finalist.

17th-21st February is half term for term-time only, children.

6th-17th April-is Easter holidays for term time only, children.

Friday 10th April-Bank Holiday-Good Friday-Nursery closed

Monday 13th April-Bank Holiday-Nursery Closed

Monday 27th April-Zoo Lab visit

Friday 8th May Bank Holiday-VE Day anniversary

Monday 25th May-Bank Holiday-Nursery Closed

26th-29th May-Whitsun half term holiday for term time only children.

21st July-2nd September-Summer holidays for term time only children.

31st August-Summer bank holiday

26th-30th October-Half term for term time only children

21st December-31st December-Christmas holiday for term time only children

24th-30th December-Nursery closed-Christmas Closure

31st December-Open

1st January-New Year's Day-closed

4th January 2121-Nursery open as normal.

There will be more dates added to our calendar throughout the year, keep your eyes peeled on our newsletters, our public and private face book page, on our website. Or if in doubt, ask your Child's key-worker

As always, I ensure you of our best attention, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to come and talk to us.

Kind regards

Deana.

