



March 2020-Newsletter.



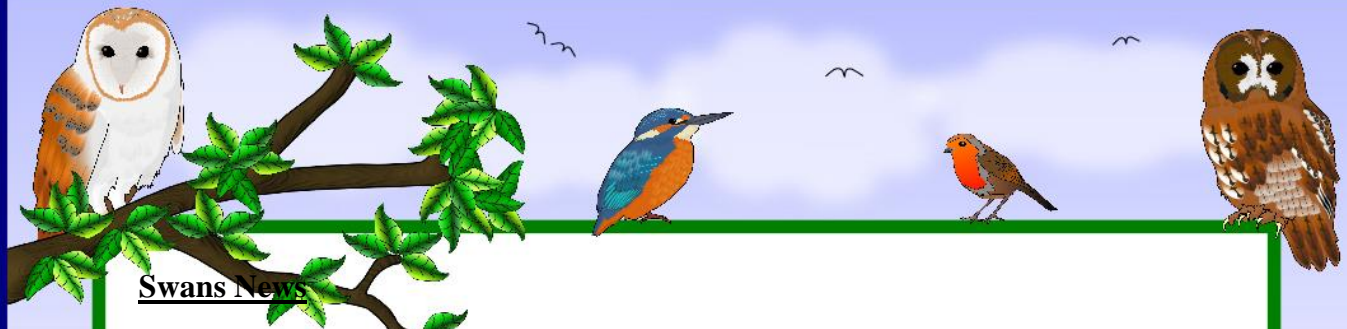
We have had a busy start to the year here at Brock House, starting with the National Nursery Recognition Awards where we were delighted and honoured to have been shortlisted for the 'Best Indoor Learning Environment' and then extremely proud to be announced the winners. We strive every day to inspire learning through exploration, investigation and play and so to be recognised on a national level is truly wonderful. We would like to thank all of you for taking the time out to vote for us. We were then visited by Ofsted in February, our inspection went really well, and the inspector had many lovely comments to share with us about the nursery, along with a couple of pointers of things to work towards in the future. I hope that you have all received my email explaining the inspection day in more detail and have had an opportunity to read the report yourselves. Should anyone like a copy of the report then please let me know and I will happily provide you with a copy.

Staffing

Welcome back Laura and Jenna from their maternity leave. Both Amelia and Rudy are attending here at Brock and have all settled in really well. It's wonderful to have them back.

Laura and Jenna are both now in the Swan's area. Laura is running Forest school sessions and Jenna is running Yoga. The children have taken to these sessions really well and we are delighted that we are able to offer these opportunities to the children. Please be aware that these activities are being offered to those children going on to School in September. Both Laura and Jenna will send out letters to you in the lead up to your child taking part in either activity to inform you of when their sessions will run from and until and a list of things they need to bring with them. If you haven't received a letter yet, please don't worry, your child will get a chance to take part as they work their way around to all the children.





Swans News

Letters and Sounds Groups

We have separated the Swans 'letters and sounds' group in to two groups: the Foxes and the Badgers. The children have been separated according to their age and stage of development. The Foxes are the younger children and will be focussing on the first three aspects of the letters and sounds programme; these include, environmental sounds, instrumental sounds and body percussion.

The Badgers will then focus on the remaining aspects of the programme; rhythm and rhyme, alliteration, voice sounds and oral blending, this is in preparation for early reading and writing skills.

Talk for Writing

Swans are currently focussing on the Hungry Caterpillar story for Talk for Writing. This story encourages lots of uses of maths, sequencing of changes over time and organising. They will be looking at the life cycle of a butterfly which will lead us nicely through spring and into summer where we can begin planting and exploring out in the garden.

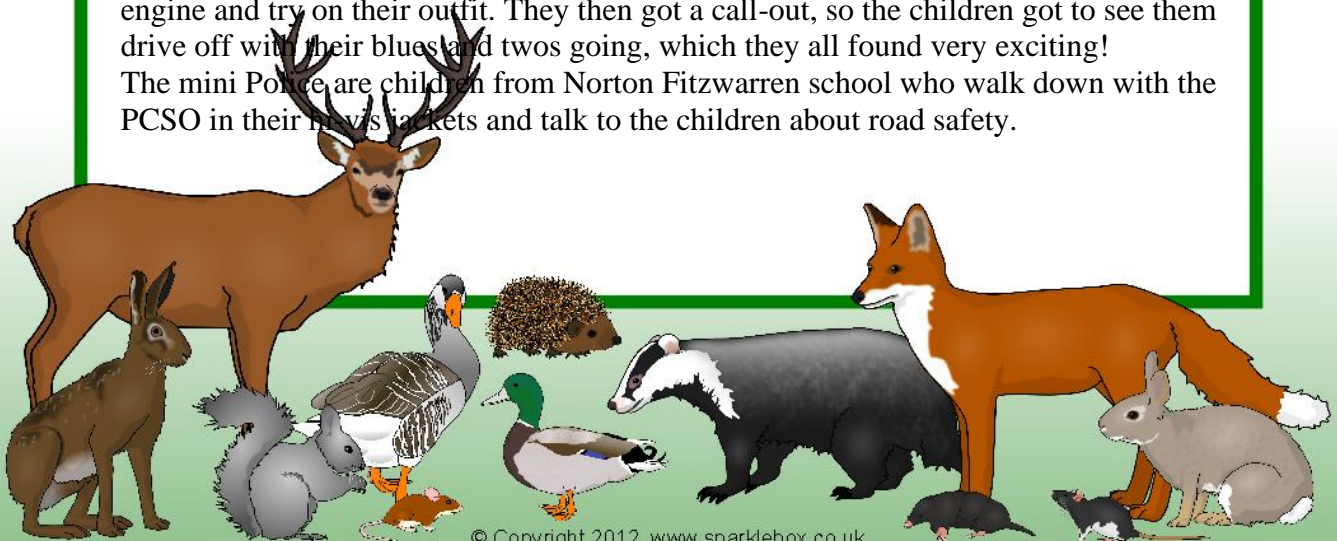
This term the children are also focussing on recognising their names, they will each have their own name cards for lunch and tea and the children will need to find their name instead of their photo pictures.

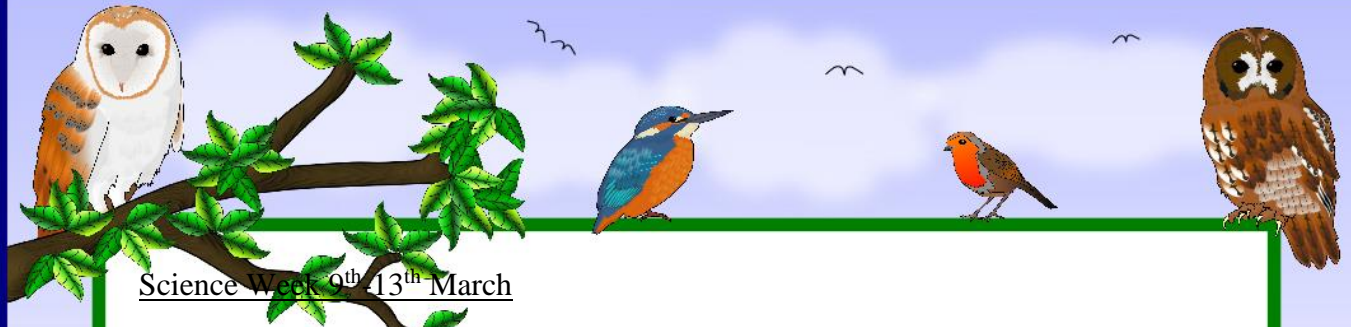
Some of the children are going to be busy getting ready for school, practicing their independence skills with things such as putting on their own coats and doing up the zips/buttons.

Visits from the Fire and Police

We have had a couple of visits recently from the Fire service and from our local PCSO and her 'mini Police' The Fire service allowed the children to play in the fire engine and try on their outfit. They then got a call-out, so the children got to see them drive off with their blues and twos going, which they all found very exciting!

The mini Police are children from Norton Fitzwarren school who walk down with the PCSO in their mini jackets and talk to the children about road safety.





Science Week 9th - 13th March

We will be having a week full of science activities during Science Week. The activities are based around the environment and include activities such as lemon volcanoes, rainbow collectors, zooming rockets, a snowball experiment and they will be growing their own beans in zip-lock bags so that they are able to see what goes on underneath the soil. Mandi will run these activities with the children so keep an eye out for the photos on display and on our Facebook page in due course!

Toothbrushes

Please could we ask that you provide a new toothbrush for your child if they have not had a new one recently.

During May there will be a visit from the Dentist for Fluoride application for our 3- and 4-year olds. A notice and letters will be sent out closer to the time.

Ducks News

The Ducks are focussing on farm animals and animal babies this half term. Their current Talk for Writing focus book is 'Animals and their babies'

The children will be learning about different animals and where they live, what they eat and the noises they make. They will also be exploring different textures in the sensory play including moss, mud and hay.

The Ducks are also focussing on sorting and looking at the different objects that can be sorted out into piles, according to their similar properties.

The story of Mr Tongue.

Zoe has introduced the story of Mr Tongue, this is an activity that requires the children to listen and join in with making specific movements with their mouths and tongues. It encourages them to make different sounds such as "eee" "ooo" or "ta ta ta" "ka ka ka". This activity is really good for the children in teaching them the initial sounds in words and for building on their speaking and listening skills. If you would like to know more or to have a look at the story, please speak to Zoe who will be more than happy to share it with you.





The Ducks are planning on getting outside and going up onto the grassed areas to start looking for bugs and learning about the outside world. With this in mind, please could we ask that you provide your child with wellies and waterproofs.

Nappies and Wipes

Please could all parents provide some more nappies and wipes for their children unless you have very recently already done so, many thanks.

Ducklings News

The Ducklings are focussing on Transport for their new Talk for Writing this half term. Looking at the "That's not my..." books including car, plane, train and truck. The babies really love these books because they offer a sensory experience and are chunky enough to enable them to turn the pages independently.

The Ducklings are also going to be focussing on 'Growing'. As we start to see some brighter Spring days approaching, they will be growing Sunflowers and Cress.

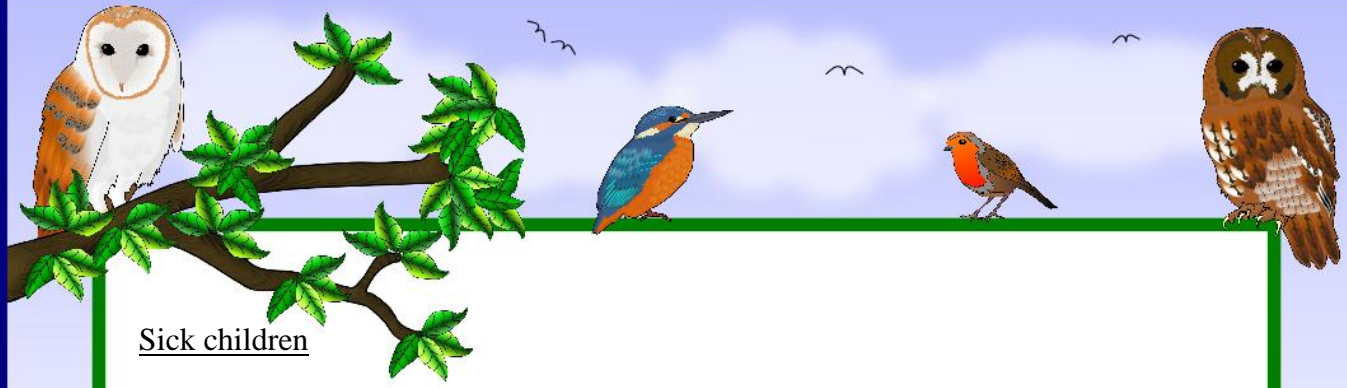
Please could we ask that you provide your child with wellies and an all-in-one waterproof if you have them to allow for exploration outside in the garden and up in the muddy areas.

With Mother's Day and Easter fast approaching, all the children within the nursery have been busy making things to bring home. 😊

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.

Spare Clothes

Please could we ask that children come to nursery with a change of clothes and that their clothes are labelled. From time to time the children will get dirty whilst playing out in the garden and accidents can happen and so it is helpful to us if the children have their own change of clothes that they can wear at these times.

Drinks bottles

Please could you ensure that your child brings a named drinks bottle with them. We like to encourage the children to be able to access the water machine to fill up their own drinks and leave them available throughout the day so that they are always able to independently access their drinks when they need to.





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.

