



Spring Newsletter 2022



We have lots of news to share with you and a really exciting programme planned for the children over the next few months.

STAFF NEWS

- ★ We are delighted to welcome Tracy to the Cubs team on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.
- ★ Sultana is now on Maternity Leave and Zara has been promoted to Deputy Room Leader in Bears.
- ★ Claire Harman has been promoted to Deputy Room Leader in Lion's.
- ★ Jess Grey will be taking a S.E.N Lead Practitioner role to support Sophie and George.

PARENTS' MEETINGS

Face to face parents meetings are back! We look forward to welcoming the Parents and Carers of **Cubs & Bears on Saturday 26th March** and **Lions & Tigers on Saturday 9th April**.

Please note we have to limit appointments to 10 minutes.

You will have received the link to your child's Key Worker so that you can book your appointment. Do contact Jess or Sarah on the Front Desk if you have any problems accessing your link.

PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS

As part of our continuous improvement strategy, we have attached a link to a Parents Feedback Questionnaire.

Could we kindly ask that parents take 5 minutes to complete these forms as we are keen to take on board your feedback and address any concerns or issues you raise. Thank you.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/HNJYVXK>

We would also welcome customer reviews via the following link:

<https://trustist.org/DayCareAtStMartinsSolihullReviews>





ACTIVITIES:

Spring is our favourite time of year and we can't wait to share our exciting programme focusing on

'Understanding the World.'

Staff have thought carefully about the children's interests and arranged a rich curriculum to really engage the children.

Understanding the World: We will be exploring the habitats of familiar animals looking at what they eat, what their habitats are like and how to look after them. We will be building our own wormeries and bug hotels to give the children a fully interactive learning experience. We will also make bird feeders to hang in the nursery gardens and use binoculars to spot the different breeds of birds. Children will regularly visit the park to go on 'listening walks' to identify different sounds we can hear in nature.

As part of understanding the world we are looking at our families, cultures and what makes the children who they are. Some rooms are collecting family photos, looking at similarities and differences between our families. It is so important to teach the children about equality and diversity at an early age.

Chicks: We will soon be receiving our living eggs and incubator and the children will monitor the eggs and watch as the chicks begin to hatch (week beginning 9th May)

Caterpillars: We are also taking delivery of some very hungry caterpillars that we will feed and look after and watch as their life cycle changes into chrysalises and finally into butterflies.

A visit from the Farm: We are so excited to host a mini farm at Day Care at Saint Martin's on 4th and 5th of May. The children will have the chance to stroke the animals, help feed them and learn how to care for them. This will be followed in July by a visit from **Animal Encounters** bringing less familiar animals to the children to extend and deepen their learning. The children will get up close to reptiles including snakes, spiders, slugs and snails to understand that not all animals have fur and that some animals feel, touch and look very different and live in different habitats.

We would like **parents to send in photographs from home of your pets please to support this learning about the natural world.**

Understanding The World also means helping the children understand their own world and make sense of why things happen. Role-play is an important method of children making sense of their world and we will enhance the learning environment by creating the '**Curiosity Cabin**' full of rich resources for the children to explore, use to dress up, role play and enjoy.

We have also added the '**Talking Tent**' to the nursery garden. Sometimes nursery can be a busy and noisy environment and we all need a quiet space to talk and listen to each other. The Talking Tent will enable key workers to take small groups of children to a peaceful space to develop their confidence to talk. They will listen to music, sing, read stories and be exposed to language in the Talking Tent.

Several of the children at Day Care at Saint Martin's speak English as an additional language and speak a different language at home. We support children by having some key words and phrases in their first language to speak

alongside English to help with the transition. Please speak to your child's key worker or simply send us a few phrases on the EYLog in your home language.

To further support language development, we have visits from Kidslingo with lessons in Spanish and French.

We have invested in a wonderful series of books to share with the children and enhance their Understanding of the World. These include 'My Healthy Teeth,' 'My Values,' 'Yoga,' and 'my feelings', these are huge books so children can share their reading with their friends.

We also have a Nursery 'litter pick' planned for celebrating 'Earth Day' (Friday 22nd April). Picking up litter will teach the children in the long term how we can help save the planet and become more sustainable. We are working with Solihull Council supporting the 'street care' incentive. The children will use the litter grabbers, teamed with a high visibility jacket and collect some litter in the local area. We have also ordered a water butt, to collect rain water for our mud kitchen. We want to teach the children that we can use natural collected resources to enhance our play.

We are also continuing with our fabulous additional classes; Rhythm time, Kidslingo, Toddler Tennis and Stage Coach will also be starting in pre-school after Easter. The children really enjoy and benefit from the additional classes.



Staff well-being:

You already know that our greatest asset is our incredible staff team. They are so hard-working and dedicated and have had a particularly challenging time over the last two years. We have a culture of reward and celebration and our 'staff well-being champions' have come up with lots of ideas and initiatives to continue supporting one another including 'Time to Walk' challenge (encouraging lunch time walks around Brueton Park) and the SMILE initiative

Training and Development:

We are delighted to welcome Carron to the team as our new Training and Compliance Manager. Staff training and development is our key priority and we have recruited this specialist role to support Jess as we now have a team of 46 staff! Carron will support our seven apprentices with their training, as well as coach and develop the practitioner team. Our aim is for every member of the team to have a training and development goal and route to achieve it.



FOCUS DAYS:

We would like to inject some much-needed fun into life and have the following themed days arranged. These days have been decided by the pre-school children in line with our child-led approach to learning:

April: Living Eggs and Butterflies

May: Visit from the Farm

June/ July : Animal encounters; reptile visit

Dates For Your Diary

Easter Holidays: 11th April – 22nd April

May Half Term: 30th May – 3rd June

Summer Holidays: 25th July – 2nd Sept

Autumn Half Term: 24th Oct – 28th Oct

Christmas Holidays: 19th Dec – 4th Jan 2023

Christmas closure 2022

As we are located on a school site our Christmas closing dates are in line with the Solihull School shut down period. Fees are calculated for 51 weeks per year not 52 weeks to account for this. We will be closing at **6pm on Friday 23rd December 2022 and reopening at 8am on Wednesday 4th January 2022.**

GETTING IN TOUCH - 0121 711 2557 - www.daycaresmartins.co.uk

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