



Dear Parents/ Carers

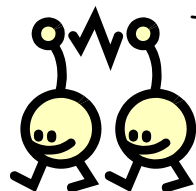


We are racing towards Christmas with a lot to pack in. The children in Reception have had great fun over the last two weeks learning all about how chicks hatch, watching them and really looking at their rapid development. Thank you to the Friends of Swing Gate for paying for such a lovely experience.

School photos

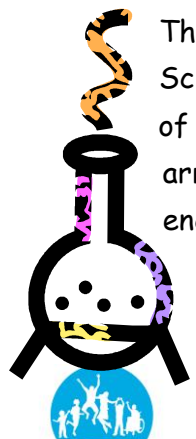
We would like to apologise for the very long delay between having school photos taken and receiving them! We have been assured that they will be with us this week and we will send them out as soon as they arrive.

Sharing experiences with Victoria Infant School and Nursery



The Nursery had a great time sharing snacks with the Foundation stage at Victoria school before going on to explore the park last week. Thank you to Mrs Hardwick for organising this. We have invited Year 2 from Victoria to come and watch one of the Year 2 dress rehearsals in December.

Science challenge day



Thank you to Miss Rodgers, our Science Leader, for organising a day of Science challenges. We usually arrange these once a term to encourage children throughout the school to practise problem solving skills. On Thursday 27th

November, Mrs Hardwick has organised a Clothes collection. In return for old clothes and shoes which you donate, we are given money to buy exciting Science resources. This also encourages our children to recycle. **Please bring your bags in on the 26th November** as it is being collected first thing on the 27th. Please bring your bag(s)! to the hall via reception. Thank you.

School / Eco council



Mrs Wyatt, our Assessment Leader has taken over the running of the school council. We have merged the school council with our eco council, as this works better as an Infant school. We will build on our achievements as an eco-school, having gained our bronze and silver awards. This links into all our curriculum learning. Mrs Wyatt is looking for a parent who would be interested in attending one of the school council meetings per term. If you think you would like to support the children in this way, please email me at head@swinggate.herts.sch.uk

The curriculum at Swing Gate

Sustainable development is 'development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs' Brundtland Commission 1987.

Education for sustainable development (ESD) is a vision of education that empowers people to take responsibility for creating a sustainable future.





The following Key Concepts are high profile in our curriculum and weave their way throughout learning. They are the outcomes of work by John Burden. We have been using these for some years. The questions posed are examples of how we approach topic work at Swing Gate. Recently we have been looking at key concepts alongside learning about British values, which alongside the revised curriculum have become statutory since September.

These include coverage of **Democracy** e.g choosing school council members, participating in the "send a friend to school project", links to local MP's who visit the school and speak to pupils. **Rule of Law** - at Swing Gate, this includes the school behaviour policy - all the school community are aware of the policy and it is understood and followed, parent/carers questionnaires relating to behaviour, safety etc. (parent survey results are on the school website). **Mutual respect** - this includes social, emotional aspects of learning (SEAL) taught across the school as part of the PHSCE curriculum, RE curriculum, Parent forum and anti-bullying week. **Personal responsibility and liberty** Home / school agreements, pupils' roles in school, school values etc. **Tolerance of Culture, Faith and others**. This includes RE curriculum. Links with other schools, Equalities policy and teaching and learning policy, visits to special places of worship of all faiths, visitors from different faiths to school, festival assembly celebrations e.g Harvest at Swing Gate, understanding of British values sits well with our coverage of Key concepts.

Please take a look at the curriculum overviews on the school website to see how these values are integrated into the curriculum

Key Concept 1 - Interdependence

- What is interdependence?
- How will changes or developments affect people, places or living things locally or in other parts of the world?
 - What impact will _____ have on _____? (say within the school site, locally, regionally, nationally or globally)
- How will it affect the ecosystem, economy or people?
 - Who will benefit and who will lose from this proposal, development or change?
- Did you notice any changes to _____ when _____ happened?

Key concept 2 - Citizenship and Stewardship

- What do you think should happen?
- How could we achieve or arrive at that?
- Can we influence the decision-making process?
- What are the options?
- Why did they do that?
- Do you agree with the last person who spoke?
- What are your reasons?
 - Who decides what happens?
- Who will benefit and who will lose?
- What are the arguments for and against the proposal or change?
 - How did you get that answer?
 - Can you explain what you mean by that?
- How do we know about that?
 - What am I/are you going to do about it?
- Is there a better way to do this?
- Would it make life better?
- What did you notice?



- How do we take care of/look after this effectively?
- What will make it grow better and live longer?
- Did you turn it off?
- Should we use these resources/materials?
- Is it worth saving these materials?
- Can we re-use this resource/these materials?

Key concept 3 – Needs and Rights of Future Generations

- What are the rights of future generations?
- What is our responsibility?
- Who will benefit and who will lose?
- Will it/the proposal make us/them healthier?
- What do we need to make us an effective and successful community in the future?
- What do we need to survive?
- What are we and future generations entitled to?
- How will the proposal change or affect the people/children who come after us?

Key concepts 4 – Diversity

- How do we recognise and celebrate diversity in our immediate locality?
- How do they do this in other countries, regions, religions, cultures?
- Will it/the proposal increase or decrease the variety of wildlife?
- Do we value other cultures and religions?
- What are the alternatives?
- Are we being prejudiced or biased?

Key concept 5 – Quality of Life

- Would the proposal make life better?
- Is it fair?

- Has it always been like that?
- What is that/this place like?
- What would it be like to live there?
- What is it like to live here?
- What are the differences in the standard of living and quality of life between _____ and _____?

Key concept 6 – Sustainable Change

- Are there any safeguards?
- Would the proposal make life better?
- Is it/the proposal sustainable?
- What would happen if _____?
- What are the alternatives?
- Would it cost a lot?
- Would it be worth it?
- Has it always been like that?
- Can we source more of our food locally?
- What would happen if fuel prices continued to rise?
- Can we/should we reduce our use of petrol/packaging/water/electricity?

Key concept 7 – Uncertainty and Precaution

- What would happen if?
- What are the alternatives?
- What happened before/last time?
- Can you spot a pattern in these actions/developments/statistics?
- What are the trends in _____?
- What would we do if things went wrong?
- What caused this to happen?
- What is likely to happen in the future?
- Who might gain and who might lose if _____?
- What are the risks?



Celebration assemblies

Every week, we hold a celebration assembly. If your child would like to share a special achievement that has taken place outside of school, please let us know so that it can be celebrated with us all. This can be a sporting achievement etc. We look forward to hearing from you.

Travel forum



We are still looking for a representative from Swing Gate who would be willing to attend the local schools travel forum. If you are interested please email me.

Parent's forum

The minutes of our latest meeting are going up on the parent forum page of the school website. Please take a look and see what questions were raised. We are still looking for representatives from Nursery. If you are interested, we meet once a half term for about an hour and a half in the evening.

Christmas presentations



The children are working really hard to learn their Christmas presentation words and songs. We are really looking forward to welcoming you on the following dates;

Squirrels & Market People (Nursery) 9th December 9.10 am

Rabbits 9th December 2.00 pm

Owls & Towns

People (Nursery) 10th December 9.10am

Hedgehogs 10th December 2.00 pm

Foxes 11th December 2.00 pm

Badgers 12th December 2.00pm

Christmas carol service



On Monday 15th December, we would love you to join us at our carol service held at St Peters Parish church at 2pm. This is when we celebrate Christmas together. I do hope you can join us.

Christmas Jumper Day

On the 12th December we are supporting Save the Children with their Christmas Jumper Day fund raiser. Children can wear a Christmas jumper (homemade or otherwise) to school for a donation of £1. We look forward to seeing some marvellous creations.

Assemblies



Foxes class assembly is on Thursday 27th November at 8.50 am. We look forward to seeing you.

Occasional Day



Don't forget that the school is closed on Friday 28th November. We hope you have a great long weekend.