

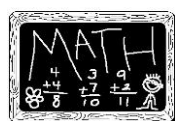


Dear Parents/ Carers.



Welcome back to the Spring term. I hope you all enjoyed the Christmas presentations and Carol service at St Peter's church. We are all ready to get going with learning for this term and give you some ideas for best supporting your children at home. You should all have received a letter via your child's book bag outlining the themes for this term. The collections from Christmas presentations came to nearly £200 which is a fantastic amount, thank you and has gone to support the work of the Hospice of St Francis. The Church collection totalled £60. Many thanks.

Maths week



At the end of January we will be holding a Math's week. All activities and learning will be focussed on Maths. This will encompass team work and problem solving. **On Thursday 29th of February at 2.30.p.m** we will be giving parents/ carers the opportunity to come and see a film demonstrating how we teach Maths at swing gate. It will show how children right across the school approach addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. It will also support you in understanding written calculation methods. Our calculation policy can be found on the school website. We look forward to seeing you there. You can find lots of useful Maths ideas and links to children's sites on the website.

School Library



Healthy School

Mrs Howe has spent quite a few hours sorting the books in the library. We are now ready to obtain some design ideas which will work for infants whilst taking into consideration that the library is situated in a walk through area. We'll keep you informed of progress.

Pantomime



DID!!

Thank you to the friends of Swing Gate for taking Years 1 and 2 to Jack and the Beanstalk. They had a thoroughly marvellous time....oh no they didn't, oh yes they

Staffing

I am saddened to tell you that Miss Burkhalter has resigned as a class teacher and will be leaving Swing Gate at half term in February. She has expressed her thanks to the whole school community for their support and kindness but decided that teaching will not be her chosen career, preferring to return to her previous interests. We would like to thank her for all her hard work.

Owls class will be taught as a job share with Mrs Wilson teaching on a Thursday and Friday, and Mrs King teaching on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Mrs Wilson has been teaching Owls already this year for one day a week, and knows the children and their abilities well. Mrs King is an experienced Reception class teacher. They are looking forward to working together for the benefit of the children. Unfortunately, Mrs King will not be able to join us until Easter. In the meantime, Mrs Long, an experienced Reception



supply teacher who knows our school, will cover the days (Monday to Wednesday) - 18 days in total required to take us up to Easter.

We are looking forward to the experience and breadth of knowledge these teachers will bring to Swing Gate. All have been Foundation leaders in different settings and are very familiar with the routines, structures and needs of the Reception class. We are working hard to ensure the handover is as smooth as possible and the children feel settled, secure and confident in their learning.

Hedgehogs

Mrs James is still unwell and Mrs Britton will be teaching assistant in Hedgehogs this term.

Mid-day supervisor



Our super mid-day supervisor, Miss Roberts has had to take a break to fit in with family arrangements. We hope to see her back in September. In the meantime we are looking for a mid-day supervisor. If you are able to do two or three days or more we would love to have you. This is such an important post to the children. A happy and secure playtime really benefits the children's learning

Attendance



I am pleased to say we have been working hard as usual to keep our attendance as high as possible in line with all Berkhamsted schools. We share the same attendance policy and approach. If you have any holiday queries please contact

admin at admin@swinggate.herts.sch.uk for a holiday form remembering that taking holidays in term time cannot be authorised.

Term dates - all dates are easily accessible on the school website, newsletters and hard copies available at the school office. The dates for this term are as follows;

Half term Monday 16th to Friday 20th February

Last day of term Thursday 2nd April finish at 1.30pm.

After school activities



We still have a few places left for Boogaloo Boogies on a Thursday and for Mad Science after half term (also on a Thursday). Plus a few spaces left for Reception class Spanish on a Monday lunchtime. If you are interested in any of these please contact the office.

Tubs for tablets

The deadline is looming for sending in our lids if you have any at home then please bring them in we need another 44 to claim one tablet!

Dates for your Diary

Squirrels class assembly Friday 23rd January
Rabbits class assembly Friday 30th January
Owls class assembly Friday 6th February