



Dear Parents/ carers

Sports



All classes within school have been enjoying Sports coaching. Be inspired came along to the Foundation stage and really did inspire our early years children and the staff! Both Year 1 classes are enjoying three weeks of coaching from Game On. This is an opportunity for the children to try new sports and activities and for the teaching staff to observe different strategies and approaches. Year 2 will also be benefitting from Game On coaching when Year 1 have completed their sessions. On Friday, coaches from Berkhamsted Tennis Club came to pass on tennis skills to our Reception classes and Year 1. All such activities complement our own varied Sports Programme. Miss Oliver, our PE leader has been busy arranging these events. She met with the PE leader from Victoria school last week to arrange joint sessions for the Year 2 children in the summer term, to be held at Thomas Coram School. This will be a really good opportunity for the children to take part in different activities together and support their transition to Thomas Coram Junior School.

Parking

I'm in danger of repeating myself but we really would ask you to park safely and with consideration for our neighbours. We have recently had a shower of complaints from neighbours who have not been able to get off their drives to get to work, or take children to school. Awkward parking prevented one neighbour from being able to leave for work. Neighbours in the



shops opposite school have also complained about inappropriate parking. Please make sure that if you absolutely need to use a car to get to school, that you park considerately.

Library



We now have a design for our library. The next step is to dismantle the present shelving, paint the walls and lay new carpeting. We can then install the new library. It will be bright, cheerful and set out as an Infant library. The books will be much easier to access. The children will also be able to "chill" out in the area as well. It's all very exciting. Thank you to the Friends of Swing Gate for paying for this venture and all of you for supporting the many exciting events that are put on by the Friends.

Parents evening



Please don't forget to come to parents' evenings. We are looking forward to seeing you and discussing your child's progress. It's a really good opportunity to see class teachers and look at all the great maths displays around school.



We would really appreciate it if you could take a few minutes to access Parent View to feedback your views of Swing Gate School. This is really valuable, supporting any future Ofsted inspections in



parallel with our in depth parent survey which we carry out in April. It can be accessed directly from our school website
www.swinggate.herts.sch.uk

Spelling



Mrs Williamson will be producing a help sheet for parents, setting out the school's approach to spelling and how you can support your child. This follows further advice nationally about the most up to date approach to spelling in the new national Curriculum, and a few queries from parents about how spelling is taught. We hope this will be really helpful to you. This will be coming in the next few weeks.

E Safety



The e-safety workshop is taking place at Westfield for all local schools on Tuesday 3rd March. Only six of our parents have signed up to attend which is really disappointing as the issues raised affect all age groups. I have spoken to quite a few parents who believe that infant children are too young to experience some of the dangers associated with use of the internet etc. they are not. If you would like to attend please ring admin at Westfield school (01442 862729) who are hosting the event which has been paid for by all the local schools together. We have advertised this event quite extensively and had hoped that an evening meeting would attract more people.

Unwanted electrical items collection

REDUCE REUSE RECYCLE- During the week commencing Monday 20th April, Herts Waste aware will be collecting unwanted or broken

electrical equipment through a free collection service. You can join in! We have enclosed a letter giving all the details. Let's see how much we can collect.

Maths questionnaire



Thank you to all those parents who completed Miss Parry's Maths questionnaire. It has given us some really useful information and will help us to plan further support/ workshop sessions.

World book day

Thursday 5th March is World Book Day and the children are invited to bring in an old book (in reasonable order but finished with) which they can swap with a friend during the school day.

Red Nose Day



As you must know Friday 13th March is red nose day. The children are to come to school in normal school uniform but for a donation of 50p to comic relief can paint their face.



Foxes class assembly is Friday 6th March. We look forward to seeing parents of children in Foxes there.

Dates further ahead

Thursday 19th March 2015 Class photos

Friday 20th March Class assembly Badgers

End of term 1.30.p.m. Thursday 2nd April