



Dear Parents/ carers

Parents evenings



Thank you all for attending the recent parents' evenings. It was great to welcome so many of you and give you news of your child's progress. I know the teachers found it very useful. We will be rearranging a parents evening for parents of those in Nursery. I'm glad to say Mrs Hardwick is feeling much better and is back with us this week. I hope you all found the evening informative and beneficial.

You can find details of the school curriculum and how it is approached on the school website, along with the copies of the information letters we send out. You can also find lots of information and photos on the class information pages.

E safety workshop



You will also find all the information and links given out on the "e safety " evening available on the school website. This was a really successful evening, put together by all the local Primary schools, Infant schools and Junior school and hosted at the Westfield school site. Parent comments (school website) are really positive, praising the information given, presentation and welcoming the way in which we work together as a group of local schools.

Transition

Mr Halls, Head Teacher at Thomas Coram school will be coming in the summer term to take a couple of assemblies. This gives our children a further opportunity to meet him, before transferring in September. At the same time, we have also arranged for two afternoons where our Year 2 children will get together with Victoria school Year 2 children for afternoons of sports activities taken by Sports coaches from Game On. We feel this will be a really good way for the children to get to know each other, keep fit and learn new skills at the same time.

Some of our children who are now in Year 3 at Thomas Coram will be visiting our Year 2 children to talk to them about life at the Junior school. These events will be in addition to the Transition day in the

Summer term, where our Year 2 pupils will spend the day in their new school. Teachers of the two schools, year 2 and 3, will get together for the usual transition meetings about the children's achievements, progress and individual needs and characteristics.

Staffing

Unfortunately, Mrs Britton who is the Teaching Assistant in Hedgehogs is still unwell, therefore Mrs Halsey is taking over as TA in Hedgehogs to ensure continuity for the children.

Meals



Please can I remind all parents that even though school provides universal free school meals for all, we still need the usual half terms notice to change meal patterns. As the kitchen needs to order ingredients in advance and ordering is very tight, we cannot accommodate children coming in with their own lunches on odd days when they don't feel like a school dinner. I would be really grateful if all parents could ensure they follow the school process, and give the usual half terms notice to change their pattern.

Class photos



Don't forget we have our class photos this Thursday so brush up on your smiles (and your hair!)

Parent forum



We have our next meeting on Thursday 26th March, please don't forget to raise any questions with your class reps.

Spelling came up as an item at the last meeting. This coincided with a focus on the approach to spelling within the new national curriculum. Miss Williamson, as English leader has revised our spelling policy and will be sending out a help sheet for parents and carers. This will show the progression of spelling across the year groups and how school approaches the learning of spellings. It will also inform parents



how they can support and know the outcomes of spelling quizzes and the place of dictation in the spelling process. I hope you will find this informative and ensure consistency of feedback from all classes.

Keep our reading books safe!



In the last few years, school has spent thousands of pounds on reading schemes and school reading books. This has been supplemented by money and support from the FOSG.

Unfortunately, an increasing number are being lost or damaged. Please could I ask all parents to ensure reading books are returned to school, and that the school book bag only contains the school reading record, reading book and any homework. Water bottles, which can be purchased from school, should be carried separately. Children don't need any other bags as it all becomes rather too much to carry. We would be really grateful if you could support us, as these books are really enjoyed by the children and cost such a lot of money with many being part of sets.

Spring is coming along with new windows



New hall windows are being fitted in the Easter holidays along with some new kitchen windows and a door. At the same time the hall curtains will come down, be cleaned and new curtain tracking will be put up. This is part of a rolling programme to replace the majority of old windows and doors.

During the holidays new flooring is being put down in the Owls classroom and the literacy area. I'm sure it will look a lot brighter!

Library update



We have now taken out all the old library shelves and are ready to paint the library area, before putting new carpeting down. Once this is down the new library will be installed after the Easter holidays. Books which we can still use will be put back, and then our focus will be on adding lots more Infant appropriate books and ensuring all classes have some kind of library time. We will also use the library for group phonic sessions.

I am sure we will have a great time using the new library. Once again we would like to thank the FOSG for the time they put in raising money and all the parents for attending the fund raising events. The library has cost £10,000 pounds. Thank you. The FOSG supports school in enhancing the children's education and funding those areas that are "extras". This has included an outdoor classroom and Foundation stage outside area. We really are very grateful.

Electrical recycling!

Recycle your broken or unwanted electrical equipment through a free collection service. Just let us know what items you want to recycle by Thursday 19th March by either emailing admin@swinggate.herts.sch.uk or a list via your child's book bag. We have attached the letter giving all the details just in case you missed it! Let's see how much we can collect.

Shooters Way Traffic Petition

I have been made aware that there is a petition lodged by a local resident at consult.hertsdirect.org/petitions "To reduce the speed of vehicles on Shootersway, Berkhamsted to the existing legal limit of 30mph by reminders on poles and the road, and by vehicle activated signs indicating speeds or "Slow down". Pedestrians (including school children) are currently at risk on the narrow and poorly maintained pavement".

You are able to sign the petition by visiting the above website and clicking on "petitions" in the box on the left hand side. The petition remains open until 31 March. Many of the local schools are keen for people to sign the petition as it makes it safer for everyone.

Dates for your diary

Thursday 19th Class photos

Friday 20th Badgers class assembly