



DIARY DATES

February 2024

Tues 13th

YN Shared Reading

iRock Parent Assembly
– by invitation only

Thurs 15th

YN Shared Reading

Fri 16th

Local Walk – Voles

*Premier Sports
Workshop*

Mon 19th - Fri 23rd

Half term

Mon 26th

Nursery online
applications open

Tues 27th

Parent Consultation
Bookings open at
16:00

Wed 28th

YN Shared Reading

March 2024

Fri 1st

09:00 Parent Forum

*Premier Sports
Workshop*

Thurs 7th

World Book Day –
children to dress up as
a book character

YN & YR Shared
Reading

Mon 11th – Fri 15th

The Big Plastic Count
& Science Week

Tues 12th

Y1 Shared Reading

Thurs 14th

Ocean VR Experience
Workshop

The [school calendar on our website](#) has important dates

9th February 2024

Feeling Good Week

This week the children, staff and volunteers began creating our biodiversity garden in the corner of the school field. We were so proud of the children for working really hard planting, building bug hotels and more. However, due to the persistent rain towards the end of the week we had to defer the remaining work until next week. We can't wait to see the finished garden and begin enjoying bug spotting.

Another highlight of the week was the Year 2 fundraising concert on Thursday. They have been working hard behind the scenes planning, choreographing and performing a variety of songs, poems, nursery rhymes and dances. It brought a tear to many in the audience. Willow read the following poem so beautifully.

Dream Your Dream

Close your eyes my little one,
Close your eyes and dream,
You can be anyone, anyone you
dream,
You can go anywhere,
Do anything,
Be anyone,
Just close your eyes and dream
your dreams.

By Rebecca Burns

Open Mornings

Our final Open Morning for Nursery 2024/25 admissions took place today. The online application system opens on Monday 26th February, you will

find the link to make an application [here on our website](#). The deadline to apply is Thursday 28th March.

20mph Zone Consultation

Along with Ashlyns, Thomas Coram and Victoria School, we have been campaigning to increase road safety for our children. One of the traffic calming measures is to reduce the speed limit to a 20mph zone around our school sites. The consultation for this scheme is now live until Monday 4 March. The link to the survey is here - www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/SwingGateLane20. A copy of the consultation letter and plan by clicking on the links below:

- [Consultation plan](#)
- [Consultation letter](#)

We are in full support of making our roads safer for your children travelling to and from school and hope you are able to support this campaign too. Our Governing Board has prepared the following statement in support of the speed reduction:

'The Swing Gate School Board of Governors are very supportive of this proposal. Our view is that the overall road layout in the area makes it tempting for drivers to speed, and drive somewhat recklessly, especially around our school. We have observed numerous near misses. This welcome proposal will contribute to a safer road space, especially for our children. Thank you.'



Pause for thought

*"If you look the right way, you can
see the whole world is a garden."*

Francis Hodgson Burnett, author

Shared Reading for Y1

Year 1 have confirmed their shared reading dates until the end of the year. The summer dates are 25th April and 2nd July. The sessions will take place from 08:30-08:50. You can find dates for shared reading sessions for Nursery, Reception and Year 1 [on the school calendar](#).

NSPCC Number Day



The children across the school had lots of fun taking part in Number Day on Friday 2nd February. They joined in with lots of fun mathematical activities, whilst also raising money for the

NSPCC. Well done, Swing Gate!

In Year 2, the children looked at different types of board games. They then created their own mathematical board games.

They also solved codes to answer jokes linked to maths. Here are some of our favourites:

Q: Which snakes are good at maths?

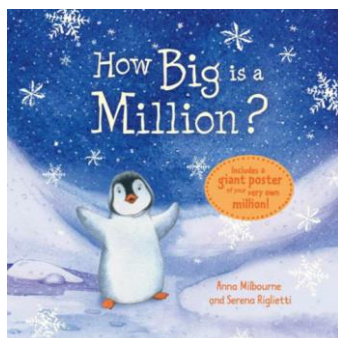
A: Adders

Q: Why was 6 afraid of 7?

A: Because 7 ate 9! (7, 8, 9)

Book review by Miss Parry

If you would like to carry on the mathematical fun from Number Day, you could read *How Big is a Million* by Anna Milbourne. This is a wonderful picture book that helps children to understand the concept of big



numbers. Pipkin the penguin is always asking questions, but what he wants to know most of all is how big is a million? So he sets off to find out. On his journey, he meets a hundred penguins, sees a thousand snowflakes and meets one new friend. Eventually, he is amazed to find out how big a million really is.

School Learning

Last week in Voles the theme was 'asteroids'. The children made papier-mâché asteroids, clay asteroids and asteroid cakes. They walked to Tesco and found items from a shopping list, making sure we had all the cake ingredients.



This week the children have enjoyed practising their writing in Owls. They have been writing their

own
animal
facts,
linked



to non-fiction and thinking about how animals move. Mrs Paynter was very impressed by how the children tried their best and worked together.





Owls children have also enjoyed finding different ways to make dragons related to Chinese New Year.



We loved watching the Year 2 children perform on Thursday afternoon. The children sang songs that they had been learning in school. Many also chose to share songs, poems and instrumental pieces that they had been learning themselves, both in music lessons and independently. Thank you so much to all the families who came to support the children. You have generously donated enough money to buy more glockenspiels for music lessons.



Parents of Neurodiverse Kids (PONK)

Parents of Neurodiverse Kids (PONK) has asked us to share that their next meet up is on Wednesday 14th February, 7 - 8.30pm at Open Door. It runs the second Wednesday of every month, and aims to provide a confidential and understanding environment for parents and carers to chat and share challenges. The group is aimed at parents and carers of neurodivergent children, of any age, with or without a diagnosis. There is no need to book, and it is very informal, but if you want any further information please get in touch with Alex via ponkgroup24@gmail.com.

Wellbeing in Action

Healthy Eating

No recipe this week but click on the link below for pancake recipes which can be used with children at home. We hope you all enjoy pancake day!

[Pancake Recipes](#)



Mindfulness

Cool the Pizza

'Cool the pizza' is a breathing exercise that will help your child become more aware of their bodily sensations. Tell your child to breathe in through their nose like they're smelling a piece of pizza. Then, tell them to blow out through their mouth, like they're cooling the piece of hot pizza. Practice this often when your child is calm. Then, when they're angry or anxious, remind them to become more mindful by saying, 'Cool the pizza'.

And finally...

As many of you know we have a team of Swing Gate Runners that are running either the five mile or half marathon on Sunday 3rd March. I foolishly decided to run the full distance and have been in training with my daughter, who is also running for Swing Gate. I am not confident in finishing in the required three hours but will hopefully get to the end no matter how long it takes. The whole team would love to see you along the route cheering us on and also, if you are able to donate, you can visit the FoSG just giving page [here](#).

Have a lovely weekend.

Francesca Gallagher (Mrs)
Headteacher