



Dear Parents / carers



Time seems to be racing by. I hope you enjoyed the recent coffee morning.

Sorry I could not be there but Head Teacher's update called!

As it is the start of a new school year and lots of new children have joined us, I thought it would be a good time to tell you a little bit about our approach to "behaviour" at Swing Gate so here we go-

- Each class within Key Stage 1 has a **"feelings board"** Children are encouraged to indicate whether they feel happy, cross, worried, etc. Adults within the class follow up any child who has indicated they are worried etc. and support them in talking about their feelings. If appropriate, these conversations would be discussed with parents.
- When we talk to our children through the **school council**, and hold pupil voice conversations, our children have told us they feel safe and confident within school.
- Each class is given lots of opportunities to talk about and explore relationships, making friends and many other topics within our Personal, Health, Social and Emotional area of the curriculum (**PHSE**). One aspect of this is **Circle time** when all children are encouraged to express opinions and feelings about different topics.
- **Golden rules** are up in each classroom and outside and are supported by

opportunities for children to "shine" during the day, e.g displaying really kind behaviour to another child etc. There is a heavy emphasis on the value of verbal praise. On the flip side there are consistent sanctions in place for those who disturb teaching and learning, or hurt others deliberately. These progress through levels as described in our policy and are the same in all classes, going from a warning through time out to a situation where parents may be called in. The ultimate sanction being exclusion - an extremely rare occurrence.

- Isolated incidents of unkind behaviour, verbal or physical have been dealt with according to school policy. These have been few. We always work with children to show them ways in which they may change their behaviour and always try to give them strategies for positive play.
- Playtime rules mirror those Golden rules applied inside. These are upheld by all staff. Midday supervisors periodically undertake training courses which support their interaction with children.
- Our children may receive stickers at times for brilliant behaviour etc but we do heavily emphasise the value of verbal praise.
- I am really pleased to say there were **no reports** of Bullying for the academic year of 14-15. The definition of bullying can be found in our anti bullying policy which is contained within our behaviour policy. It is not a word we use lightly in school.
- **Achievement trees** are up in all classes. Children may be given a leaf to put on the



tree (or equivalent) as recognition for achievement in any area of the curriculum including behaviour.

- During the week **16-20th November**, we will be holding a **TALK, LISTEN CARE week**. This fits into our Personal social health and emotional topics - **GETTING ON AND FALLING OUT**.

I have attached the school behaviour policy which contains our anti bullying policy, and the Good behaviour book which is always issued to families when children start their learning journey with us.

Please take the opportunity to talk about the book with your children.

HARVEST ASSEMBLY.



On Friday 18th September, the children will be singing Harvest songs and poems to each other in our Harvest assembly. They will have been talking in classes

about Harvest traditions and the traditions of sharing. We are collecting this week for DENS. IF you would like to donate non-perishable food items, or any items given on the DENS list sent out last week, I'm sure they would be much appreciated. Items may be placed in the big red box in Reception.

Phonics workshop 22nd September 2015



Miss Williamson will be holding a phonics workshop for all parents at 2.15.p.m on Tuesday 22nd September. Please come along. It is a really useful session and gives an insight into how phonics teaching is

approached at Swing Gate. We also try to put as many links onto the school website as we can, and information which you may find useful in supporting your child.

Hedgehogs class assembly Friday 25th September



All parents of those in Hedgehogs class are welcome at the class assembly starting at 8.50 a.m. We look forward to seeing you there.

Reading workshop 14th October 2.15.p.m



Make a date in the diary for the Reading workshop. Please come along with any questions you may have.

Spelling



A sheet which shows parents how we approach spelling within the classes at school will be sent out via parent mail. I hope it helps and supports you in helping your children at home.

Roman day



Roman day was amazing. The children had a great time, learning in quite a different way and taking part in workshops throughout the day. Thank you to all those parents who helped. It is much appreciated.

Parent forum.



If you would like to be the parent representative for your child's class, please email me at head@swinggate.herts.sch.uk . I would love to hear from you. I have had one reply so far. If



you can spare the time, please contact me. Minutes of previous meetings can be found on the school website.

staying with Year 1 and all the other classes may visit. We all find it quite fascinating!

Class library books



We have some lovely new books ready to go into classrooms this week. Thank you to the SGSA for raising the money to buy books and update class and whole school libraries. We really do appreciate it.

School Uniform



Thank you to everyone for being so patient regarding uniform orders. There was a slight mix-up with the supplier which has resulted in further delays for those waiting for cardigans. We hope they will be with us in the next week and as soon as they arrive we will send them out. We also have a stock of second hand uniform that ranges in price from 50p to £1. This can be bought on a Thursday afternoon. Please remember to label everything your child wears to school so we can return it should they mislay any items!

Living eggs



The chicks are due to arrive on Monday 21st September and they will spend ten days at school. The children will have the opportunity to see chicks hatching from their eggs. This takes place in an incubator and provides a really special experience. They will be