



Dear Parents / carers

Water, water everywhere



We have recently put the fantastic new class library books into classes. Friends of Swing Gate gave £4,500 for these and new books for the library. We have already had some of these damaged alongside school reading scheme books. Unfortunately, some parents are putting water bottles etc in with reading books. Leaks have ruined some of them. **Children only need to bring a book bag** containing their reading books, and carry their water bottle. **Books will only be sent home if the child has a book bag. They do not need to bring in back packs.** We do not have the room to store them and if the children keep their books in them, they are not coming into the class room to be changed. Please help us to keep our systems working.

- Children only need a book bag
- The book bag should contain their books, reading record and spelling/ homework books
- Water bottles should not be put in book bags , a carrier bag will suffice
- **CHILDREN DO NOT NEED BACK PACKS. We do not have enough room in our cloakrooms and they cannot be put in drawers as book bags can.**

If we cannot access reading records etc. we cannot move the children on. The teachers are quite concerned and have asked me to raise this issue.

Welcome



You are all welcome to the **phonics workshop** to be held in the hall at 2.15 p.m on Tuesday 22nd September. This is suitable for all parents wherever you are in the school. It would be great to see as many Nursery and Reception parents as possible, as it would be particularly useful for you. We are really looking forward to seeing you.

Thank you



Thank you to all those who contributed to the **Harvest collection**. DENS, a local charity working with the homeless, will be collecting all the provisions today for their foodbanks. All the children contributed songs and poems to our Harvest assembly.

Hedgehogs - class assembly Friday 25th September



The first class assembly gets off to a flying start with Hedgehogs at 8.50 am on Friday. We are looking forward to hearing all about their learning so far this term.

Materials to support parents

I am attaching leaflets which explain our approach to handwriting and reading. These tell you how we teach handwriting and the construction of letter shapes. As a school we use the Nelson handwriting scheme. The reading pamphlet gives you all the information needed to understand the place of Guided reading in school, approach to individual reading and the need to expose children to a wide range of reading material. I hope these help you to support your child at home. I have also included

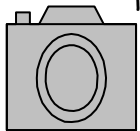


our homework policy. Hard copies of all of these policies may be obtained from school and are accessible on the school website. Many of you will have already received them in your welcome packs.

School uniform

Please could I remind parents that children should be wearing Swing Gate school uniform. I know this is something we keep coming back to, however we have great pride in our uniform. We have lots of second hand stock and we keep new stock as cheap as possible. Wearing a sweatshirt with the school emblem supports that sense of pride, is practical and helps us to keep track of our children when on school trips. School uniform can be ordered on line, or bought from school on a Thursday afternoon between 2.30 and 3 p.m.

School Photos



Thursday 24th September is school photo day. The children will sit for individual and family grouping photographs. We always look forward to seeing the end results.

Be inspired.

Be inspired came to school on Thursday. All the foundation stage pupils had an amazing time in workshops that really stretched their PE skills and gave them lots of new ideas for their games as well. We have a number of events planned over the next few weeks to deliver some workshops for Key stage 1 pupils and some training for staff. Meanwhile Mr Hall from Game on will be delivering athletics workshops to key stage 1 on **October 7th**.

This will be followed by Castle day for Year 2 Thursday 8th October



As part of learning about conquerors and settlers, Year 2 will be looking at the place of Berkhamsted castle, and learning about the importance of castles. It will be a very exciting day. This will link up to the modern day settlers and current issues.

Walking through the car park



Please Could I ask **parents not to walk with their children through the car park** but use the pedestrian access instead and the buggy path. Any car park is dangerous and we spend a lot of time teaching children not to take unsafe short cuts, but to use the crossing and "keep safe".

On Tuesday 6th October and Thursday 8th October we will be hosting parents evenings.

This is a really good chance to ask questions and look at your child's targets. Each parent interview will last 10 minutes. If you have more questions than time will allow, please drop in after school another day to speak in greater depth with the class teacher. All the letters for you choice of time slot have been sent out. Please return them ASAP. Mrs Coombs, the school cook will also be holding taster sessions for parents to enjoy samples of school lunches.

Friday 9th October Class assembly Rabbits



We look forward to welcoming parents of Rabbits to see what has been happening so far this term.



Reading workshop



Our workshop on Reading will be on Wednesday 14th October 2.15 p.m. Anyone is welcome and we look forward to seeing lots of you there.

Data Collection Sheets

Please could all parents who have not returned their data collection sheets do so ASAP. These are really important to ensure that we have upto date information.

Batteries and printer cartridges



As we are an eco-school we collect used batteries and toner cartridges and send them off to be re-cycled. If you have any then please bring them to the school office.

Oh no it isn't, oh yes it is!!



Pantomime season is fast approaching and this year Key stage 1 (Yr1 & Yr2) are off to the ball to see Cinderella at the Elgiva Theatre in Chesham. Meanwhile the Foundation stage will be enjoying a visit from Chaplins to see Beauty and the Beast. Please keep an eye out in your child's book bag for further information.