



Dear Parents / Carers

Christmas is fast approaching, with lots going on at school. Here are some dates you may like for your diary.



## Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December

- Squirrels presentation 9.10 am with parents of "Animals" from Nursery. (Mrs Hardwick will confirm your child's part soon)!

- Rabbits Yr 1 presentation 2pm



## Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December

- Owls presentation 9.10am with parents of "Village People" from Nursery. (Mrs Hardwick will confirm your child's part soon)!

- Hedgehogs Yr 1 presentation 2pm



## Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December

- Foxes presentation 2pm

## Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December

- Badgers presentation 2pm



**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December** - Carol service St Peters church 2pm.



**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December** Christmas lunch for the whole school. Please see the separate letter in your child's book bag.



**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December** - the ever popular Friends of Swing Gate Christmas shop will be selling presents for the children to buy for family members. These are very reasonably priced at £1.50 each. Please send your children in with their money in an envelope on the 15<sup>th</sup> December.



**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December** - Years 1 and 2 will be going to see Cinderella at the Elgiva Theatre, Chesham in the morning.

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November** - Foxes Class assembly, we look forward to seeing what they have been learning.

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November** - Occasional day **SCHOOL CLOSED.**

## Talk, Listen Care week

This week is focussing on activities which encourage our children to talk openly with each other, listen to each other and most of all care about each other, accepting similarities and differences. On Tuesday, the children will be participating in age appropriate anti bullying workshops, taken by the drama group Perform. The workshops are all about being a "good friend".

Speaking of friends, our Year 2 children will be visiting their Year 2 friends at Victoria school on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December to make "Christingles".



## Assemblies

Andrew Masters a Christian youth worker will be making one of his regular visits to school for an assembly this week. Andrew usually tells a bible story which involves some role play, and sings a song with the children.

His visit follows that of a representative from the **Blue cross**, who came to talk to the children about looking after pets responsibly and caring for any creature who is dependent on them. These assemblies all share a common theme- looking after each other and treating others as we would wish to be treated.

Our assemblies this week will be looking at "being a good friend".

## Having fun in the playground



You may have noticed some new signs and areas out on the playground. Miss Oliver is working with Mrs Halsey to create an even more exciting playground by "zoning". The children are being taught traditional games. These will be played in the traditional games zone. We have a ball games zone, an adventure trail zone, an art and craft zone and a quiet area. Any child who is not sure what to do or needs a "friend" can go to the Friendship stop where they will not be alone for long!



The karate day we held recently was really great fun. This is to be followed by a day of sports workshops for The Foundation stage put on by "be inspired". The following week Key stage 1 will be taking part in street dance workshops all day. These workshops are

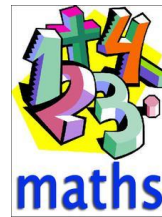
introducing the children to new sports etc and they are learning new skills.

## Phonics



I hope you have found the recent information we sent out really useful. We would welcome you supporting your children as much as possible with these early reading skills. This would reinforce all we are learning at school. Every opportunity is taken through the day to highlight phonemes and alien words and encouraging children to apply their phonic skills at every opportunity. I hope you have had fun using the websites.

## Mathletics.



All the children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 now have a log on to use at home. Please take some time at home to explore the site together. There are lots of exciting Maths activities to share which will reinforce all the Maths learning taking place in school. There are lots of different areas on the site so please give it a go.

## Book week



Book week was a great success. The children had an amazing time becoming amateur palaeontologists. Jack the Allosaurus paid a visit, followed by Milly the T rex who was truly amazing and very large. It hopefully ignited an interest in nonfiction books and dinosaurs. Thank you to the Friends of Swing Gate who paid for the day. The following Thursday saw all the children involved in story



telling workshops. It was great! The dressing up day on Friday raised £50 for Children in need. All the children looked amazing dressed as mythical creatures.

## School council/ Eco council



The school council has been elected. Each representative has been elected by their class mates. They meet up with Mrs Wyatt and bring suggestions from their classes and work on projects together. They will be leading the school who will be taking part in the "Clean for the Queen" in March 2016. This fits in with our school ethos of looking after our environment and being proactive in improving our surroundings. They will also be involved in Fair trade activities as we think about sustainability. We look forward to telling you more in the coming weeks.



**Congratulations to Miss Rodgers** and her partner. Miss Rodgers is expecting a baby in the New Year. And will be

taking maternity leave at the end of February.

Badgers Class will be taken by Mrs Glass and Miss Pater after Christmas.



## Dates for the calendar - A handy guide for your fridge!

**17<sup>th</sup> November** Open morning - New to Reception

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November** - **Foxes** class assembly 8.50am we look forward to seeing what Foxes have been up to.

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November** - Fair trade assembly 2.30pm (children only).

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November** - dress down day for Festival of Lights - Please could the children bring a bottle for the FOSG stall.

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November** - **Occasional day**  
**SCHOOL CLOSED**

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November** - Beauty and the Beast panto at school for the Foundation stage.

**Week commencing 8<sup>th</sup> December** - Christmas presentations all week.

**14<sup>th</sup> December** - Carol Service St Peters Church

**15<sup>th</sup> December** - FOSG Christmas Shop

**16<sup>th</sup> December** - Christmas Lunch

**17<sup>th</sup> December** - Yr1 & Yr2 Panto trip to the Elgiva Theatre

**18<sup>th</sup> December** - HURRAH END OF TERM AT 1.30pm. Plus it's Christmas Jumper Day! For a donation the children can wear their Christmas jumpers to school for Save the Children.