



Dear Parents / Carers



Welcome back to the Spring term, even if it doesn't feel very spring like yet! We are really pleased to welcome Miss Pater to badgers who will be with us until July, and Mrs van de Merwe who has joined as a permanent member of staff in the Owls class, job sharing with Mrs King. We would also like to welcome all those parents of our new January Nursery intake. We look forward to seeing you at school events.

## Class assemblies

Class assemblies are on the following dates

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> January Squirrels class assembly

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January Hedgehogs class assembly

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February Foxes Class assembly

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February Rabbits class assembly

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March Owls class assembly

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> March Badgers class assembly

## INSET Days



Inset dates have been put up on the web for academic year 2016-17. These are mostly the same as Thomas Coram. If there are any differences, these are due to different training needs.

## Parents Evening



Our parents evenings will be on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March from 3.30 - 6pm and Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March from 5.30 - 8pm. Letters regarding timeslots

within these times will be sent out nearer the time.



This week, all the children have really enjoyed basketball workshops delivered by game on. These days are in addition to the usual 2 hour sport main school children receive.



Tea and cakes is due take place this Friday in the hall from 2.45pm. Please come along and meet new friends. Thank you to the FOSG who have paid for two brilliant new interactive boards in Rabbits and Hedgehogs class rooms. Our previous interactive whiteboards were becoming increasingly difficult to see! Once again thank you! We are constantly updating our ICT Equipment.



Next week Andrew Masters will be in to take assembly for Key Stage 1. The children really enjoy his re-telling of bible stories in a fun, child orientated way.

## Recycling



All the old Christmas cards you have brought in, will soon be taken to Marks and pence by the school council as part of a recycling project. Thank you

## Curriculum

Class information letters have gone out and further information about the curriculum can be found on the school website. We are looking forward to ARTS week in late February when we will have drumming workshops and African dance



and music from the Mighty Zulu nation. These are usually pretty special and exciting visits. They also prompt lots of questions for our class topics.

## Holidays



Half term is Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February

Easter break - please don't forget that Easter weekend is Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March to Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March. We come back to school Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> March. We then break up for the Easter holidays on **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April at 1.30.p.m with children returning on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April.**

Hopefully, we shall be enjoying some warmer weather.



May is a very important month in our assessment calendar. Year 2 will be taking some tests which support assessment outcomes for

their time at Swing Gate. Children should most definitely not be taken out of school for any reason other than being very poorly. We will be giving further information about the new style tests to parents in year 2 in the coming weeks.

I am sending a letter to the parents of year 1 children, giving them information about the phonics check which is carried out in June in year 1 nationally. This will help you to understand why it is carried out and what happens with the outcomes.

Children in year 1 are working within Phase 5 phonics. All the information about coverage was sent out last term. We hope you find it useful in supporting your children at home.

## Active Kids

Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers are back from 27<sup>th</sup> January so please if you shop at Sainsbury's remember to collect your vouchers.

## Parent Forum



All the parent forum reps have volunteered and are as follows; You will see that Hedgehogs and Badgers don't have one (as yet!) so any queries can be directed towards either Rabbits or Foxes. The next meeting is due to take place in March, if you have any items for the agenda then please email these to [head@swinggate.herts.sch.uk](mailto:head@swinggate.herts.sch.uk). If you would like to be the rep for Hedgehogs or Badgers then please email the school office.

Charlene Rance - Squirrels

Kate Badham - Owls

Hedgehogs

Nicola Spanswicks - Rabbits

Badgers

Ruth Georgiades - Foxes

**Internal mail envelopes please return them as we are an eco-school and are constantly trying to reduce all our footprints.**