Dear Parents / Carers

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Sally Pattrick and I am a Headteacher at an Infants' school in Harpenden. I have the pleasure of visiting the school every Friday during Mrs Dunmur's absence to 'act' as Head for the day. I have really enjoyed getting to know the children and staff and finding out all about Swing Gate. As mentioned below, all sorts of exciting learning activities are planned – what lucky children!

It is hard to believe that we are nearly at the end of the first half of the Spring Term! The children have really settled back into school life and have covered lots of exciting topics. We have more to come after half term including an Umbanda drum workshop, the Mighty Zulu Nation and B-inspired!

Class Assemblies

Rabbits – Friday 12th February

Owls – Friday 4th March

Badgers – Friday 11th March

Non uniform day

This Friday (12th February) the children can come to school in non-uniform for a £1 donation to Home-start. Home-start is a charity that supports families in the local community.

Maternity Leave

As I'm sure you all know Miss Rodgers is expecting a baby and her last day before starting maternity leave will be Friday 26th February. We send her off with all our best wishes and lots of luck!

We extend a warm welcome to Miss Markovic who will be covering Miss Rodgers maternity leave. She will be joining us from 24th February.

Tennis

Members of the local tennis club came in today to give all the children a little tennis taster which was great fun.

Electrical recycling

We have signed up with waste aware who work with local schools recycling broken electrical equipment such as toasters, kettles, irons, laptops, hoovers, power tools the list is endless. Please have a rummage to see if you have any electrical items to donate. If you have any large items please let us know before half term. The collection will take place in the week commencing 14th March so we don't want any donations until then!

Child net

We still have places left on the internet safety workshop due to take place at 6.30pm on Thursday 3rd March. If you would like to reserve a place please contact the school office.

Westfield Primary school are also holding this event on Tuesday 1st March at 7pm if this is more convenient for you.

School Council

The school council were elected in November and since then have been busy working on various activities within the school. The children have monitored energy usage, collected information about lunchtime waste, made fairtrade decorations for the town and have been visited by our local fairtrade representative. Additionally, and thanks to your support, we had a very successful trip to M&S to drop off the nearly 2000 cards collected. This means that M&S will donate two trees to the woodland trust on our behalf. Our thanks go to M&S for their support with this project and for the chocolate and refreshments provided whilst there.

Upcoming school council events

Fairtrade Fortnight

Swing Gate are signed up for Fairtrade fortnight which is 29th February to 13th March. We will be learning all about fair trading for farmers and enjoying a whole school fairtrade breakfast. More details to follow!

Later on we will be involved in "Clean for the Queen" to help celebrate her 90th Birthday.

Mrs Dunmur

We are pleased to let you know that Mrs Dunmur's operation went well and she is re-couperating at home.

Half term

We would like to wish you all a lovely half term and look forward to seeing you all again on **Monday 22nd February**.

FOSG reminder

Please make sure that your race night forms are with the school office by Wednesday morning and if you have any raffle prizes to donate then please contact FOSG fosgs@outlook.com / 07903259445. Thanks.

Healthy School

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