




Dear parents/ carers,

It's good to be back in school and great to see the children. They were very welcoming and eager to tell me all about school and their learning. They have been especially eager to tell

 me all about taking part in **the drumming workshops, and the African dance and music workshops**. These were all linked to the learning taking place in the classroom.

## E-safety week

This was quickly followed by internet safety workshops held for all the children in school. These were hosted by **Child Net**. These are absolutely vital in an age where all children have easy access to ICT equipment and so many new applications. We are always aware of keeping our children safe in school and ensuring they know how to use the internet safely and keep themselves safe. The children responded very well and enjoyed the workshops very much.

Thank you to those parents who attended the parent session. We hope you found it useful. Unfortunately not that many attended, or took advantage of the e-safety workshop held at Westfield school. As head teachers, we are always made aware of the importance of e-safety for children of all ages - even very young ones like ours. It matters for all ages, not just when they go on to Junior school.

## Events

We cannot take part in all the national events that take place across the year. We had a particular focus on books during book week in the Autumn term. This year we focussed on e-safety week. However we celebrate reading and the love of books all through the year. We also choose to participate in some national charity events, but cannot take part in all. However the issues raised are covered and discussed within our curriculum.

## Fair trade

We are always looking at ways in school to develop a better understanding of the needs of others and sustainability. This week we have been looking particularly at Fair Trade. I am really pleased to say that Swing Gate school has won a prize for promoting Fair-trade, and supporting the work of the steering group in Berkhamsted. Mrs Wyatt accompanied a group of children from the School Eco Council to the courthouse on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March to collect their prize of £250 pounds.



## Gardening

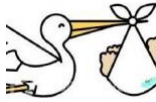


Thank you so much to Anna Penning- Rowsell and her group of volunteers who made a brilliant job of clearing the class vegetable plots ready for the children to do their spring planting. Usually the children do this but we just seemed to run out of time. We look forward to seeing lots of new growth and thriving plants.



## Miss Rodgers

Miss Rodgers took us all by surprise and gave birth to her son "Blake" a few weeks early. However he and parents are doing well. Congratulations.



Miss Markvic will be taking the Foxes class until the end of the Summer term.

As she has been here for such a short time, we will be holding a parents evening for parents of Foxes when we come back after the two week Easter holidays. These arrangements will be confirmed in the next week. You will have a chance to look through the children's books, discuss their progress and ask any questions. I look forward to seeing you.

## Easter weekend.

**Don't forget to come back to school after the Easter break. We go home at the normal time of 3:05 p.m. on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March and return on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> March**

## Dance and Music Workshops.



On Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> March all the children will be participating in Bollywood dance workshops as part of their PE programme. This will be linked to music workshops on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March. These workshops link in with the children's learning for

this term and appreciation of the cultural background of other countries.

## Parents evenings

Please make sure you have signed up for parent evening appointments. We are unable to make lots of afternoon and morning appointments for those who do not come to the dedicated evenings. We look forward to seeing you and ensuring we give you as much information about your child's progress as possible. .

### Parents evenings are:

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March at 3:30 to 6:00pm and  
Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March at 5:30 to 8:00pm.

Owls are holding their afternoon appointments on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March from 3:30 to 6:00pm.

## Year 2 children.

As we approach the summer term and Key Stage 1 SATs, it is really important that all children should be in school daily. We would also welcome your support at home - daily reading and access to Mathematics would be great.

## Nursery application deadline

The closing date for Nursery place applications is next week on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March.

## Staffing news.

Sadly, **Miss Wilson** will be leaving Swing Gate at the end of the summer term 2016 to take up a teaching position at Thomas Coram School in September, in order to extend her range of age groups taught. We wish her well. I'm sure she will meet up with some of her past pupils.



**Miss Parry** will be returning to school following her maternity leave at the end of June 2016. We look forward to welcoming her back.

We are delighted to tell you that **Mrs Wyatt**, our Assessment Leader is expecting a baby in August. Congratulations to Mrs Wyatt and her husband. We wish them well.



## Key Stage 1 SATs

We will be giving you more information to year 2 parents about the new style Key Stage 1 SATs as we get towards the end of this term. Please follow the link to the government website to find out a little more about the tests which go hand in hand with teacher assessment to give an informed assessment of a child's abilities in core subjects at the end of year 2.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/2016-national-curriculum-tests-for-key-stages-1-and-2-information-for-parents>

## 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.

The collection will take place on **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March** so please don't bring in any donations until then.

## Class photos



Say "Cheese" class photos are booked for **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March**.

## Easter Dates: a quick reminder

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> - Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March  
bank holiday weekend.

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> March to Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April  
last week of term.



School will finish at 1.30pm on **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April**.