



Dear parents/ carers,

Parent surveys



We would really appreciate a few minutes of your time. Your opinion matters. Please take the time to complete the parent surveys sent home recently - one per child. All the returns are sent off to be independently analysed and are used to further improve our school. In the past we have used the analysis to inform our school improvement plan e.g replacing our old school library, providing more workshops for parents, putting more information on the school website. We really appreciate the time you can give to complete the survey. Please return your forms by Friday 6th May.

Staffing

We are delighted to tell you that we have appointed a new Deputy Head Teacher who will take up her post in September 2016. Mrs Dean is an experienced Key Stage 1 class teacher and English curriculum leader. She will be part of the new senior leadership team alongside Mrs Gallagher (new Head teacher September 2016) and Mrs Hardwick our Foundation Stage leader. We will also be joined by Miss Stevens who will also be a class teacher in Key Stage 1. Both Miss Rodgers and Miss Parry will be returning from their respective periods of maternity leave.



Teaching staff for September 2016

Mrs Hardwick- Nursery

Miss Oliver- Reception class teacher

Mrs King and Mrs Van de Merwe Reception class teachers - job share

Mrs Dean Key stage 1 class teacher.

Mrs Rockell and Mrs Hopper Year 1 class teachers - job share.

Miss Stevens Key stage 1 class teacher.

Miss Rogers and Miss Parry Year 2 class teachers - job share.



Since refurbishing the library, we have a few Ercol chairs which are surplus to requirements. We have researched their value. If you are interested in any of the following, please contact

head@swinggate.herts.sch.uk

5 small armchairs at £45 each

12 children's chairs £20 each (various sizes)

9 high back dining chairs (one with arms) £25 each

We also have two industrial stage lights in need of TLC to be transformed - circa 1960 - £60 each.

The money raised will go towards a new interactive board for a classroom.



Transition meetings



Transition day for the whole school is Thursday 7th July. All children will have the opportunity to spend time in their new classes. Children in Year 2 will be spending the whole day at Thomas Coram.

There are also meetings for parents to find out about your child's next steps at Swing Gate;

Wednesday 8th June at 8.45am - meeting for parents with children currently in Nursery moving into Reception.

Thursday 7th July at 2.15pm - meeting for parents whose children are joining Swing Gate and going into Nursery.

Monday 11th July at 2.30pm - meeting for parents of children moving into Year 1

Tuesday 12th July at 2.30pm - meeting for parents moving into Year 2

Tri golf for Key stage 1



On Thursday 5th May all KS1 children will be participating in tri golf workshops taken by Game on. The children will be walking to Thomas Coram School to take part in the workshops. Thomas Coram School are kindly allowing us to use their grounds. This is just one of the events organised by Miss Oliver, our PE leader, using Sports Premium money. We hope all the children enjoy learning new skills.



Owls assembly takes place on Friday 6th May at 8.50 a.m. We know it

unfortunately coincides with the Queens visit to Berkhamsted, however we hope to see as many children and parents from Owls as possible.



Queen's visit - Friday 6th May.

Along with other local schools, we are authorising absences for those children who will be taken by their parents/ family to see the Queen visiting Berkhamsted. This will be considered a visit and considered part of the "British values" aspect of the curriculum. Please see our school website to see how "British values" are part of the national school curriculum. We do hope those attending have a very exciting time, and will have something to look back on for many years. I can still remember standing in Old Amersham as a five year old waving to the Queen as she went past and that was a very, very long time ago.

Parent forum



Please send any agenda items to head@swinggate.herts.sch.uk. We have a meeting on Wednesday 4th May and as yet we have not received any agenda items!

Police and Crime Commissioner Elections Thursday 5th May

Nursery class **only** will be closed on Thursday 5th May. The nursery classroom will be used as a polling station. The rest of the school will be secured from this area.

SATS

The window for administering the Year 2 SATS is anytime in the month of May as usual. These tests contribute to teacher assessment, which is





submitted to county in the summer term. These tests are a very small part of the ongoing assessment that takes place in school.

Class Assemblies

Friday 13th May - Squirrels

Friday 20th May - Hedgehogs

Friday 27th May - Rabbits