

Swing Gate News 9th March 2018



Diary Dates

MARCH 2018

Wed 14th Mar
Science Day
2:30pm parents whole
school assembly

Thur 15th Mar
Class photographs

Fri 16th Mar
FoSG Film Night

Fri 16th Mar
FoSG Comedy Night
at Thomas Coram
School

Tues 20th Mar
Mathematics open
morning

Tues 20th Mar 15:40 –
18:10 Parents Evening

Thursday 22nd Mar
PE coaching day KS1

Thurs 22nd Mar 17:30 –
20:00 Parents Evening

Thurs 29th Mar
FoSG Easter egg hunt

Thurs 29th Mar 13:30
End of term

APRIL 2018

Mon 16th April
INSET DAY

Tues 17th April
INSET DAY

Wed 18th April
Pupils return to school

Wed 18th April
PE coaching day EYFS

Mon 23rd April
St George History &
British Values Day

Tues 24th April
PE coaching day KS1

FoSG Coin Weigh in

This week each class took part in the annual FoSG coin weigh in. Thank you to everyone who donated coins. There were two winning categories: largest value and largest weight. Owls class won both categories with an impressive £88.13 that weighed 13.4 kg.



Behaviour

All staff have been trained on the Hertfordshire County Council's Step On model for therapeutic behaviour management. We are teaching children how to behave and not expecting them to know instinctively. We are focusing on 'rewards and consequences' rather than 'bribes and punishment'. The new Behaviour Policy, now on the website, will give you a good understanding of the model of therapeutic behaviour management that Swing Gate School has adopted. Please read the policy for more information

Attend and Achieve

The Attend and Achieve assembly was held this week. The proud winners of the cup for January were Hedgehogs Class with an attendance of 96.7%.

Owls	96.5%
Badgers	96.01%
Foxes	95.6%
Rabbits	95.1%
Voiles	94.4%
Squirrels	92.2%



Can you help us?

Reading volunteers

We are looking for parents to help with reading. If you can spare an hour or more each week to listen to children read, we would really appreciate the support.

Marketing

At Swing Gate we are committed to creating independent learners, encouraging everyone to fulfill their potential and develop their skills for lifelong learning. We are in the process of promoting our school and want to share the wonderful things we do at Swing Gate. We are looking for parents with marketing experience / skills who can help us with this. Please contact the school office if you think you can help.

The starting grid for lifelong learning



PAUSE for THOUGHT

"Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all."

Aristotle, Greek philosopher

Mathematics

This year we have been working with the National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics (NCETM) to further develop staff knowledge of the mastery approach to teaching. Teaching for mastery focuses on building deep conceptual understanding and spending time developing secure foundations that children can continue to build on throughout their education. If children are able to recall key number facts they will then be able to apply this knowledge to work with larger numbers and to reason and solve problems.

Concepts are introduced using the Concrete Pictorial Abstract (CPA) approach. This involves introducing children to concepts using concrete objects and pictorial representations before moving to abstract calculations and problems. Building or drawing a model makes it easier for children to visualise difficult abstract concepts.

We have been inspired by our work with the NCETM and believe it has had a positive impact on the teaching of mathematics in school. We want every child to enjoy and succeed in mathematics and look forward to continuing our journey to becoming mastery specialists. If you have any questions about mastery teaching in mathematics please ask your class teacher or the Mathematics leads (Miss Parry and Mrs Marshall).



Class Photographs

On Thursday 22nd March the photographer will be taking the class photos. Please can all children wear a Swing Gate School jumper or cardigan.

40 Year Anniversary

On Tuesday 20th March we will be celebrating Mrs Harding's 40 years of working at Swing Gate School. We will be holding a special assembly to thank her for her hard work and dedication as the school cleaner. If you would like to make a contribution a collection is held in the school office.

School meals

Mrs Beechey, the school cook, has asked that you talk through the lunchtime meal choices with your child and encourage them to choose a hot meal rather than the cold meal option especially during the cold weather.

Parents Evening

This year Parents Evenings will be held on Tuesday 20th and Thursday 22nd of March. You will be able to book your appointment with your child's teacher via the ParentMail site. This will go live today at 6pm.

Mathematics Open Morning

You are invited to come into school and see the CPA mathematics approach in action in your child's class on Tuesday 20th March at drop off.

New Business Governor

There is still an associate Governor position vacancy on the Governing Board. We are looking to appoint a governor with business experience. If you are interested, please contact the Chair of Governors by email on chairofgovs@swinggate.herts.sch.uk.



Book Character Day

Due to the snow last week, we had to postpone our Book Character Dressing Up Day until today. What a great delight it was to see so many colorful costumes!



9th Berkhamsted Brownies NEED YOU!

- Are you available once a week for 2 hours?
- Do you fancy giving something back to your community whilst having fun?
- No experience is necessary.
- All ages welcome!

Please help us. We urgently need another adult to help run our unit as we do not want it to close down.

Please telephone Margaret Whittle on 07941784643 or email margaretwhittle5@aol.com if you can help in any way.

Save the dates

Sports Day 20th June 2018.
Reserve Sports Day 22nd June 2018.
Golden Jubilee 29th June 2018.

Writing (article from The Guardian on Monday 26th February 2018)

Research shows that children are increasingly finding it hard to hold pens and pencils because of an excessive use of technology. Senior paediatric doctors have warned that an over use of touchscreen phones and tablets is preventing children's finger muscles developing sufficiently to enable them to hold a pencil correctly.

"Children are not coming into school with the hand strength and dexterity they had 10 years ago" said Dr Sally Payne, head paediatric occupational therapist NHS trust.

If you would like to read more about this, click on the link below and enjoy the reading.

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2018/feb/25/children-struggle-to-hold-pencils-due-to-too-much-tech-doctors-say>

Reading (article from The Guardian on Wednesday 21st February 2018)

The article suggests that the proportion of toddlers being read to every day has dropped by a fifth over the last five years. According to research the decline is a significant threat to child development.

If you would like to read more about this, click on the link below and enjoy the reading.

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2018/feb/21/only-half-of-pre-school-children-being-read-to-daily-study-finds>

*Francesca Gallagher (Mrs)
Headteacher*