

# Swing Gate News

29<sup>th</sup> March 2018



## Diary Dates

APRIL 2018

Mon 16<sup>th</sup> April  
INSET DAY

Tues 17<sup>th</sup> April  
INSET DAY

Wed 18<sup>th</sup> April  
Pupils return to school

Wed 18<sup>th</sup> April  
PE coaching day EYFS

Fri 20<sup>th</sup> April  
Thomas Coram Play  
Leaders assisting at  
playtime

Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> April  
St George, History &  
British Values Day

Tues 24<sup>th</sup> April  
PE coaching day KS1

Wed 25<sup>th</sup> April  
PE coaching day EYFS

Thur 26<sup>th</sup> April  
PE coaching day EYFS

Fri 27<sup>th</sup> April  
Speed stacking  
workshop

Fri 27<sup>th</sup> April 14:45  
FoSG Tea and cakes

Wed 2<sup>nd</sup> May  
Whole school, African  
Jungle workshop

Thur 3<sup>rd</sup> May 09:15  
Rabbits class  
assembly

Tue 8<sup>th</sup> May  
Karate Training day

Thur 10<sup>th</sup> May 09:15  
Hedgehogs class  
assembly

## Deputy Head Teacher Appointment

We are delighted to announce that Mrs Hardwick has recently been appointed as the Deputy Headteacher. She will continue her role as Nursery Class Teacher and Foundation Stage Leader.



## Mrs Harding's 40 Years at Swing Gate

Last week we celebrated Mrs Harding's 40 years of working at Swing Gate School as the cleaner in charge. We held a celebration assembly and an afternoon tea and Mrs Harding was presented with flowers, gifts and cards from staff, children and parents.



## Mighty Zulu Nation Visit

The children thoroughly enjoyed a visit from the Mighty Zulu Nation. This gave them the opportunity to enjoy some African music and drumming and to learn about their culture. There were whole school workshops focussing on dance and the Year 2 children had the opportunity to practise some drumming skills. In the final assembly the teachers performed alongside the Mighty Zulu Nation!



## Academy update

The application for five schools in Berkhamsted to become a multi academy trust have been delayed by the Department of Education. Work to become the Berkhamsted Education Trust is ongoing, involving representatives from all five schools, but conversion is now not expected until the next academic year. We will provide another update as soon as possible.

*The starting grid for lifelong learning*



## PAUSE for THOUGHT

*"When children gain social and emotional skills and confidence in the preschool years, academic learning naturally follows."*

*Heather Shumaker, Author.*

## Science Day

The children were inspired by our recent Science Day activities. The classes were given a biscuit dunking challenge. In Nursery the children explored dunking biscuits in different liquids. In Reception the children found out the best dog biscuit for softening in water. Ben, Mr Buss's dog, came into class to test the results.

In Year 1 and Year 2, the children tested which popular biscuit would make the best 'dunker'. They tested a variety of favourite biscuits and liquids, made predictions and recorded their findings. The answer was..."Rich Tea"

The classes also conducted a variety of other experiments which included making cloud dough, dyeing flower petals and creating milk rainbows.



## Autism Week

As part of Autism week we have been talking about acceptance and about visible and invisible similarities and differences. We have talked about what acceptance means, how people are different and how to be a good friend to everyone.

## Class Photographs

It was lovely to see so many children wearing correct Swing Gate School uniform while having their class photos taken. Thank you for your continued co-operation with this. Remember that we hold a stock of preloved uniform at very reasonable prices. Please ensure any photograph orders with payment is sent into school by Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> April.

## Strategies to engage primary pupils in reading

An informative article from the Tes, (formerly known as Times Educational Supplement).

1. Peer Reading. With a little structured training, older children can become perfect reading partners for younger children.

2. Regular 'read-alouds'. Read-alouds provide the perfect chance to explore vocabulary in context, consider language choices and develop comprehension skills.

To read the full article follow this link.

<https://www.tes.com/news/school-news/breaking-views/three-strategies-engage-primary-pupils-reading>

## PE Coaching Wed 18<sup>th</sup> April

There is an exciting workshop on the first day of term so remember to send your child's P.E. kit.

## Safety reminders

PE kits and plimsolls were sent home today. Could you check that the plimsolls are the correct size and that the Velcro is still functional. Plimsolls need to be in school on the first day back.

A reminder that all children should be accompanied to the classroom door when dropping off at the start of the day.

In line with our eSafety Policy, I would like to remind you that watches with internet access or the ability to take photographs cannot be worn in school. This applies to all adults and children, including those visiting the school and is intended to keep children safe at school.

## Finally...

I hope you all enjoy the break with your children and the opportunity to spend some quality time together. We are looking forward to seeing the children refreshed and ready to learn at the start of next term.

*Francesca Gallagher (Mrs)  
Headteacher*

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