



DIARY DATES

September 2019

Mon 2nd

INSET Day

Tues 3rd

Children return to school

Wed 4th

Meet the Teacher

Fri 13th

FOSG Coffee Morning
and School Uniform
Swap Shop

Thurs 19th

EYFS PE Coaching
with Mr Miller

Fri 20th

Castle Day Year 2

Mon 23rd

Living Eggs coming
into Year 1

Thurs 26th

Individual School
Photographs

Fri 27th

FOSG Tea and Cakes

October 2019

Tues 1st

Harvest Festival
Service at St Peters
Church

Fri 4th

FOSG Quiz Night

Tues 8th

FOSG Coin Weigh In

23rd July 2019

Summer Term

We have had a very busy few weeks in school since our last newsletter, with lots of fantastic experiential learning events happening. The children have continued to work hard in the final few weeks in school and are no doubt ready for a break now. We would like to say a big thank you to the FoSG who have paid for many of the valuable experiences in school this half term.

Indian Dance

The children really enjoyed a dance workshop with a Bollywood theme. They immersed themselves in music and dance and learnt their own routines to perform. One teacher commented on how great it was to give the children the opportunity to dance and perform as an individual. The children's personalities really shone through. Thanks to FoSG who funded this workshop.



Architecture Workshop

The Architecture Workshop was one of the highlights of the half term, once again funded by FoSG. Each class used numbers, counting, problem solving, shapes and space to work together to create giant 3D structures.



Wellbeing Finger Breathing

We continue with our ongoing focus towards 'Wellbeing in Action' at school. We are constantly thinking of new and exciting ways to achieve this. The children have learnt a finger breathing exercise in order to help them control emotions. Many of them have found the sensory aspect of this breathing method very soothing and settling. The whole school have practised this in assembly too!



PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

'The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.'

Eleanor Roosevelt

New Outdoor Equipment

The Foundation Stage have received some new outdoor equipment to enhance the continuous provision for Nursery and Reception children. This included a new table and bench set and an exciting water table with a cascading bridge. The children are already enjoying this and have been creating their own waterfalls and rapids. Again, we thank the FoSG who have paid for this fantastic new equipment for the children.



Year Two Leavers

Thank you to Year Two for the lovely assemblies this week. You, your teachers and teaching assistants have worked very hard. It has been a pleasure to teach all of you at Swing Gate School and I look forward to seeing many of you again at Thomas Coram School later this year.

FoSG - Silent Auction

Thank you to everyone who either donated their time or made a bid in the silent auction. The successful bids raised £2260, amazing!

People Who Help Us

We would like to thank Mr Childs (Zak's dad) for coming into school last week to deliver a fascinating assembly about his role as a paramedic. The children had lots of interesting questions and enjoyed looking at his equipment bags and motorbike. Many of the children were so inspired by his visit, that they now too want to be a paramedic when they grow up.



Sports Day

Sports Day was a great success. It was held at Thomas Coram School. We were lucky, once again, to have the Sports Leaders from Ashlyns running and supporting races and events. These included javelin, accuracy throwing and relay races. It was great to see the children excel in so many different areas and to apply the new skills they have been taught in PE and coaching sessions throughout the year. The children behaved beautifully and showed great sportsmanship when competing.





Reminders

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that the school hall is available for letting purposes. Please contact the school office for information

The new price for Breakfast Club and Little Deers will now be £6.20 per hour. Spaces are still available, please contact the school office if you would like to book on: admin@swinggate.herts.sch.uk

Staff News

Last week we were delighted to welcome Miss Oliver and Mrs Marshall back to school after their period of maternity leave. In September Miss Oliver will be teaching Rabbits class on a part time basis as well as continuing her role on the Senior Leadership Team, and Mrs Marshall will be teaching Badgers class on a part time basis.

We say a fond farewell to Miss Long and Mrs Newman who are both retiring. We thank them for their hard work and commitment and for all they have done for the children at Swing Gate School and wish them well for the future.

We also say farewell to Mrs King who will not be returning to school after maternity leave. Mrs King will be staying at home to look after her twins and other young children.

A big thank you to Ms Franklin who has also left Swing Gate School. She has been a big part of online activities this year and we wish her well.

We are pleased to say that Ms Twydell and Mrs Ayres will be continuing to teach at Swing Gate School next year, in Owls Class and Rabbits Class respectively.

Finally, a big thank you to Mrs Holmes and Mrs Smith who have been helping in the School Office this year. Their help and organisational skills have been much appreciated.

Academisation Update

Following the communication dated 5th July 2019, we have received a limited number of questions from parents, which can be summarised as follows:

Will the Chiltern Educational Trust go ahead without Ashlyns?

Ashlyns' decision means that the formation of the Chiltern Educational Trust cannot proceed as planned. We are sure that parents will understand the importance of us now taking time to reflect properly on this significant development and consider our future options. There will be no change to the day-to-day experience of children and families at our school in the coming months and we remain committed to collaborative working between local schools for the benefit of all children in the town.

Why has Ashlyns withdrawn from the academisation process?

We asked Ashlyns to provide a written statement of their reasons for us to share with parents and carers. Their response was as follows: *"Governors made the decision to withdraw from the process to academise and remain as a maintained, Foundation School after extensive and careful deliberations. As a result, we have chosen to retain the status quo, where all schools currently provide a high quality education and excellent care for children. We would like to assure you we remain committed to maintaining, and developing, collaborative working between all the town's schools for the benefit of all local children."* Ashlyns have declined to share the specific reasons behind their decision.



Parking

There is now parking available to Swing Gate parents in the car park of the Old Mill pub. The new manager has now taken over and has agreed to support the school by helping parents find safe places to park. A 'no parking' sign was previously erected by the interim manager, however, this will be taken down shortly. We hope that many of you will be able to make use of this car park in September.

Summer Farewell

Finally, I would like to wish you a fantastic summer break. Many of you I will meet again next academic year, but some of your children will be going off to pastures new. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and all the children a happy and healthy future. It has been a pleasure to work with your children and such supportive parents and I look forward to new experiences in September.

Francesca Gallagher (Mrs)
Headteacher