



DIARY DATES

October 2019

Fri 25th

INSET day

November 2019

Mon 4th

Children return to school

Tues 5th

EYFS Bonfire Event

Wed 6th

Thomas Coram Open Morning

Fri 8th

Diwali Assembly

Fri 8th

9.30am Prospective Parents Open Day

Fri 8th

FoSG Wine Tasting evening event

Mon 11th

Cool to be Kind week

Wed 13th

World Kindness Day

Fri 15th

Children in Need Day - wear spots

Mon 18th

World Nursery Rhyme Week
Road Safety Week
Just Talk Week

Fri 22nd

Parent Forum

Mon 25th

2pm Prospective Parents Open Day

Fri 29th

INSET Day

(Please note this is NOT an INSET at Thomas Coram.)

25th October 2019

STEPS Therapeutic Behaviour Approach

We continue to follow the STEPS therapeutic behaviour approach where our main focus is to provide all children with prosocial experiences in order to have a positive impact on behaviour. We believe in teaching children how to behave in the same way we teach children to learn all other subjects.

Myself and Miss Oliver are STEPS tutors and deliver training sessions to staff in school. All staff have now been fully trained to deliver the STEPS approach and we have noticed a positive impact throughout the school. We will soon be offering parent sessions, where we will be giving further information on this approach, one afternoon and one evening. The dates will be Thursday 12th March at 2pm and Thursday 19th March at 7pm.

The behaviour policy is on the school website under the statutory section.

Living Eggs

The Year 1 children thoroughly enjoyed the experience of having the living eggs in school. They arrived in an incubator and then two days later the first egg hatched. All ten eggs hatched successfully and were healthy chicks. The children spent time observing the chicks as they changed and grew. The English focus was on non-fiction texts and the children also made their own fact books.



The chicks were then taken to their new home on a small holding through a link with one of our families.

Well Being in Action

This January we launched the Wellbeing in Action project. There have already been newsletters, recipe ideas and a Big Soup share. It is part of our continued commitment to physical health, mental wellbeing and health and nutrition.

In Rabbits Class last week we piloted 'leaning buddies' where Foxes Class spent the afternoon in Rabbits Class. Children worked alongside a buddy in a variety of activities, including crafting, social games and reading. We will be giving all children in Reception to Year 2 regular opportunities to take part in these Wellbeing sessions.



The boat made by Charlotte, Katie and Elsa



PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

*'Creativity is intelligence
having fun.'*

Albert Einstein, theoretical physicist



Harvest at St Peters Church

The children really enjoyed their trip to St Peters Church where they shared their love of singing and poetry. This was the Nursery children's first outing and they were so confident, standing in front of the whole school and Swing Gate community.



The Big Soup

To celebrate the hard work which you do in your gardens and allotments we took part in The Big Soup share. Thank you for your donations of different kinds of vegetables which were added to the vegetables and herbs grown by the children at school.



The children carefully cut these ready for the soup and took them to the school kitchen. The soup was offered to all children and staff at lunch time and the Nursery children at snack time and most children were keen to 'have a try'.



Thanks to Mrs Beechey who kindly kept an eye on the cooking pots!

Castle Day

This half term Year 2 have been learning about Castles and Conquerors. They have enjoyed lots of experiential learning including a visit to Berkhamsted Castle which included seeing the bust of William the Conqueror and looking at changes over time. This week the children have applied their knowledge about castle defences by making their own Norman castles in design and technology.



Basketball Workshop

Paul Sturgess came to visit us at Swing Gate School. He is an English former professional basketball player, actor and motivational speaker. He was officially measured barefoot by Guinness World Records in November 2011 at 7 ft 7.26 as the world's tallest professional basketball player.

He talked to us about the difficulties he had as a child being different and that everybody is unique and can succeed if they work hard and try their best. He also led basketball sessions across the whole school.



If you want to see Paul in action, go to his Website or watch his YouTube videos.

Christmas Dates

I know many of you are thinking of Christmas already and may want to book time off in order to come to some of our Christmas events. These include:

Dress Rehearsals

Fri 6th Dec at 09:30 – Rec

Mon 9th at 14:00 – Y2

Tues 10th at 14:00 – Y1

Thomas Coram siblings are invited to attend a dress rehearsal, accompanied by a parent if their siblings are performing.

Performances

Mon 9th Dec at 09:15 – Rec

Tues 10th Dec at 09:15 – Rec

Thurs 12th Dec at 09:15 – Y2

Thurs 12th Dec at 14:00 – Y1

Fri 13th Dec at 09:15 – Y1

Fri 13th Dec at 14:00 – Y2

Tues 17th Dec at 09:15 – Nursery.

Wed 11th Dec – Swing Gate children with siblings performing in the Thomas Coram Year 3 nativity are welcome to join them, accompanied by a parent. Details to be confirmed.

Other Christmas dates:

- Fri 13th Dec – Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day in school
- Tues 17th Dec – the Reception to Year 2 will be singing carols at St Peters Church
- Wed 18th Dec – Christmas dinner day in school.

Father Christmas will be making a guest appearance, details to be confirmed.

A family Christmas Carol evening with the Year 2 choir will be organised, following the success of last year. Details to be confirmed.

Reminders

Please make sure that ALL uniform is labelled. The children are trying hard to make sure that they come home with the correct clothes but are finding it tricky when items are not labelled.

If you are dropping off at Breakfast Club please be careful and try to park up safely as staff are arriving for school from 7.15am. There is parking available on the road outside the school.

Jack and the Beanstalk

Yesterday the children were treated to a fantastic performance of Jack and the Beanstalk by a travelling theatre group.



A fantastic start to the half term holiday.

Francesca Gallagher (Mrs)
Headteacher