



10th July 2020

This week has been 'transition week' for Reception and Year 1. The children at school have all had the opportunity to meet their new teachers and spent time enjoying some fun activities to help prepare for their new classes. All the children thoroughly enjoyed this and it was a positive experience all round.

On Monday we look forward to welcoming back our Year 2 children to enjoy their last two days at Swing Gate School. We are also excited to have Voles back in and meet our 'new to school' Reception children.

We would like to wish all the children who are moving on to their new classes or onto their new school the very best of luck.

Since the return to school on 1st June our numbers of children that have attended school have been very good and we are so happy to see so many children back and thriving:

- 92% of Squirrels have been back at school since 1.6.2020
- 77% of Owls
- 85% of Rabbits
- 100% of Hedgehogs.

A little reminder that the Government has announced that the school will be closed over the summer to all children including key worker children. More information about this can be found on the Department for Education website.

PAUSE FOR THOUGHT



What am I ?

I am not alive, but I grow;
I don't have lungs, but I need air;
I don't have a mouth, but water kills me.
What am I?

Answer: Fire

Reports

Your child's end of year school report will be sent out by email next week.

Piano lessons next year – Year 2's only

Piano lessons for our new Year 2's (current Year 1) will commence in the autumn term with Ruth Seodi, who has provided piano lessons for many years across the county.

Lessons will be £21 per 30 mins, on either a Monday or a Friday afternoon. If your child would like to have piano lessons, please register your interest with Ruth directly at ruthmseodi@gmail.com. Places will be allocated on a first come first served basis the same as last year.



Home & School Learning

We are continuing to share work completed at home and school. Please send photos for use in the newsletter, to the office email marked FOR NEWSLETTER. This week:



Squirrels have been getting creative with their new teacher Mrs Huke this week. The children created these lovely pictures. They used a special technique to create a watery background for fish using crayons and watercolours.

If you like the idea of making watercolours with your child, then why not try this simple recipe. This incorporates some science, mathematics and of course art.

Ingredients:

- 3 tsp light corn syrup
- 6 tbsp cornflour
- 6 tbsp baking soda
- 6 tbsp white vinegar
- food colouring.

Method:

- 1. Mix corn syrup, cornflour, baking soda, and white vinegar together.
- 2. Divide into jar lids, small containers, or (as we did) plastic egg carton sections.
- 3. Add food colouring to each section as desired to make your chosen colours.
- 4. Let dry.

Thea in Foxes had a fun mini-break going glamping at the weekend. Great deer face paint Thea!



Another sunflower success story, planted at school before lockdown, from Archie in Hedgehogs. It's beautiful Archie!



Josh in Owls was incredibly brave and went open water swimming with his Mum for the first time this week. It was only 19 degrees! Well done Josh, it looks great fun!

Mental Wellbeing

If you feel the need for a quiet moment click on the link and join in with the Cosmic Yoga mindfulness activity - creating 'mind movies'.

[Movies in My Mind | A Cosmic Kids Zen Den Meditation](#)





Nutritional Wellbeing

Child Friendly Summer Salad



Prep Time 15 minutes / Serves 2

Ingredients:

For the salad

- 1 cup cucumber (peeled and sliced into bite-size pieces)
- 1 cup strawberries (sliced into bite-size pieces)
- 1/2 cup oranges (peeled and sliced into bite-size pieces)
- 1/4 cup walnuts (optional)
- Few mint leaves (6 to 7)

For salad dressing

- 1 tbsp lemon juice (freshly squeezed)
- 2 tsp extra virgin olive oil
- Salt and black pepper (to taste)

How to make it:

1. In a bowl add cut cucumber, strawberries, orange and walnuts. Keep it aside
2. In a small bowl mix all the salad dressing ingredients and give it a whisk.
3. Just before serving add the salad dressing to the salad ingredients. Top it with mint leaves and serve immediately.

And finally...

I am looking forward to seeing the Year 2 children next week, I can't believe that it will be the end of their time at Swing Gate. For those that started in the Nursery, I can remember my first day with the children in school, going into the Nursery and telling them it was my first day too. I received some very confused looks back. I have been keeping a watchful eye on their progress and achievements and I am sorry that this pandemic stopped them having their full time at Swing Gate.

I hope that all of the current Reception and Year 1 children and families have a wonderful summer break. I will be letting everyone know what September might look like next week, I can confirm children will be in full class Bubbles. A welcome letter from their new teachers has been sent by ParentMail today.

I hope you and your families continue to be well. Stay safe!

Francesca Gallagher (Mrs)
Headteacher