



DIARY DATES

December 2020

Dec 5th (10:00-16:00)

HoSF Christmas Market – visit the FoSG stall!

Dec 7th & 8th

Hope Food Bank Appeal - donations welcome

Dec 11th

Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day

Dec 14th – 15th

FoSG Christmas Shop

Dec 15th

COVID-19 Safe Open Morning

Dec 16th

Christmas Lunch Day

Christmas Virtual Pantomime

Dec 18th

Visit from Father Christmas

Last day of term – 13:30 early pick up

Unfortunately we have had to postpone a number of planned events due to the recent lockdown. We will update the calendar as soon as we can confirm the new dates.

4th December 2020

There is a real festive air at school this week, with nativities beginning to be filmed, our wonderful Nativity display by Mrs Henderson in the staff room window, Christmas trees popping up around school and our Advent wreath going around classrooms. Another candle to be lit each week as we count down to Christmas.



Hope Food Bank Appeal

Next Monday and Tuesday, we are collecting donations for the Hope Food Bank Christmas Appeal. There will be a labelled box in the reception for you to drop items and the suggested list is at the bottom of the newsletter.

Hope is a small food bank offering support to those in food poverty in Berkhamsted. They will be using the donations to create food hampers for the neediest in our town.

Mrs Halsey back in school

Everyone has been delighted to welcome Mrs Halsey back following her successful surgery. Mrs Halsey is currently working in Badgers and Owls Class.

Christmas Jumper Day

Don't forget next Friday is the Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day, the children are welcome to wear either a Christmas jumper or top instead of their Swing Gate jumper or cardigan. Or they can

just wear some tinsel on their clothes. We are asking for a suggested donation of £1 that will be sent to Save the Children for their Christmas appeal.

School Learning

Badgers had a great lesson with the new Chrome



books kindly paid for by The Friends of Swing Gate. They were so slick and smooth - hooray!

Voles Class have been doing finger breathing this week. Here is Toby having a mindful moment.



Signage/Website



Our new School signage was installed this week. We are really pleased with the boards and love the modern fresh look. We are really grateful for all the feedback on the new look website. It has been very well received but if you have any thoughts or suggestions, please do get in touch via the school office.



Pause for thought

Kindness is like snow, it
beautifies everything it covers.

Kahlil Gibran,
Lebanese poet and philosopher

Christmas News

Pantomime

This year the children will still get a panto experience, in true 2020 style, it will be virtual. Each Bubble will be watching 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears' in their class after enjoying their Christmas lunch on Wednesday 16th of December.

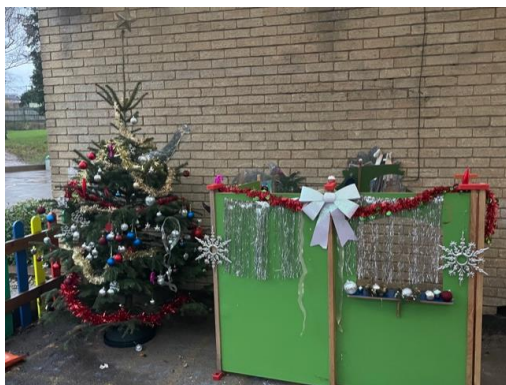
Nativities

The children are busy rehearsing their Nativity performances. The videos will be sent to each class once completed. Everyone will be sent his or her child's class performance to enjoy.

Christmas cards

Children are welcome to bring n Christmas cards for their friends every Monday and Tuesday for them to be quarantined until Friday afternoon when they will be sent home in book bags.

Festive fun in school



Coronavirus updates

Lockdown ended on Wednesday 2nd December, this week and we entered the tier system, Dacorum is currently Tier 2. Guidance on what this means can be found [here](#). Updated guidance for parents can be found [here](#). School life remains largely unaffected by the change to a tier system. However, we wanted to remind everyone of the following:

- We will be ventilating the classes for the foreseeable future. If your child is feeling the cold, please dress them warmly, they can wear thermal vests, long sleeved tops, leggings under trousers etc of any colour as long as they have normal uniform over the top.
- Please can adults collecting and dropping off remember to socially distance 2m apart from other family groups, only one parent per family should come on to school grounds.
- If your child shows any symptoms of Covid-19, please do not send them to school or give them medicine to cover a symptom. You should immediately book a Covid-19 test. Results are being returned much quicker in recent weeks and your child should hopefully then miss minimal school if they receive a negative result.

Sunnyside Church Advent Window



Sunnyside Church has unveiled its Advent Window where familiar characters are gathering. Each week, more people from the nativity story will be arriving. They began with the Angel Gabriel and will culminate with Jesus on Christmas Eve. The window is there for all to enjoy safely from outside; they invite you to come and have a look? To find out more about the window and Christmas at Sunnyside, please look at their [website](#).



Boiler Works update

We are delighted how well the boiler works are progressing. Each evening and over the weekends the workmen have been working really hard and the project appears to be running to schedule.

FoSG Update

Christmas Shop

We are thrilled to announce the Christmas Shop will be open to all our children this year during the last week of term. Each class (Bubble group) will visit the shop to ensure we keep everyone safe. Every child will be able to purchase up to four gifts for family or friends. Further information will be sent out next week.



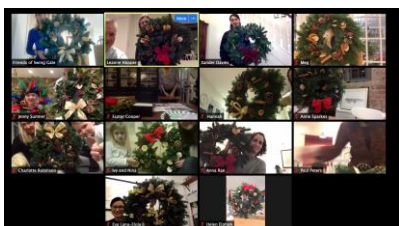
Tea towels

The fantastic Swing Gate School 2020/21 tea towels are now sold out! If you were still hoping to place an order, email friendsofswinggate@gmail.com by the end of today so they can see if there is the demand and an additional order can be placed.

Hospice of St Francis Christmas Market

If you are looking to do some Christmas shopping this weekend you could go along to the [Hospice of St Francis Christmas Market](#) tomorrow, Saturday 5th of December from 10:00-16:00 at Berkhamsted Cricket Club. FoSG has a stall selling gifts including Mellow Moon bath salts and handmade crafts from our families. Thank you to those who have contributed to the stall.

Last week's Christmas wreath making was a huge success, you might spot one of these beautiful wreaths around town! Thank you to Apple Blossom Flowers.



Wellbeing in Action

Banana Snowman

Ingredients

- 2 bananas
- 1/4 of a carrot
- Handful of currents or sultanas chopped
- 3 strawberries
- 6 grapes
- 6 skewers



Method

Step 1

Cut the bananas into thick slices (approx. 9 rounds per banana).

Step 2

Peel the carrot and cut into small triangular slivers for a pointy nose.

Step 3

Trim the stem from the strawberries and then cut in half. You should get two hats out of each strawberry.

Step 4

Cut the grapes in half. (We only used the smooth half and ate the stem end).

Step 5

To assemble, thread three slices of banana on to each skewer followed by a strawberry hat and grape half. Gently press the currents into the banana slices to create eyes and the buttons on the body then add the carrot nose.

Step 6

Serve immediately.

Or try this mulled apple juice recipe

Ingredients

- 1l apple juice
- Strips of orange peel
- 1 cinnamon stick, plus extra to garnish
- 3 cloves
- Sugar or honey, to taste





Method

Step 1

Simmer the apple juice with the strips of orange peel, cinnamon stick and cloves for about 5-10 mins until all the flavours have infused. Sweeten to taste.

Step 2

Serve each drink with a little orange peel and a piece of cinnamon stick, if you like.

Mindfulness



Breathe Like Santa

To help children practice slow, controlled breathing, take a deep breath in, hold it for a moment, and slowly let it out with a slow, "Ho ho ho." It feels silly at first, but this really helps children feel their

chests fall as they let the air go.

Berkhamsted Advent Windows

There was a printing error on the original map provided for the Berko Advent Windows flyer, you can find the correct one on the ParentMail.

Reminders

Children's personal records

Please can we remind everyone that it is very important we have up to date and accurate information for every one of our children. If you move, change telephone numbers please inform the school office as soon as possible. Also, legally we must have at least two contacts for each child.

Labelling clothes

All items in school with your child must be clearly labelled with their name. Things do go

missing from time to time, especially when you are little, and finding owners is tricky when things have no name in. Our children are young and do not always recognise their own clothes even their distinctive coats!

Drop off

All children must be accompanied by an adult to their classroom, or the school office if you have made special arrangements. No child should be in the playground alone at any time.

Parking

Please ensure you are parking considerately when doing drop off and pick up. Our neighbours will be very grateful for access to their properties as and when they require.

And finally...

We were delighted to hear all of your positive feedback at Parent Forum. I will pass on your views to the teachers.

Christmas is fast approaching and there is a real sense of excitement in school. We are doing our best to make the festive period jolly and full of fun, despite the pandemic.

I wish you well with all of your preparations now that the shops are back open. Have a lovely weekend.

*Francesca Gallagher (Mrs)
Headteacher*



Kings Road Church Hope Food Bank Appeal

'We are a small food bank offering support to those in food poverty in Berkhamsted. This year, we have seen a huge increase in the demands on the HOPE Food Bank – as an illustration, we had five visits in January and in September we had 30! We also organise food hampers in December for the neediest in our town. We are mostly supported by the congregation of Kings Road Church, but have received food donations from schools in the town before.'

Swing Gate School has agreed to act as a collection point this December, if you would like to contribute something from the list below, please leave your donation in the collection box outside the school office on the 7th or 8th December.

Food	Toiletries
Tins of meat ie 'stewed steak & gravy' or 'chicken in white sauce', hotdogs, meatballs etc .	Toilet roll
Tins of chilli con carne, chicken curry etc.	Shampoo
Spam, tinned ham or corned beef	Toothpaste
Tins of tuna, sardines, pilchards	Toothbrushes
Jars of pasta sauce	Shower gel
Jars of curry sauce	
Tins of custard	Household
Tins of fruit	Washing up liquid
Tins of rice pudding	Small boxes of washing powder
Packets of biscuits	
Breakfast cereals	Christmas 'goodies' e.g.:
Small bags of Sugar	Handcream,
Cartons of long life milk – semi skimmed	Xmas chocolates
Small jars of coffee	Xmas biscuits
Small packets of tea bags	Nice soaps etc.
Hot chocolate powder	
Gravy granules	
Tins of carrots, peas, sweetcorn, tomatoes, potatoes	
Instant mash potato	
Instant packet rice	
Pasta	
Packets of instant flavoured noodles	
Jam, honey etc.	
Baked beans	
Spaghetti hoops	
Tins of soup	