



DIARY DATES

February 2021

Feb 8th

10:30 live assembly

Feb 8th- 12th

Feeling Good Week
Computer Safety Week

Feb 9th

Safer Internet Day

Feb 10th

19:00-20:30 Virtual
eSafety talk for parents

Feb 11th

Mr Miller Live PE
session via Zoom:
09:00 Nursery
09:45 Year 2
10:30 Reception
11:15 Year 1.

Feb 15th- 19th

Half term (school
closed to all)

Feb 22nd

Nursery 2021/22
Online Admissions
Open (New Date)

Feb 25th

20:00 Raising Boys –
an online seminar by
Steve Biddulph

March 2021

March 2nd

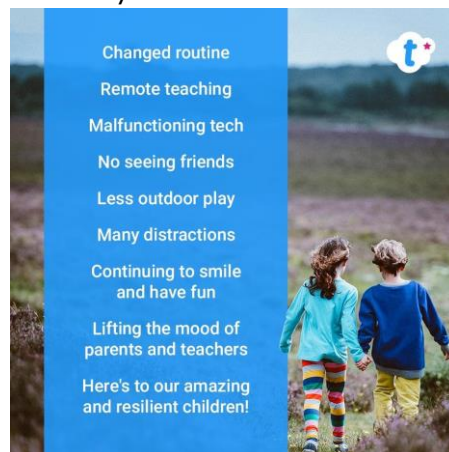
Virtual 'Meet the
Headteacher' Open
Session – Nursery
2021/22 admission

March 4th

20:00 Raising Girls –
an online seminar by
Steve Biddulph

05th February 2021

This week has been Children's Mental Health Week and we wanted to give a virtual high five to all our children. They have shown resilience and adaptability in the face of great adversity over the last year. For them, a year is a long time in their young lives and school staff, parents and carers should be very proud of all the children and what they have achieved.



Laptops available to borrow

We have been very fortunate to receive a small number of Chromebooks that are now set up ready to loan to some of our families. Please contact the office on 01442 863913 or email admin@swinggate.herts.sch.uk, if your child would benefit from having a laptop to help with remote learning.

Live sessions clarification

We sent out the revised protocol this week. The main points to note are:

- we have disabled the chat function on all live sessions
- children should join the meeting with sound muted

- cameras can now remain on for all sessions including Mr Miller
- parents must stay and monitor their child while attending a live session.

RSPB Big Birdwatch

We hope you all enjoyed taking part in the RSPB Big Birdwatch last weekend. Elwood in Rabbits shared these amazing images of a Blue Tit taken in their bird box. Mrs Allen said "They



keep coming back for a visit so we are hoping they'll nest again like last year and now we have the camera!"



We hope to get an update in

Spring to see if the family of Blue Tits have returned. Elwood also had great fun taking part in the Big Bird watch and saw Blue Tits, Robins and Goldfinches.

The entrance is complete!

We are thrilled to say the new entrance to school has been completed.

Here are Year 2 watching the workers as they levelled the ready mixed concrete.



Once we are able to welcome everyone back, you won't need a pair of welly boots for the school run – phew!



Pause for thought

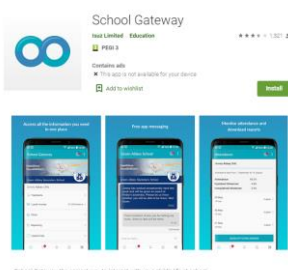


Changes in circumstances

The past year has been a challenge for everyone. For some this has meant a change in your financial situation and you may be eligible for Free School Meals. As an infant school all our statutory age children fall under the Universal Infant Free School Meals Scheme. However, by registering, your family would receive the supermarket vouchers during lockdown and over the holidays (dependent on the Government announcements) and other school benefits. If your circumstances have changed and you think your child may qualify please click [here](#) for further details and how to apply.

Schoolcomms

We are changing the way we will be communicating with families after half term. We are moving from ParentMail over to Schoolcomms, the parent app is called School Gateway. This is just to let you know and further information will be sent out in due course.



eSafety parent talk

Next week is the eSafety talk for parents on Wednesday 10th February from 19:00-20:30. This essential eSafety session will help parents understand the latest trends and associated

issues surrounding primary age online activity, tell them how to spot potential problems, reduce risks, and offer some helpful pointers for keeping your child as safe as possible when using electronic devices. A link to the meeting will be sent to families next Tuesday.

Free story eBook explaining COVID to children

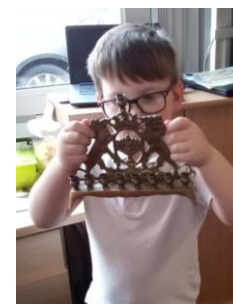
A free eBook '[What's going on?](#)' that explains Covid-19 to younger children is available for families to read together. We know many children are asking questions and hope this book could be useful to you.

School learning

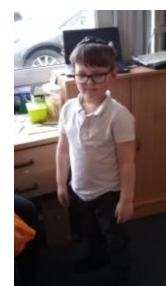
Voles have been 'mindful eating' this week, here is Arthur, Arlo and Georgie taking part and



some Owl toast. Click [here](#) for the link to the clip they used. You might want to try this at home yourselves.



Reception have been learning about Judaism this week. Koby in Owls family created a presentation for us to share about what Judaism means to them and he kindly brought in the families menorah and kippur.





Remote learning

Please remember to keep sending your wonderful pictures in to admin@swinggate.herts.sch.uk. We love seeing them!



Year 1 have been learning about wolves this week during English. Here is Jago in Hedgehogs with his fantastic wolf facts poster.



Adam in Rabbits enjoyed joining Mrs Ayres and

Mrs Huke in this morning's Friday boogie.



Daisy sent in a great picture of her dressed as Red Riding Hood with her basket collage she had created.

Year 2 have been designing



covers for their creative writing pieces. Here are Charlotte's in

Foxes and Lola's in Badgers wonderful efforts.



New families to school

We have welcomed a number of new families to school this year. Despite joining us during this unprecedented time, the children have adapted to their 'new normal' incredibly well. Here is one of our new Voles, Carwyn enjoying the snow recently.



FoS Update

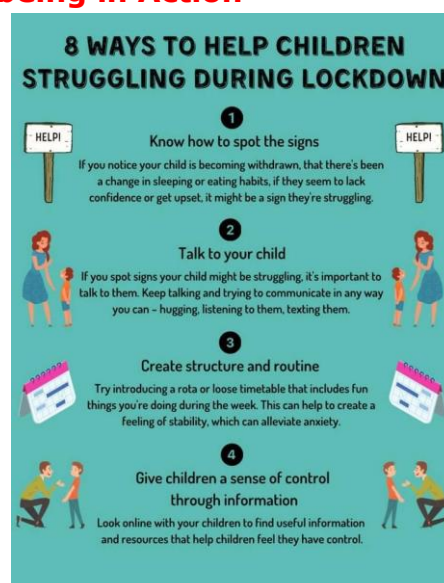
We have been incredibly fortunate to receive a generous donation of £2,000 to go towards building a sensory area within the school grounds. We feel very lucky to have been nominated as a beneficiary of this donation that will help us to create even better provision for our children. The kindness of others is very much appreciated.

A message from Mr Miller

"Under these strange and tough times, it has been so unfortunate that I haven't been able to come down to your school to see you all and to deliver our fun PE lessons. However, I am so happy and thrilled that we have at least managed to do our PE lessons, even if it means delivering them online to you. I would like to thank all of the children/families at home and the children/teachers in their classrooms for getting involved and giving it your best in the activities; you are all amazing. Your enthusiasm and energy keeps me going indeed and I always looks forward to the next PE lessons. It won't be long until I can come down but for now keep safe, keep active and I will see you all soon."

Mr Miller

Wellbeing in Action





Three-minute blender banana pancakes

Children love these fruity pancakes and they're so quick to make with minimal washing-up and no scales required. An easy cooked breakfast.

Prep: 1 min
Cook: 2 mins
Easy
Serves 2



Ingredients:

- butter for frying
- 1 banana
- 1 egg
- 1 heaped tbsp self-raising flour
- 1/2 tsp baking powder
- chopped fresh fruit and banana (optional)
- maple syrup to serve (optional)

Method:

STEP 1 - Melt the butter in a frying pan over a low-medium heat. Meanwhile, add the banana, egg, flour and baking powder to a blender and blitz for 20 seconds.

STEP 2 - Pour three little puddles straight from the blender into the frying pan. Cook for 1 min or until the tops start to bubble, then flip with a fork or a fish slice and cook for 20-30 seconds more. Repeat with the rest of the mixture to make three more pancakes.

STEP 3 Serve the pancakes with chopped fruit or banana and a splash of maple syrup.

Mindfulness

Let's Dance

Simply turning on some music and dancing with your children is a lovely way to spend an afternoon. Have a competition for the craziest dance move, try your hand at breakdancing, belly dancing or even keeping a hula-hoop up. It's remarkable how much entertainment a couple of balloons can create too. See who can win at the 'keeping them from touching the floor' game – you never know, they may have an Olympic career ahead of them. The only equipment you'll need is a good soundtrack.



Watford FC football fitness class offer

During half term, Watford FC CSE Trust will be hosting extended online activities for enthusiastic football players for three days. The online activities will be a mix of football fitness classes in the morning and afternoon to get children active and exercising. Further information can be found on the flyer attached to the ParentMail. All sessions will take place virtually via Zoom.

And finally...

Next week is Computer Safety Week and Feeling Good Week, the attachments included on the ParentMail give ideas for how to help families to 'feel good'.

We received our certificate from Children in Need today to say thank you for the amazing £194.91 that was raised last year!

Stay safe and take the time to enjoy family life.



*Francesca Gallagher (Mrs)
Headteacher*