



## DIARY DATES

### March 2021

#### March 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>

Book Week

#### March 1<sup>st</sup>

10:30 Live assembly  
with Mrs Gallagher

#### March 2<sup>nd</sup>

09:30 Virtual 'Meet the  
Headteacher' Open  
Session – Nursery  
2021/22 admission

#### March 4<sup>th</sup>

World Book Day

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

#### March 5<sup>th</sup>

Parent Forum Meeting

#### March 8<sup>th</sup>

Full school reopening!

#### March 11<sup>th</sup>

Mr Miller virtual PE  
session

#### March 16<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup>

Virtual Parent  
consultations

#### March 18<sup>th</sup>

Don Rae dance workshop  
– whole school

#### March 26<sup>th</sup>

Last day of term (early  
close at 13:30)

### April 2021

#### April 12<sup>th</sup>

INSET Day – school  
closed to children

#### April 13<sup>th</sup>

First day of term

## 26<sup>th</sup> February 2021

What a first week  
back with the  
announcement of  
schools reopening  
from the 8<sup>th</sup> of  
March and the  
first signs of  
spring emerging



with crocuses and daffodils  
starting to bloom, it has really  
helped lift everyone's spirits.

## Reopening of School

We were delighted to hear that we  
are able to welcome all our  
children back to school on Monday  
the 8<sup>th</sup> March. A letter with full  
details has been sent by email to  
all our families today. We are  
aware that, for some children, the  
return will be very exciting and  
others may feel quite anxious.  
Please be reassured that we will  
fully support all of the children to  
ensure as smooth a transition  
back to school as possible.

If you wish your child's work to be  
marked next week, it will need to  
be submitted by 3pm on  
Thursday. The teachers will not be  
marking on Friday in preparation  
for the reopening of school on  
Monday 8<sup>th</sup>.

## School Gateway

We have  
made the  
move to

**Schoolgateway**

using School Gateway, replacing  
ParentMail and WisePay for  
communicating with you. We also  
recommend you download the  
School Gateway app as this will  
then give you access to using the  
payment system for uniform,

Breakfast Club, non-school  
uniform days, class trips etc. You  
will also receive text messages of  
any urgent updates we may  
issue. Download the app [here](#).

## Nursery Admissions 2021-22

The online Nursery admissions  
opened on Monday this week. If  
you are planning to apply or know  
someone with a child born  
between 1st September 2017 and  
31st August 2018 looking to apply  
you can find all the information on  
our [website](#). The next 'Meet the  
Headteacher' event is on Tuesday  
2<sup>nd</sup> of March to reserve a place  
please email the [office](#).

## Book Week – 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> March

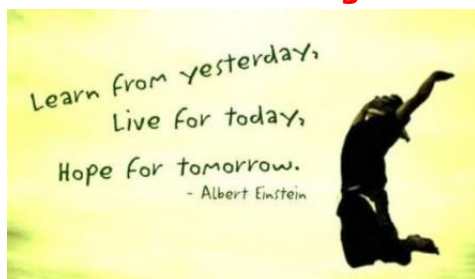
Next week is Book Week. We will  
be running a virtual Book Fair, a  
separate email explaining how  
you can purchase books was sent  
earlier today. A percentage of the  
proceeds is donated to the school.  
We will be sharing a virtual book  
token for you to use. These can  
also be used at other booksellers.  
A hard copy of the book token will  
be given to all our children once  
they have returned to school.

To celebrate World Book Day, on  
Thursday, we are taking part in a  
virtual Art Club session led by Olaf  
Falafel. The link to the Zoom  
meeting will be loaded on to your  
child's Google Classroom.

We would also like to remind you  
that if the children can dress up as  
book characters, this does not need  
to be a full costume, an accessory,  
hat or a painted face will do.



## Pause for thought



## Reminders

If you need to contact your child's class teacher please email, marked for the relevant teacher's attention, the [office](#). Contact via Google Classroom should only be used to access and submit your child's work. The comments should only relate to the work on each class page.

Please can families ensure their children do not touch, climb or use any of the outdoor equipment in the playgrounds at drop off and pick up. This leads to additional cleaning or quarantining of the equipment. We appreciate the early years playground is tempting but must be left for our Voles, Squirrels and Owls within their own Bubble areas.

## Parent consultations

Parent consultations will take place on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> of March. They will be run virtually. Please be aware your invitation to book an appointment will still be via ParentMail.

## Steve Biddulph Raising Boys talk

We hope you enjoyed the first of the Steve Biddulph seminars. His dulcet tones were a welcome calm in the current climate. Time being the most precious of all gifts is a simple, yet powerful reminder for us all. Raising Girls is next Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> of March at 20:00 if you would like to book visit [here](#).

## Game On After School Clubs

Game On will be begin running their after school clubs for Years 1 and 2 from the week of the 8<sup>th</sup> of March in class Bubbles. Year 1 have been contacted by Game On directly to offer places to

those that applied for the Football Course earlier this year. For Year 2 they are running a Mini Olympics course for Foxes first and Badgers in the Summer term.

## NASA Mars mission

You may have watched the Perseverance landing on the 18<sup>th</sup> of February and as part of the mission they sent a [microchip filled with people's names](#) to experience 'landing on Mars'. There is still time to 'Send Your Name to Mars on NASA's next flight to the Red Planet'. To add yours and your families' names to their next mission register [here](#).



## FoSG Update

Thank you to everyone who entered the animal pancake competition. We loved seeing all of your brilliant creations! Mrs Gallagher had a hard job choosing the winners. Congratulations to the winners in each class:

- Voles - Carwyn
- Owls - Lucas
- Squirrels - Nina
- Rabbits - Carys
- Hedgehogs- Charlie
- Foxes- Charlotte
- Badgers- Maggie



We are really grateful for your support and generous donations - and it raised a fantastic £200!



We are planning some more events and activities for this term and will have more details soon.

## School learning

Here are Arlo and Samson taking part in the Voles



class tongue disco and an eyebrow disco this week.



Jack in Squirrels created a piece of artwork that he did in an Expressive Arts and Design



lesson - the children learnt about what planets looked like, then mixed materials such as lentils, sugar and crushed cereal into paint to create a textured planet picture. Sophie in Owls is also pictured dressing up as Buzz Lightyear as part of Child Initiated Play explorations.



## Remote learning

Samson in Voles made this bird feeder this week as part of his learning.

Josh in Rabbits has found signs of Spring in his garden.



## Messy Church – Sat 6<sup>th</sup> of March

Would you like to be involved in 'Messy Church at Home' next Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> of March? Crafts in a bag will be delivered to your doorstep before the event. You can then join a livestream celebration of stories and songs from Sunnyside Church at 3.30pm on Saturday afternoon. This will be followed by a Zoom call where you can all craft, chat and share together the things you have made. Contact Sharon Fowler (Children's and Families Team Leader, Sunnyside Church) on [sharon@sunnysidechurch.org.uk](mailto:sharon@sunnysidechurch.org.uk) or 07908989571 for more information or to request a Messy Church at Home Craft Bag. Requests for craft bags need to be with Sharon by Tuesday 2nd March to ensure time for resources to be prepared. It is a great way to meet with other families - all are welcome!



## Wellbeing in Action

Visualise your safe place – **to feel grounded**

Where are your favourite soothing places in nature? You can visit them anytime in your mind. You could write a journey to your calm safe place, describing with all your senses how it feels to be there.



## Mindfulness

### Carrot and cheddar soup

Ingredients

25g [butter](#)

1 [small onion](#), chopped

500g [carrots](#), chopped

1 medium potato, (about 140g/5oz peeled weight), chopped

1.2l chicken or vegetable stock

100g [mature cheddar](#), grated

150ml [milk](#)







Serve with toast soldiers

## Method

1) Melt the butter in a large saucepan over a low heat and tip in the onion, carrots and potato. Fry gently for about 10 mins, stirring from time to time, until the onion is soft and the vegetables are glistening.

2) Pour in the stock and bring to the boil, then reduce the heat and partially cover the pan. Simmer for about 20 minutes, until the vegetables are soft.

3) Whizz the mixture in a food processor or blender until smooth, then add the cheese and whizz again. Return the soup to the pan, pour in the milk, then reheat gently. Serve the soup with buttered toast soldiers.

Thank you to Ahmad in Foxes for sharing this recipe for **Sablé biscuit aka Algerian jammy dodgers**

## Ingredients:

- 250g margarine or butter
- 150g icing sugar
- approx. 450g plain flour
- 1 egg yolk
- 1tsp vanilla sugar or essence
- pinch baking powder
- lemon zest
- strawberry jam, or just your favourite one!

You will also need:

Biscuit cutters, you can be creative and use what you have in the cupboard. Maybe use a bottle lid to make the hole in the middle!

## Method:

1) Mix the margarine/butter and icing sugar in a bowl until there are no lumps. Add the egg yolk and the lemon zest and mix again. Then add the baking powder and vanilla with half the flour, then slowly add the rest until incorporated. Cling film the dough and put into the fridge for at least 30 minutes. Biscuit dough needs to be kept cold and not over worked.



2) Lightly dust your work surface, take a small piece of dough and roll out. Cut your shapes and place on your lined tray.

3) Bake at 180C for approx 8 minutes. They should be the colour as in the picture. They will still feel soft, but will crisp up.

4) Repeat the process until your dough is finished. Leave the biscuits to cool and then add a small teaspoon of jam before sandwiching the pieces together. Leave to set for a few hours.

## Junior Bake Off

For any older siblings or friends (aged 9-15) who love to bake, the Junior Bake off is looking for new applicants, please see the attached flyer for information.



## And finally...

All the teachers, staff and I have been working hard in preparation to welcome all the children back to school. We are so excited and we can't wait to see their smiling faces.

We know what a hard time this has been for many parents: home schooling, missing family and friends and many of you trying to work at home or in the real world. I just wanted to say that I am really proud to be the Headteacher at Swing Gate and I believe that we are a real community and we have all worked together, as a team, in order to do the best we can for the children of Swing Gate.

So in the mean time I just want to say a BIG....



*Francesca Gallagher (Mrs)  
Headteacher*