



## DIARY DATES

### **March 2021**

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

Virtual parent consultations

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

Don Rae dance workshop  
– whole school

#### **March 19<sup>th</sup>**

Red Nose Day –  
children to wear red

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

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

### **April 2021**

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

Talk4Writing INSET  
Day – school closed to  
children

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

First day of term

#### **April 14<sup>th</sup>**

**\*Additional Nursery  
COVID safe outdoor  
tour – prospective  
families for Nursery  
2021/22**

#### **April 15<sup>th</sup>**

Mr Miller PE session

#### **April 19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>**

Balanceability sessions  
– EYFS

#### **April 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Indian dancing  
workshop

### **May 2021**

#### **May 6<sup>th</sup>**

Polling Day – school  
closed to children

## 12<sup>th</sup> March 2021

It has been a lovely week seeing the majority of children back in school. With great enthusiasm and adjusting well to their 'new normal' one again. For any children that are having to remain at home, or needing to self-isolate in the future, there will be a package of work available to you.



## Coronavirus update

You may have spotted the PCSO, Traffic Police and Herts County COVID Officers at school this week during drop-off and pick-up. They were here to give advice and check that families are complying with the current social distancing guidance still in place. With schools reopening, it does feel like life is beginning to return to normal but we must remain vigilant and safe, keeping to 2m apart from others, not meeting in family or friendship groups etc. Thank you for playing your part.

We also received a glowing report from the COVID officers who said our arrangements and controls were to a very high standard.

## Winston's Wishes

Some of our staff were fortunate to attend training this week with [Winston's Wishes](#), a charity that offers bereavement advice to parents and those working with children. If your family is currently dealing with the loss of a loved one, then Winston's

Wishes are available to offer support via their Freephone National Helpline on 08088 020 021. They provide expert advice and guidance on supporting a grieving child or young person after the death of a loved one. They also offer free resources, such as stories that help to explain death. At school, we are always looking for new ways to support any of our children and families and staff are very happy for you to approach us if you feel we could help.

## Reminders

Please can we remind everyone that children must not climb on or touch any of the equipment in playgrounds at drop-off or pick-up. The children should walk next to you whilst on school grounds to ensure social distancing is maintained. Children using the equipment results in unnecessary cleaning or quarantining of play equipment.

A reminder of drop off and collection arrangements:

**Drop-off: 8:30-08:45**

**Pick-up: 14:55-15:05**

## Road Safety workshops

Nursery, Reception and Year 1 took part in interactive road safety virtual workshops this week. They were read a story about how to remain safe near roads and in cars and took part in a Q&A session to support their understanding of keeping themselves safe when travelling.



## Pause for thought

*"I'm not going to school just for the academics. I wanted to share ideas, to be around people who are passionate about learning."*

Emma Watson (Actress)

## Red Nose Day

Next Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> March, is Red Nose Day. It will be a non-school uniform day, children will be asked to bring in a favourite joke to share with their friends and will be invited to wear something red, this could be as simple as a hairband or socks. We are also suggesting a £1 donation to help raise funds for this valuable cause. Each class will have their own collection pot. In school, we have informative videos and fun activities planned to help the children understand the importance of fundraising in an engaging and age appropriate way.



## National Census

Census 2021 is taking place on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2021. The national survey takes place every 10 years in England and it is a legal requirement to complete the census for your household. The information provided helps decide how services are funded in our area. You are required by law to complete the Census or could face up to a £1,000 fine. You should have received a letter with a unique code to go [online](#) to complete the survey. If any of our families require assistance with completing the survey, please speak to the office. There are also Census support centres and our nearest one is located at the South Hill Centre in Hemel Hempstead.

## Parent consultations

We wanted to remind all those families with a parents evening appointment next week, the teachers will be telephoning you at the time you have reserved. Please be ready to receive the call as they are strictly limited to 10 minutes per family. The number may appear as from a 'private' or 'unknown' caller.

## Breakfast Club vacancy

We are looking to recruit a new team member for our Breakfast Club that runs from 07:30-08:30 every

Day (set up from 07:15). If you are interested in this role, please contact the [school office](#).

## Nursery Admissions 2021-22

We have added an extra tour date for prospective families on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> of April. I hope that this will give families the opportunity to visit the school even if they have already applied for a place for Nursery this September. As restrictions should have changed by then we plan to make this an outdoor tour of the school grounds led by Mrs Gallagher. If you would like to join the tour or know anyone that may want to attend please email the [office](#) or call us on 01442 863913.

## Wraparound care

Our full wraparound care provision is now open. It was lovely to welcome back the Little Deers team and see many children back at Breakfast Club. Here are Charlotte and Darcy enjoying some early morning colouring.



## Resilient Transitions parent course

Bounce Forward have been commissioned by DSPL 8 Dacorum to run a brand new resilience course for parents, Resilient Transitions. This course will focus on extending knowledge and understanding from the skills learnt during Raise Resilience, with a focus on helping children deal with transitions. Resilient Transitions will run across April and May, as four 1-hour sessions. There are two time options. Please see the flyer attached for information and to book your place, these will be given on a first come first served basis.

## Wellbeing in Action

Following a parent suggestion, we thought it might be useful to share some of the recipes used by Hertfordshire Catering Ltd. Shelley, our kitchen manager, has selected a few that we will



share these over the coming weeks. We hope you will enjoy a taste of school at home.

## **Homemade Cheese and Vegetable Pattie**

(serves 6 adult portions)

### Ingredients

- 175g breadcrumbs
- 1 onion, chopped
- 175g courgette, grated
- 150g cheese, grated
- 1 egg, separated
- 1 tbsp vegetable oil
- pepper to taste.

### Method

1. Preheat oven to gas mark 6/400F/200C
2. Heat oil and cook onion until soft, add grated courgette and cook for further 3 minutes.
3. Mix with grated cheese, half the breadcrumbs, egg yolk and pepper.
4. Shape into patties, dip into beaten egg white and roll in breadcrumbs.
5. Place on greased baking tray and cook for 15-20 minutes.

## **Mindfulness**

Get close to the earth: Go on a Belly Hike. This is suitable for both children and adults. No age restriction! Often we only look for the bigger things in life and miss the small and just as wonderful creatures that are there all the time. So why not take a Belly Hike when you go to the park or are playing in the garden. Lie on your belly and look through the grass at the wonders that can lie within the blades... ants, dew drops, seeds, spiders and beetles. When you feel you have looked at everything within your reach, gently turn yourself around and do the same exercise again... Did you find more there than the first time? What was different? Or maybe just the same?

By taking time to focus on a smaller patch of life and give it our full attention we are being mindful and respectful. This will help calm our nervous system, and our brains, and can improve our mood.

## **YMCA Family Sleep Easy fundraiser**

YMCA, a charity that supports thousands of homeless young people every night is asking

families and children to sleep anywhere but their bed for one night to raise money to support this cause. On 26<sup>th</sup> March, you can join in by sleeping on your sofa, on the floor or in a tent in the garden? There will be prizes on the night and lots of ways that families can engage with others taking part. To sign up and download the family pack please visit [here](#). One night can make a lifetime of difference. Please [email](#) or phone 020 7186 9546, for more information.

## **The Canvas Crew Easter Art Club**

The Canvas Crew are running online family art workshops during the Easter break – Cherry blossom (29 or 31 March) and Pondlife (30 March) – both are suitable for ages 7+. You can find out more and book via [their website](#).

## **And finally...**

It was really marvellous to see all the families on Monday morning queueing up for school, with so many excited faces, and, some a little bit nervous. As I walked thought the school this week, the sea of familiar red jumpers was fantastic to see. I am amazed at how resilient the children are and I know this is down to you as parents, so thank you.

I am hopeful that we will be able to start having bigger bubbles for whole year groups, after the Easter holidays, but this is dependent on the continued reduction in the local infection rate. I know that this is something that both parents and staff are keen to see in order to give the children opportunities to mix with their parallel classes.

Thank you also for your kind wishes and words of support, this was backed up by the parent reps at Parent Forum last week, we are really glad to have been able to support families in the recent school closure.

*Francesca Gallagher (Mrs)  
Headteacher*