



Newsletter

DIARY DATES

March 2021

March 25th

Mr Miller KS1 PE session

March 26th

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

April 2021

April 12th

Talk4Writing INSET
Day – school closed to children

April 13th

First day of term

April 14th

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

April 15th

Mr Miller EYFS PE session

April 19th – 21st

Balanceability sessions - EYFS

April 22nd

Indian dancing workshop

April 29th

Mr Miller KS1 PE session

April 30th

Parents Forum - virtual

May 2021

May 6th

Polling Day – school closed to children

19th March 2021

Red Nose Day was a sea of red – less Swing Gate tops and more superheroes, dresses, ribbons and noses! The staff and children all looked fabulous. The children really enjoyed the activities throughout the day. We will announce the amount raised next week. A montage of pictures from all the classes is at the end of the newsletter.



Coronavirus updates

The latest Government advice about the coronavirus response and guidance for schools can be found [here](#). The guidance for symptoms that require a child or adult to have a COVID PCR test are, any of the following:

- a high temperature – you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – you've noticed you a change in smell or taste.

If the adults in your household are currently using the lateral flow tests for families with a school age child, you are expected to continue to test throughout the Easter break. Staff will also be continuing with this. This is part of the national monitoring programme currently in

place to help beat the virus. If you would like to obtain tests for your household, please visit [here](#) for further information.

As a school, we are continuing to monitor the local R rate. We will then be able to consider amendments to our coronavirus response, such as creating larger year group Bubble after the Easter break.

Financial support

This past year has brought added financial challenges to many families. If your personal circumstances have changed, your child may now be eligible for extra funding from the Government. The term used is the Pupil Premium Grant and this will give school the ability to access additional funding that will directly benefit your child. These include free places at after-school clubs, free school meal vouchers with local supermarkets during the holidays and as they move on to a junior school where lunches are no longer free to all. Also, this Easter, Hertfordshire County Council has joined forces with the Herts Sports Partnership to organise a programme of activities for the holidays. Information was sent to our eligible families this week, if you feel you may now qualify please get in touch with the [school office](#).

Reminders

We have received another complaint from a local resident due to people parking over their driveway at drop off and collection. Please can we remind everyone to be considerate when parking. Everyone is entitled to access their properties without obstruction.



Pause for thought

"If you have good thoughts they will shine out of your face like sunbeams and you will always look lovely."

Roald Dahl, author of The Twits

National Census

A reminder that this weekend is the [National Census](#). Every household in the UK **must** complete the online form to avoid receiving up to a £1000 fine. If you need any help completing the survey you can call the Dacorum Family Services North & East Team on 01442 401222.

End of term celebrations

Next Friday, classes will be celebrating the January, February and March birthdays. Our lovely kitchen team will be making a cake for every class to enjoy. Plus the main school lunch will be a party box to include a cheese or ham roll, chicken nuggets, mini sausages and crisps (vegetarian alternatives will be provided).

Parent consultations

Next Monday, 22nd March, all children will be coming home with a parent consultation slip. If you wish to discuss the information on the slips further please call the office to arrange a suitable time. In addition, Year 2 children will receive their Year 1 Phonics Screening Report, these were completed in December 2020 owing to last summer's lockdown.

Don Rae Dance Workshop

The children all enjoyed a COVID-safe individual class Bubble workshop with Don Rae this week. Giggles could be heard coming from the hall as



children created their own fairy tale themed performances. Here are Squirrels and Rabbits enjoying their sessions.



Nursery Admissions 2021-22

We have added an extra tour date for prospective families on Wednesday 14th 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.

Staff changes

Miss Bruce, Owls class teacher will be leaving us at Easter. Mrs Gallagher talked to the children in Owls this week and informed their families. After Easter, Mrs Halsey will be teaching Owls until Miss Oliver returns from her maternity leave. We wish Miss Bruce all the best for the future.

Mrs Newman will remain in Rabbits Class until the end of term.

FoSG update

Next week FoSG are planning a COVID-safe Easter hunt for each of the class Bubbles. The children will be searching for images in the outdoor areas and children will all receive an Easter treat.

We are also delighted to announce that Swing Gate have come joint second in the Christmas Tree Place competition that we took part in and will receive £100. Thank you to all those who handed in the leaflets last Christmas.

School learning

In science this week Rabbits and Hedgehogs celebrated science day with innovative designs for chairs using biscuits. We all loved it! There are definitely some budding designers in our classes!





Can you help?

We are looking for someone with marketing experience to join our marketing committee. If you would like to find out more information then please contact the school office.

Wellbeing in Action

Cheesy Hot Cross Bun

Ingredients

- 700g strong bread flour , plus extra 5 tbsp for crosses and dusting
- 3 x 7g sachets fast-action dried yeast
- 500ml warm whole milk
- 140g mature cheddar, grated
- 5 tbsp grated parmesan (or vegetarian alternative)



Method

STEP 1

Mix the flour, yeast and 2 tsp salt in a big bowl. Make a well in the centre and pour in the milk. Mix with a wooden spoon, then your hands, to a soft dough. Knead for 10 mins, and then put back in the bowl. Lightly cover with oiled cling film and leave somewhere warmish until they double in size – about 30 mins.

STEP 2

Tip the dough onto a lightly floured surface and knead in most of the cheese. Dust a large, flat baking sheet with flour. Shape the dough into 12 round buns and arrange on the sheet with a 2-3cm gap between each. Loosely cover with another sheet of lightly oiled cling film and leave to prove until nearly doubled in size.

STEP 3

Heat oven to 200C/180C fan/gas 6. Mix the 5 tbsp flour for the crosses with the Parmesan and 5 tbsp water. Spoon into a disposable piping bag and pipe a line along each row of buns, then repeat in the other direction to make crosses. Scatter with the remaining cheddar and bake for 20-25 mins until golden. To reheat from frozen, warm in a low oven before serving.

Mindfulness

Practice a cloud meditation.

Children have natural mindfulness when it comes to nature. Cloud meditation taps into this natural inquisitiveness, and supports their development of mindfulness.

How to do cloud meditation.

- Ask your child to sit or lie down with a good view of the clouds.
- Begin by asking them to take five deep belly breaths and ask them to stare at the clouds while asking them these questions to guide the meditation.
- Are the clouds fluffy or thin?
- Are they moving?
- Are they making shapes of things you know?
- Are they all the same colour?
- What does the sky look like behind the clouds?
- Give your child some silent time just to gaze and mindfully explore the clouds.
- Complete the meditation by discussing what they noticed and what emotions they felt.

And finally (or nearly) ...

Two weeks after the latest lockdown and the children are still really enjoying the company of their friends. It has been great to see their dance moves yesterday and to hear many jokes in class today. However, I have noticed that some of the children are really tired and will need to rest at home this weekend in readiness for the last week of term.



I hope that families too will get a chance to rest and to enjoy each other's company.

*Francesca Gallagher (Mrs)
Headteacher*



Red Nose Day fun!

Great outfits, superhero masks, joke telling, Friday boogie and our very own superhero, Mrs Turner!

Here's a couple of favourite Rabbits' jokes:

What did the bee say to the flower? Hello honey!

"Doctor, doctor I feel like a pig"
"How long have you felt like this"
"About a squeeeeeek"

