



DIARY DATES

April 2021

April 19th – 21st

Balanceability sessions
- EYFS

April 20th

School/Eco Council
meeting

April 22nd

Indian dance workshop

April 26th – 28th

Balanceability sessions
- EYFS

April 28th

Carole Lollipop 40 year
service anniversary

April 29th

Mr Miller KS1 PE
session

April 30th

Parents Forum – virtual

FoSG dress down day
(details tbc)

May 2021

May 3rd Bank Holiday

May 4th – 5th

Balanceability sessions
- EYFS

May 6th

Polling Day – **school
closed to children**

May 7th

NSPCC Number Day –
children to dress in
pattern or numbers

Perform drama workshop
(whole school)

May 11th

Tap Twinning day

16th April 2021

Welcome back to the summer term 2021! It has been a great first week with children and staff settling back into their new daily routines. Mr Miller proved to be a very popular visitor, running Nursery and Reception CoolSkillz sessions (in person) once again.



Year group bubbles

I hope that you will be pleased to hear that we will start having year group bubbles from Monday 19th April. This decision was made by SLT, following discussion with Governors and in response to the Parent Forum. We believe that this will be possible due to there being a continued reduction in the local infection rate. I know that this is something that both parents and staff were keen for, as it gives the children opportunities to mix with their parallel classes and opens up the possibility of mixing in year group bubbles in Breakfast Club, Little Deers After School Club and Game On. However, we need to highlight, that any positive cases would now affect the whole year group but we will remain vigilant with our Covid-safe practices.

Packed lunches

For those children that have a packed lunch in school, please can we inform you that **grapes and cherry tomatoes MUST be cut into quarters**. This change in requirement is due to updated first aid training. Uncut they present a serious choking hazard in children, and we will have to remove them

from any lunch boxes if they are not pre-cut.

We would also like to remind parents and carers that we are a **nut, seed and egg free school**. None of these ingredients should be included in packed lunches or snacks for after-school clubs. Your child's lunch should contain a healthy and appropriate amount of food and must not contain chocolate, sweets or fizzy drinks.

NSPCC Number Day

We are planning this year's NSPCC Number Day. As with previous years it will be a dress down day with children encouraged to wear clothing with numbers or pattern on them. As we are unable to have the 'big sale' in the hall, we are planning a sale of items made by each class group. Further information and an order form will be sent out shortly.

Reminders

We would like to remind everyone of the following:

- Drop off is from **08:30-08:45** and afternoon pick up is from **14:55-15:05**. Please ensure that you are here in good time as the gates will be closed promptly.
- Please do not allow your child to touch or play with any equipment in the school playgrounds. Particularly at the start of the day, the outdoor areas are set up ready for the classes and when touched by people outside the bubble they need to be re-sanitised or quarantined. Please could you also let other adults know that drop-off or pick-up your child.



Pause for thought

*"Reading is to the mind,
what exercise is to the body."*

Sir Richard Steele, Irish writer & playwright

Breakfast Club

We are still looking to recruit a new assistant for our Breakfast Club that runs every day. We will shortly be advertising this position via the TeachInHerts website, if you or someone you know may be interested please get in touch with the [school office](#). As a member of Breakfast Club staff, your child will be entitled to a free place.

Red Nose Day final total

We are delighted to announce that your generous donations raised £172 for Comic Relief. Additionally, Mrs Henderson sold her beautiful handmade Easter cards to staff and this raised a further fantastic £50.

Nursery admissions 2021-22

Nursery admissions for next September closed yesterday. If you or anyone you know were still hoping to apply, please email the [office](#) or call us on 01442 863913.

HRH the Duke of Edinburgh

The focus for Mrs Gallagher's virtual assembly on Monday will mark the life of and contribution to improving young people's outcomes by HRH the Duke of Edinburgh.

FoSG Easter Trail

We hope many of you enjoyed the Easter trail over the holidays and thank you for the donations to the [Just Giving](#) page too. Here is Adam in Rabbits and Samuel in Hedgehogs taking part.



Moki Bands

From next week we will be using [Moki bands](#) (similar devices to Fitbits), recently bought from the Sports budget. Every day a child from each



class will be selected to wear the band and these will be 'read' at the end of the day. We will be sanitising the bands after use.

Moki bands are a fun and easy way to get children engaged with physical activity at school. In addition, we will be collecting real data to show just how active the children are so that we can reflect on and further develop the Wellbeing in Action curriculum.

Wellbeing in Action

Now something completely different... have a go at foraging.

How to forage responsibly and safely

It is vital to avoid damaging wildlife habitats or rare species, so check you are allowed to forage in the area before starting to pick. When foraging, ensure you leave plenty behind for wildlife and only pick from an area with a plentiful supply. Only take what you plan to eat and take care to avoid damaging the roots of plants as you pick.

Best plants to forage for in April:

Wild garlic, *Allium ursinum* known as bear leek, [wild garlic](#) is an edible plant that emerges in April and can be foraged right through summer. Use it to add great flavour to your favourite recipes. You can often smell it on your walks in and around Ashridge.



The leaves and flowers are edible. Young leaves are delicious added to soups, sauces and pesto. Leaves appear in March and are best picked when young. The flowers emerge from April to June and can add a potent garlic punch to salads and sandwiches. Click on the link for more information and how to use wild garlic: <https://www.countryfile.com/how-to/food-recipes/wild-garlic-guide-where-to-find-how-to-cook-it-and-recipe-ideas/>

We would love to see pictures of how you have used it, if you decide to have a go!



Mindfulness

Bubble games

Get some bubble mixture.

1) Take a deep breath in and slowly, gently exhale to see what is the biggest bubble you can make. Have a competition to see who makes the biggest bubble.



2) Concentrate on one bubble. Follow its journey around the garden or park. Watch how it floats and rises. How long you can float one bubble in the air before it pops. Attempt to keep the bubble floating in the air the longest by blowing gently underneath it. What happens to the bubble after it has popped? Encourage discussions about the future of the bubble and the journey it has been on.

3) Take another deep breath and see how many bubbles you are able to blow.

And finally...

I, the children and staff are really looking forward to the term ahead. The children have spoken excitedly about what they will be learning and what they are looking forward to this term.

We have an action packed term planned, with many opportunities for the children to be active and inspired these include Indian dance, EYFS weekly Balanceability workshops, NSPCC Enterprise Day and Perform workshops.

Let this term's adventures begin....

Francesca Gallagher (Mrs)
Headteacher