



DIARY DATES

April 2021

April 26th – 28th

Balanceability sessions
- EYFS

April 28th

Carole Lollipop 40 year
service anniversary

April 29th

Mr Miller KS1 PE
session

April 30th

Parent Forum – virtual

Rainbow Non Uniform
Day - FoSG

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

May 10th – 12th

Balanceability sessions
- EYFS

May 17th – 19th

Balanceability sessions
- EYFS

23rd April 2021

This week began with a special
assembly
to mark
the life of
HRH

Prince
Philip, the
Duke of

Edinburgh. Mrs Gallagher spoke, to
the Year 2 children in the hall and
the other children virtually, about
his legacies. The children were so
excited to be with their parallel
class friends again this week.



Thanks to the lovely weather they
have been able
to share their
outdoor areas
during breaks
and child
initiated time. We will continue to
monitor local infection rates and
will update families if we need to
return to the single bubble system.



Share the love

Have you found us on [Facebook](#)
and [Twitter](#) yet? Our team is
always sharing reminders, as well
as all the lovely activities and
learning going on in school, so it's
a really handy way to stay in touch.
It's also a great way for us to share
with the world how proud we are of
our special Swing Gate School
community. Help us spread the
word by following our school and
liking and sharing our posts – the
more other families know about
what we do, the better!

'Potty about plants' appeal

Having a garden clear out? Or
maybe you've been growing your
own plants and you've got a few

going spare. As part of our efforts
to spruce up the school we're
holding an appeal for donations of
shrubs, flowers, seeds, pots or
even compost (whatever you can
spare we'd be happy to use). We'll
be collecting any donations from
Monday 3rd May so keep us in mind
next time you dig up that unwanted
plant or take a trip to the garden
centre. More news on this in next
week's newsletter.

If you fancy getting involved in a
bit of gardening, then we'd also
love a few volunteers to help us to
use the donations.

Carole Lollipop

Next Wednesday 28th April is the
anniversary of our much loved
Carole Lollipop's 40 year service to
our school. We are honoured that
Carole has kept our children safe
for so long. We will be celebrating
with her on the day and are aware
that families have been planning
their own way to mark the day.
Details are a little under wraps as
we will be surprising Carole at
school. So for now please keep
details under your hat!

Mr Buss

Today we said goodbye to our site
manager, Mr Buss who is moving
on to a new position at a secondary
school. We are
very grateful
for all Mr Buss'
hard work at
Swing Gate
and wish him
well and good luck in his new role.





Pause for thought

"Learn to pause...or nothing worthwhile will catch up with you."

Doug King, author

Sun hats

All children must now have a Swing Gate sun hat in school at all times; they will be kept at school so please label them clearly.



Packed lunch ideas

As part of Veg Power's on-going mission to encourage the UK to eat more veg, they would like to make it easier for parents and carers to add more veg to children's lunchboxes. Recent research from Leeds University found that only one in five children had any vegetables or salad in their packed lunch. To support parents, Veg Power has developed '60 Second Lunchbox Hacks' that is attached to the email. It features easy-to-implement ideas that will hopefully inspire children to try new veggies with their lunch.

Year 2 choir

We are really pleased that Ms Keough is able to be back in school teaching Year 2 choir. All Year 2 children are involved and hopefully they will get a chance to perform to the school later this term.

Balanceability

This week we welcomed back Davie from Balanceability with Voles, Squirrels and Owls beginning their six session course. The children really enjoyed the balance bikes and activities. It was great to see them zooming round the hall, they will be going outside in future weeks.



Year 1 topic

As part of their Africa topic work this term, Hedgehogs and Rabbits had the opportunity to explore the many sights, sounds, smells and tastes that might be found in a busy African market. They were able to try many tropical fruits including pineapple, papaya and mango and also smelt cinnamon bark, cardamom pods, ground and fresh ginger and vanilla. This proved to be a fantastic backdrop to hear the traditional African story 'The Papaya Who Spoke'. This is just the beginning of Year 1's African experience.



Bhangra Dancing Workshop

On Thursday, Red Panda Workshops came in to hold Bhangra Dance sessions for all classes. The enthusiasm from



the children was a delight to see, Sam in Rabbits said "I forgot how much fun it is dancing. I really loved the music and the way it gets your mind working. I enjoyed it so much."



FoSG Update

We hope you had fun on the FOSG Easter Trail over the holidays. Thank you to everyone who donated via Just Giving, so far we have raised £189. There's still time to do the trail if you would like to, or to donate via the [link](#).

Rainbow Non Uniform Day – 30th April

Children are invited to come to school on Friday 30th April dressed in their favourite colour of the



rainbow. It could be a coloured t-shirt or brightly coloured socks, or a hairband or a whole rainbow outfit - it's up to you! Suggested donation is £1 per child. Each class will have a collection tin at the door, or you can donate via the [Just Giving Link](#). Thank you for your support and we look forward to a fun, colourful day!

FoSG cupboard

The FoSG storage shed is in need of replacing as it's very leaky and damp. We're looking for someone who could help take down and remove the existing shed, and build a new one. If you might be able to help, or know someone who could then please [email](#) us.

Summer events

We are hoping to be able to hold some more events this term as the lockdown restrictions ease - more details to follow soon!

Wellbeing in Action

Sautéed Apples

Ingredients

- 1 tbsp butter or coconut oil
- 2-3 medium apples, cored and chopped (about 2 cups)
- 1/2 tsp cinnamon



Warm the butter or oil in a pan. Add the apples. Stir to coat and cook until soft when poked with a fork.

Stir in the cinnamon and serve warm. (Or store and serve cold.)

For sweet options, try these over plain yogurt, oatmeal, or as a topping for pancakes. For savoury, they are a nice dinner side with chicken, roast pork, or other roasted meats. They also work well as a simple snack with crackers and cheese or even just a glass of milk.

Mindfulness

Have a break, do some drawing / art as you listen to the Calm Project Playlist on Spotify: <https://spoti.fi/3j11tDP>. You can sign up for free access.

And finally...

There have been many opportunities to mix within year group bubbles this week and the children appeared thrilled to do so, for example:

- Reception have been sharing the indoor and outdoor learning environments during Child Initiated Play, the field and were the guests at Mr Buss' assembly
- Year 1 have shared the Africa Market area, their outdoor learning environment and the playground
- Year 2 were together during the Duke of Edinburgh assembly, the outdoor adventure area and are now having lunches together in the dining hall.

I hope that there is a continued reduction in the local infection rate and that we can continue to mix within year groups.

It looks like the weather forecast is good for the weekend, so I hope that you have time to mix safely outdoors with family and friends or maybe just have a walk and look at the spring flowers.



Francesca Gallagher (Mrs)
Headteacher