



## DIARY DATES

### April 2022

**Tues 19<sup>th</sup>**  
INSET DAY

**Wed 20<sup>th</sup>**  
First day of summer term

**Tues 26<sup>th</sup>**  
Aboriginal VR Workshop

**Wed 27<sup>th</sup> – Fri 29<sup>th</sup>**  
Game On Netball

Walk to local allotments – YR

### May 2022

**Tues 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
Karate Workshop

**Wed 4<sup>th</sup>**  
Squirrels Treehouse Parent Assembly

**Fri 6<sup>th</sup>**  
Parent Forum

**Mon 9<sup>th</sup>**  
History Week – Squirrels

**Tues 10<sup>th</sup>**  
Squirrels Base Parent Assembly

**Wed 11<sup>th</sup>**  
Perform Workshop

**Thurs 12<sup>th</sup>**  
Grandparents Day – YR



## 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022

The Easter holiday has arrived marked by the Easter Bunny



leaving an egg hunt at school for all the children to enjoy this morning. It's been quite a term from sun to snow and everything in between, including the storm that brought down a huge tree in the EYFS playground.

## Summer Term

We are really looking forward to welcoming everyone back after the Easter break and wanted to highlight some of the exciting things we have planned:

- Aboriginal VR Day
- Local walks to the allotments, library, train station etc
- Workshops including Netball, Karate, Perform
- Grandparents Day for YR
- Father's Day Breakfast for YN
- History Week
- Sports Week and Sports Day
- Class Trips
- FoSG Spring Fair
- Queen's Jubilee Lunch

More information about all of our plans will be sent to you nearer the time.

## Class Assemblies

We are very excited to be able to invite families in once again to watch class assemblies in the summer term. Further details will be sent nearer the time but here are the dates for your diaries:

- 04.05.22 – Squirrels Treehouse

- 10.05.22 – Squirrels Base
- 15.06.22 – Voles
- 08.07.22 – Rabbits
- 15.07.22 – Hedgehogs
- 18.07.22 – Foxes
- 19.07.22 – Badgers

## Reception Health Screenings

Owing to the School Nursing team being unavailable to attend school this week, the screenings have been postponed until June. Further information will be provided once the date is confirmed.

## We need you!

During COVID nearly all of our regular volunteers have not been able to return to school. We are now looking to find new volunteers to come in to help with; helping to maintain and reorder the library; reading with the children; assisting the teaching teams in the classes, and much more.

If you are able to help on a regular basis that would be fantastic but we also like to build a team of ad hoc helpers that we can contact when specific projects arise. If you or a family member, neighbour or someone you know are able to offer us their time please get in touch with [the office](#). A DBS check will then be arranged for the volunteer.

## Return to school

School starts back for the children on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April, we look forward to a prompt arrival between **08:30 and 08:35**.



## Pause for thought

*"Spring adds new life,  
new beauty to all that is."*

Jessica Harrelson, author

## Year 2 Choir

Badgers and Foxes gave a wonderful performance, in assembly today, of the songs they have been learning with Mrs Keough. The choir will also be performing at the FoSG Spring Fair on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May.



## Parent Reps

Thank you to Kat Bitterli and Gill Drought for agreeing to be parent reps for Squirrels Base.

The next Parent Forum meeting is on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May. Please let your Class Reps know about positives and any questions you would like to ask. The minutes of the meetings are [here](#).

## School Learning



All the classes have contributed to this beautiful display in our library focussed on the Floella Benjamin book 'Coming to England'.

Thursday's flurry of snow was most welcomed by the children who came in excitedly talking about how it felt like Christmas!



Voles Class managed to enjoy the moment

trying to catch snowflakes and building a mini snowball!

Voles Class have also been dancing to 'The Goldfish Song' this week.



We were fortunate to be joined by Grace, one of our student volunteers from



Berkhamsted School, for a unique ballet performance. She wowed the children with her amazing skills and even did an impromptu dance to the Swing Gate school song.



Year 1 were very lucky to have Dani's mum, Eszter Cooper come in on Wednesday to talk about Hungarian Easter celebrations and then host a folk dance session in the hall.



Nursery and Reception had their final sessions of BalanceAbility this week. It's been lovely to see the children working enthusiastically to gain balance skills.



The Archery workshop was thoroughly enjoyed by the children, there were delighted noises from the hall as they hit the targets successfully.





The class photo order forms were sent home via book bags this week. The deadline for free delivery to school is Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April. All orders need to be placed directly with Van Cols using the QR code or link on your class form.

Our kitchen manager, Shelley, would like to wish all of our families a Happy Easter and also say thanks for your patience and understanding with the continued supply issues that Hertfordshire Catering Ltd are experiencing.

The new menu will begin after the school holidays. Shelley will be trialling the new dishes and will make amendments to the choices, if required.

We also wanted to say huge thanks, once again, for the generous donations of books from our Amazon Wishlist. Here is just a small selection of them that are now in the classes.



We recently asked for feedback from parents around the FoSG fundraising activity. We got a very clear message - "Please tell us what the money is being raised for and what it's being spent on".

Here is our update for the end of the Spring Term. This year, we are supporting the provision of a large amount of new reading practice resources. New Department of Education guidelines combined with a need to update the library stock, means the school needs to buy or replace around 3,000 books as well as providing training, virtual resources and a huge amount of backup material for

teachers to help the children become enthusiastic, independent readers.

We have set ourselves a goal of £12,500.

This would mean we would be able to provide:

- 120 fully decodable titles exactly matched to children's progression in phonics lessons (x 18 of each book). These are being used in class reading practice sessions but also sent home to share and practice further.
- titles for whole class reading practice for children KS1
- classroom resources to support the teaching of phonics
- ebook subscription (Bug Club)
- new high quality texts for each class library - also to be sent home to encourage a love of reading for pleasure
- a range of inclusive texts
- school library stock updates
- audio texts with listening stations.

As a parent community, we have already paid for over 2,000 books this year which is phenomenal. Thank you! In our final term, we really want to hit our full target so we can help the school with everything they need to help our children become happy learners.

We are also funding the Virtual Reality Australia trip the first week back after Easter and other experiences in school.

To reach our goal, we have some new, exciting things planned:

- the Great Big Swing Gate Street Party is on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May. Food trucks, line dancing, music and tin-can alley will be amongst the attractions. Along with the Year 2 choir.
- the next parents' do will be on the Friday 24<sup>th</sup> June. We're thinking of a Cheese and Wine event with a bit of entertainment thrown in, so put the date on your calendar and get the babysitter booked.





AND!

We will be launching the FoSG 100 Club, a monthly draw where proceeds are split 50:50 between a 'lottery' winner and the school.

We need to get more of you involved in FoSG. We are holding a virtual General Meeting on the evening of 21<sup>st</sup> April to vote in the proposed new Co-Chair and welcome new members. Please let us know if you'd like to come along. Thanks for all your support.

## Vaccination UK Survey

If you consented for your child to receive the nasal flu vaccinations this year, Vaccinations UK would appreciate feedback from parent/carers on what they can do to improve for the next season. You can complete the short survey [here](#).

## Wellbeing In Action

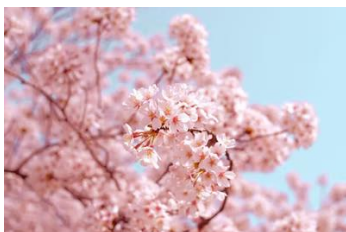
### Healthy Eating

Click this [link](#) for a healthy Easter Bunny pancake recipe.



### Mindfulness

Head out on a breezy day to enjoy this sensory activity. Simply find a blossom tree and sit or stand underneath it. As the wind jostles the branches, the delicate flowers will rain down on you. Have fun chasing the petals as they whirl around in the wind and try to catch one before it touches the ground. It's an enthralling experience that little ones will love, so don't forget to take photos to capture the moment.



With the longer holiday ahead we thought a timely reminder of the **'50 things to do before you are five'** app would be appropriate.

['50 Things To Do Before You're Five'](#), is the exciting initiative that supports children's learning at home and in their early years setting.

The app has a menu of activities for families with young children, giving great suggestions for how to have fun and learn at the same time.



It's free to download [here](#) or through the AppStore or GooglePlay store, and then select Hertfordshire from the list of regions/cities. Once downloaded, the app offers a list of 50 free or low-cost activities (under £20 for a family of four) that parents can experience with their child/children in or around Hertfordshire. This no-cost resource can be used to complement the EYFS curriculum and home learning.

## Social media

Swing Gate School is on Facebook and Twitter, if you have an account why not follow us to keep up to date with our news. You can find us [on Facebook @swinggateschool](#) and [on Twitter @SwingGateSchool](#)

## And finally...

The children have been really fantastic this term, they have enjoyed all the experiential learning opportunities and I have been impressed with their learning behaviours. They have been working so hard, doing and remembering more.

I hope that you and they have the opportunity to rest, relax and take time to enjoy the company of friends and family...and that the Easter Bunny brings you chocolate!

Have a good Easter break and stay safe!

*Francesca Gallagher (Mrs)*  
*Headteacher*