



DIARY DATES

May 2022

Tues 3rd

Karate Workshop

Wed 4th

09:00 Squirrels
Treehouse Parent
Assembly

Fri 6th

Parent Forum

Mon 9th

History Week –
Squirrels

NHS Dental Survey –
selected children only

Tues 10th

09:00 Squirrels Base
Parent Assembly

Wed 11th

Perform Workshop

Thurs 12th

Grandparents Day – YR

Thurs 19th

Year 1 trip to College
Lake

Sat 21st

FoSG Platinum Jubilee
Spring Fair

Mon 23rd

Voles trip to St Alban's
Cathedral

Fri 27th

Occasional Day



29th April 2022

What a wonderful start to summer term at school. It's had quite a global theme with the Aboriginal VR workshop taking all the children 'virtually' to Australia and Year 1's journey to Africa.



Queen's Jubilee Lunch

On Thursday 26th May, we will be hosting a lunch for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. A letter, was sent to everyone today. Please return your form by Monday 9th May. Please note for our Voles families it only applies if your child attends Little Deers 30 hours.



Class assemblies

This term every class will lead an assembly for their families to come in and enjoy. They will start at 09:00 on the dates below:

- 04.05.22 – Squirrels Treehouse
- 10.05.22 – Squirrels Base
- 08.07.22 – Rabbits
- 15.07.22 – Hedgehogs
- 18.07.22 – Foxes
- 19.07.22 – Badgers

As our youngest children have not experienced performing to an audience they will first practise their assembly in front of another class. Younger siblings are welcome to attend with you and if your child has a sibling in school

they are welcome to join your family group in the hall.

Arbor

We are still working on the set up of Arbor, our new management information system. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we work on resolving the issues.

Clubs and trips are now available to book on your parent portal. However, uniform is not yet available to order, if you require any items please contact the school office. We also have a good stock of preloved items too.

Reminders

Water bottles in book bags

Please can we remind all our families that water bottles should never be placed in your child's book bag. Sadly one of our brand new books arrived at school today badly damaged owing to a leaking bottle in a child's book bag.



Parking

Please can we remind everyone to park considerately when dropping off or collecting their children. A neighbour on Woodlands Avenue has contacted us to say they have noticed a Swing Gate family are parking in a residents parking bay and have asked us to let you know this is private parking.



Pause for thought

"Unexpected kindness is the most powerful, least costly, and most underrated agent of human change."

Bob Kerrey, American politician

Reception Health Screenings

The new dates for the postponed Reception Health Screenings are Tues 21st and Wed 22nd June.

Donations

We have been overwhelmed by the generous donations of late. Our stores are full for now and we will update you if when we have need for extra toys, arts & crafts and preloved uniform.

Bookfinder by BookTrust

Need inspiration for your child's next favourite read? Head to



BookTrust's [Bookfinder website](#) to help you discover the very best children's books: magical mysteries, astonishing adventures and fantastic facts. Simply choose an age range, pick as many themes as you want to search through thousands of book reviews, and get reading. Enjoy!

Milk

Cool Milk has informed us that milk will not be available on Tuesday 3rd May after the bank holiday owing to delivery issues. Those children that have milk will receive it again from Wednesday 4th May.

Thank you

Jill Baxter's, clerk to the Governors, husband made these gorgeous pottery animals of our classes. Mrs Gallagher took them round for the children to see. They will be placed in the entrance hall for all to see.



School Learning

Voles have been using real tools safely.



Shared reading in Voles with Tommy's mummy enjoying sharing stories with some of the children.



Friends of Swing Gate School

The Easter holidays gave FoSG's the chance to get a few more things sorted:

- The 100 Club is doing well, but there are still tickets available with the chance to win a lovely cash prize. You've got to be in it to win it! Buy your tickets [here](#).
- The Spring Fair will have a £2.50 entry price and will include two tokens to use on the entertainment stalls (bouncy castle, hook a duck, tin-can alley etc).
- **We're always looking for more people to get involved. Please let us know if you think you can spare even a little time to help our school.**
- And don't forget to look in your book bags for the latest update from FoSG.

Dacorum Families SEND Information Fayre

On Thursday 12th May a special day has been planned for families with children with Special Education Needs and Disabilities (with or without a diagnosis) giving parents/carers the opportunity to talk to local SEND services providers all in one place. Stalls that will be present at the Dacorum Families SEND Information Fayre include Boxmoor Yoga; DS Achieve; The ADD-vance ADHD and Autism Trust; Herts Parent Carers Involvement; Herts Inclusive Theatre; BeeZee Bodies; Dacorum Family Services; Mencap - Children and Young



People services; Services for Young People; Services for Young People LDD Team (LDD SFYP); ISL Services; Hertfordshire Mind Network; Supporting Links; Berkhamsted Raiders CFC; National Autistic Society Hertfordshire; Up on Downs (Hertfordshire); Grovehill & Woodhall Farm Adventure Playground; DSPL8.

If you are planning to attend with children, there will be some activities available on the day, or you can take them home a gift. They are also running a prize draw with the following Amazon Vouchers to be won:

- 1st prize - £50 Amazon voucher
- 2nd prize - £25 Amazon vouchers
- 3rd prize - 3 x £10 Amazon vouchers.

For the opportunity to be in with a chance of winning one of these prizes and to meet local SEND service providers, **please book your place [here](#)**:

There is no need to attend the whole day, you are welcome to drop-in between 10am-3pm, however if you would like to make a day of it you are welcome to bring a picnic to enjoy outside. All the stall holders are also kindly donating biscuits or cakes for you to enjoy and the tuck shop will be open for refreshments.



Wellbeing in Action

Healthy Eating

Kale Pesto

- 85g pine nut, toasted
- 85g parmesan (or vegetarian alternative), coarsely grated, plus extra to serve (optional)
- 3 garlic cloves
- 75ml extra-virgin olive oil, plus extra to serve



- 75ml olive oil
- 85g kale
- juice 1 lemon
- spaghetti or linguine, to serve

Method

- 1) Put the pine nuts, Parmesan, garlic, oils, kale and lemon juice in a food processor and whizz to a paste. Season to taste. Stir through hot pasta to serve, topping with extra Parmesan and olive oil, if you like.
- 2) To store, put in a container or jar, cover the surface with a little more olive oil and keep in the fridge for a week, or freeze for up to a month.

Mindfulness

Pennies Game

This game is good for children 3 and up and can be played one-on-one or with a group. All you'll need to play is a penny for each player and a basket.

Here's how to play:

1. Give everyone a penny and allow them one minute to study it, focusing on the details.
2. Put all the pennies in the basket.
3. Have each player pick their penny out of the basket.
4. Once a player chooses their penny from the basket, have them explain how they knew it was their penny.

The penny game can be played with other objects too; the important part is that the children playing are able to focus in on something and pay attention to detail.

And finally...

I too had a jaunt to Australia via the virtual reality goggles and was impressed by the Aboriginal dancing. I could hear squeals of delight from the hall all day.

I hope that you and your families have an enjoyable Bank Holiday weekend and stay safe!

Francesca Gallagher (Mrs)
Headteacher