



DIARY DATES

May 2022

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

Voiles trip to St Alban's
Cathedral

Wed 25th

Still Life Drawing Day

Thurs 26th

Queens Platinum
Jubilee Lunch

Singing Workshop – Y1

Fri 27th

Occasional Day



6th May 2022

Thank you to our Parent Reps who came in for Parent Forum today. We had lots of positive feedback for the experiential learning opportunities the children have enjoyed already this term as well as constructive feedback. The minutes will be released shortly.

Class Assemblies

We were very proud of our Squirrels Treehouse children who performed their class assembly to their families on Wednesday. It's a big step for children beginning to do 'normal' world activities.

Last week we forgot to include the Voiles assembly date which is Wednesday 15th June from 09:00.

Grandparents Day

Squirrels Base and Treehouse are inviting their grandparents into school on Thursday 12th May as part of their Grandparents Day celebration.

The children are learning about the past and comparing toys and games from the past with their own. Grandparents will be welcomed from 09:00-11:00.

Please confirm grandparents' attendance by [emailing the school office](#).

Communication update

You will have noticed we are now emailing our letters and forms in a bid to help avoid unnecessary printing. Reply by email either with a completed form or an email

with choices and help save a few trees!

We will also be switching to recycled paper going forward. This has a more yellow hue but we are keen to up our green credentials.

Figure Drawing Day

On Wednesday 25th May we are holding a Figure Drawing day. We would like to provide each class with the opportunity to draw a figure and are looking for models to help with this. If you, or a member of your family, would like to volunteer to be a model then please could you [email the office](#).

Each year the children will repeat this giving them a record of their art skills as they progress through our school.

NHS Dental Survey

Every year the NHS collect information on the health of peoples' teeth. This is called a dental survey. The information helps to plan NHS dental services in our area. This year the survey will collect information about the health of 5-year-olds' teeth and Swing Gate has been selected to take part. They have randomly selected some of our five year old children. Those families have been contacted to sign a consent form ahead of the visit next Monday 9th May. If you are one of these families and have not yet replied please return the completed form ASAP.



Pause for thought

*"Grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change;
Courage to change the things I can;
And wisdom to know the difference.*

Anonymous

SATs

The Year 2 children will be taking SATs papers as part of statutory assessments. These papers will form part of their end of Key Stage 1 assessment. The children do not know that these are tests, they are told that they are completing fun booklets for Mrs Gallagher.

The SATs papers will be administered in the mornings of the weeks beginning 16th and 23rd May. Please ensure that your child is in school punctually. There will be a number of fun activities that run alongside the SATs papers and from previous experience the children really enjoy the two weeks.

Friends of Swing Gate School

The latest FoSG newsletter was sent home in book bags to everyone last week. A copy is included with the email for anyone who missed it! It is full of information on upcoming events including plans for the Jubilee Street Party on Saturday 21st May. Thank you to everyone who has signed up to volunteer but more help is needed so please let your Parent Rep know if you have a spare hour or two to get involved on the day. We hope to see everyone there for lots of fun and fundraising!

Herts Family Centre Course

A new course has been announced 'Supporting Children's Emotional Wellbeing' will begin on Thursday 19th May from 10:30 - 12:00 via Zoom. Book your complimentary place [here](#). The course is facilitated by the Early Years Alliance and the flyer is attached.

School Shoe Offer

Colton Footwear in Berkhamsted have created a guide to uniform standard school shoes for us to share with our families. The list is designed to help parents to purchase suitable shoes. They are also offering all families a 10% off voucher on school shoes for a certain period during the summer holidays. The flyer is attached.

Wellbeing In Action

Healthy Eating

Homemade healthy crisps

Ingredients

1 pound russet potatoes, sliced into 1/8-inch-thick pieces

1 tbsp olive oil

¼ tsp salt



Method

1. Preheat the oven to 450 F.
2. Coat a large baking sheet with cooking spray.
3. In a large bowl, toss the potato slices together with the olive oil and salt to coat evenly. Spread the potato slices in a single layer on the prepared baking sheet.
4. Place in the oven and bake for 10 to 12 minutes, or until the chips are a very light golden colour and appear crunchy. Keep a careful eye on the potatoes to make sure they don't brown and overcook.
5. Allow crisps to cool completely before serving.

Mindfulness

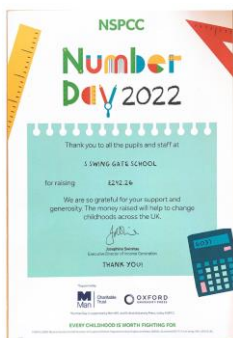
Take time to relax...

You will need a blanket and a pillow, take a seat with your side against the wall and enjoy some time out. Roll onto your back, slide your legs up the wall, arrange the pillow under your head and drape the blanket over you for comfort. Now let your body flop and drop, the whole length of your legs held by the wall. There is nothing to be done right now and nowhere else to be.



Thank you

The NSPCC have thanked you for your generous donation of over £242 on Numbers Day. So a big pat on the back to us all for the fundraising!



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](https://www.facebook.com/swinggateschool) and [on Twitter @SwingGateSchool](https://twitter.com/SwingGateSchool)

And finally...

I would like to say a big thank you to Friends of Swing Gate. Now more than ever, we need their wonderful support to ensure that we have

all the resources and activities that bring learning to life at Swing Gate. A parent quote from today's Parent Forum was 'My son absolutely loved the aboriginal VR workshop. I didn't realise this was funded by FoSG and it was great to know.'



Have a good weekend and stay safe!

*Francesca Gallagher (Mrs)
Headteacher*