



DIARY DATES

May 2022

Thurs 19th

Year 1 trip to College Lake

Fri 20th

Walk to Berko Society Arts Exhibition – YR & Y1

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

School Council Walk to Refill Pantry

Singing Workshop – Y1

Fri 27th

Occasional Day

Mon 30th – Fri 3rd

June

Half term

Wed 8th – Fri 10th

Game on Hockey workshop

Thurs 9th

Year 2 visit from Thomas Coram team



13th May 2022

Grandparents Day

On Thursday 12th May as part of their learning about toys from the past, the children in



Squirrels Base and Treehouse welcomed their loved ones. It was lovely to be able to invite family



members in once again after the COVID years! All generations really enjoyed the event.

It's Never to Late to Be Active Campaign

Leading on from our Grandparent's Day, Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) has launched a campaign to encourage children to get an older adult in their life active this summer. This will be a photography competition with the winning family receiving tickets to Harry Potter World. If you enter and nominate our school we could receive a cash prize of up to £1,000. More information about the campaign is available [here](#).

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.

Year 2 Transition

As our Year 2's begin to prepare for their transition to new schools in September, we have organised a number of event with Thomas Coram (TC). Here is a list of dates:

- 10/06/22 a visit from TC staff
- 06/07/22 the children will visit TC for a fun PE morning with Year 2 from Victoria and Year 3 from TC
- 07/07/22 whole school transition day. When the current year 2s will visit TC. They will be providing additional information directly to you.

If your child is not moving to TC please speak to your class teacher. You may wish to arrange alternative transition sessions on the same days.

Website calendar

The summer term is a busy with transition days, sports day, class trips, celebrations and events. Don't forget to check the [school website calendar](#). It is regularly updated with any upcoming events.

Job vacancies at Ashlyns School

Ashlyns School has three TA positions available. The roles are for 18 or 30 hours per week, term time only (plus inset days) or fixed-term only. You can find out more and apply [here](#).



Pause for thought

*"Family is a lifejacket
in the stormy sea of life."*

JK Rowling, author

Reminder of SATs Weeks

Next week the Year 2 children will begin 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.

Berkhamsted Arts Society Exhibition

Next Friday, Squirrels Base & Treehouse and Year 1 have been invited to attend the Berkhamsted Arts Society Exhibition at the Civic Centre. If you are able to join your child's class on their walk to and from town, please [email the office](#).

Herts SEND 0-25 years local offer

Over the last year, Herts SEND 0-25 years Local Offer has been reviewing the way they manage processes for statutory SEND. They know they needed to improve communication with their families and make legal processes, such as applying for an EHCP, more efficient and transparent.



They carried out over 50 individual and group sessions with over 130 individuals across education, health and care, capturing feedback and ideas. They have listened to families' experiences and feedback and have identified a number of reasons why they haven't always

delivered the quality of service they're committed to.

As a result of the review, a detailed plan of recommendations has been developed and they have begun implementing some of these changes. They hope that families will start to see a real improvement in the way the processes for statutory SEND work going forward. You can find out more [here](#).

Friends of Swing Gate School

The 100 Club

The first draw of the 100 Club will take place next week. We'd love to sell all 100 tickets, so if you're able, please do buy a ticket at [our link](#). Why not share it with family members, neighbours, colleagues too!

Let's get this off to a good start. There is a very real chance of winning a lovely cash bonus before half term.

Jubilee Street Party

Don't forget to bring in your teddies for the Spring Fair Teddy Tombola. The teddies will be taken, washed then added to the tombola for prizes on the day of our street party. All tickets bought will include a free go on the Teddy Tombola stall.

The Spring Fair is 11:00-14:00 on Saturday 21st May. We have lots of fun planned for the day: music, dance, entertainment stalls, games, competition, food stalls and even a bouncy castle! Please bring the whole family.

You can buy tickets for our events at our [Ticket Tailor page](#).

Walk to School Week

It is National Walk to School Week next week, as always we try and promote healthy lifestyles and explain to children that walking is a very good exercise. If possible instead of driving the car could you try and walk. If it's not possible why not



try 'ride and stride' by parking a bit further from school and walking from there. You can find our more information [here](#).

Mental Health Awareness Week 9th – 15th May (MHAW)

This year's theme for MHAW is loneliness. Visit the [Mental Health Foundation](#) for help and advice on how to cope with loneliness, improve your mental health, and how to support others. They say that one in four adults feels lonely some or all the time and the longer we feel lonely, the more we are at risk of mental health problems. Doing a physical activity, such as going for a walk, is recommended as one of the ways to improve your mental health. Let's get walking!

In school we speak regularly to the children about good mental health and promote Hertfordshire's Five Ways to Wellbeing.



Perform

We were very delighted to receive a visit from [Perform](#) on Wednesday 11th May. The children had a wonderful time exploring the theme of [Superheroes](#) and using drama, dance and singing to help develop their confidence, concentration and social skills.



To complement the workshop, there is a free educational app for iPhones and iPads based around the theme of *Superheroes*. It contains fun games, creative tasks and videos of the themed songs and dances. Click [here](#) to download it free or [here](#) to find out more about the *Superheroes* theme.

Perform run regular weekly classes in the local area and they are offering a special introductory discount to all parents of Swing Gate if they come along for a free trial session before Wednesday 1st June.

To claim your discount, just call Perform on 020 7255 9120 quoting 'SGFC010622' or book online at perform.org.uk.

National Online Safety

We have sent information before from this national agency whose aim is to keep parents and carers informed of how to keep their children safe online. This week they have created an online safety for under 5's top tips sheet that we thought was worth sharing again. You can access a free downloadable guide [here](#).

Young children are becoming more comfortable with internet-enabled devices at an increasingly early age. The latest figures from Ofcom, for example, indicate that a remarkable 89% of 3 to 4-year-olds in the UK are using video-sharing platforms such as YouTube – while 50% of in that age bracket who go online already use messaging sites or apps. Giving younger children the ability and confidence to use technology is something to be encouraged, giving them access to internet-enabled devices of course presents its own significant worries. The online world, after all, isn't always a safe and friendly place. Hopefully the guide will give you useful tools to keep your child safe.

Wellbeing in Action

Healthy Eating

Muffin tray tortilla pizza recipe

Ingredients

- 4 flour tortilla wraps
- 6 tsp tomato purée
- 100g (4oz) mozzarella



Method

1. Preheat the oven to gas 6, 200°C, fan 180°C. Grease a 12-hole muffin tin.



2. Using a 7cm (3in) biscuit cutter, stamp out 12 rounds from the flour tortilla wraps. Spread each round with ½ tsp tomato purée and pop one in each hole. Cut the mozzarella into cubes and divide between the shells. Add extra fillings, such as veg, olives and sultanas, if you like.
3. Bake for 10 minutes, or until melted and golden.

Mindfulness

Bubble balloon game

Blow up some balloons and play the don't-touch-the-floor game, but focusing on gentle movements. Pretend that the balloons are bubbles that might pop, so you can only tap them delicately.

Go Yellow for DENS week

On Friday 24th June we will be inviting children to wear something yellow (clothing, socks, hair band or stickers) to school in support of Go Yellow for DENS week. We suggest a £1 donation if you feel able to.

About DENS...

DENS is a local charity that most people consider as the homeless charity for people in Dacorum. In fact, DENS do so much more than just provide a roof and a bed. Their aim is to be the first port of call for people in Dacorum who are facing homelessness, poverty and social exclusion; to support and empower them to take the next positive step.

They ensure that individuals have access to temporary and short-term accommodation, and individuals and families have access to emergency food and provisions. They provide accommodation options to support people to move on and sustain their own tenancy and they provide advice and training; empowering people to develop their skills and build confidence.

DENS has been helping to rebuild lives since 2003. If you are interested you can read more on their [website](#).

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...

Our School Improvement Partner visited school yesterday. She was impressed with the routines and learning behaviours across the school. I congratulated the children and told them they could be very proud of themselves.

Have a good weekend and stay safe!

*Francesca Gallagher (Mrs)
Headteacher*