



DIARY DATES

June 2022

Mon 6th June

Children return to school

Wed 8th – Fri 10th

Game On Hockey workshops

Fri 10th

Squirrels Treehouse library visit and Squirrels Base Berkhamsted Castle visit

Thomas Coram staff to meet Year 2

Wed 15th

09:00 Voles Class Assembly

Thurs 16th

Multisport Workshop

Fri 17th

Father's/Grandad's Day Breakfast

Parent Forum

Mon 20th

Sports Week

Shared reading Year 1

Tues 21st

Don Rae Dance Workshop followed by Parent Assembly at 14:15

Reception Screening

Wed 22nd- Fri 24th

Game On – Handball

Thurs 23rd

Year 2 Guitar assembly

Fri 24th

Shared reading Year 1

26th May 2022



Following on from a phenomenal School Fair last Saturday, there has been a jubilant atmosphere at school all week. Topped today with our Queen's Platinum Jubilee Lunch where the children came together to share their lunch in the dining hall. Mrs Gallagher led them in a rendition of Rule Britannia while flying their flags.

Living Eggs

We are very excited to be receiving our delivery of living eggs on Monday 6th June in Voles and Year 1. The children will be observing any changes which take place over the coming days and weeks and hopefully will have some new arrivals to look after very soon. All children in the school will get the chance to visit the chicks and to spend time with them. We are aware that there are some children in school with egg allergies, these children will be able to observe but not handle eggs/chicks.

Stay and Play

Our next Stay and Play Toddler will be Friday 1st July, from 08:45-10:15. This is a chance for your little ones to come into school, have some fun exploring new things and for parents to have a

chat together. We look forward to welcoming you and your little ones, as well as any friends or family with little ones too. Please book your place via emailing the [school office](#).

Phonics Screening

Year 1 phonics screening a Year 2 retakes are happening from the week beginning 6th June. As ever the children are unaware they are being tested. A letter has gone out to all parents and carers concerned.

KS1 SATs

I have been extremely proud of the Year 2 children and the mature way in which they have approached the SATs. They have really enjoyed the 'special papers' and the fun activities. All children have done their very best and should be pleased with their efforts.

Transition

Arrangements for transition for all classes will be sent to parents after half term. Each year group will have three separate sessions giving the children a chance to meet with their new teacher and spend time in their new class.

For those children in Voles moving to our Reception classes the key dates for their settling sessions are:

- Friday 24th June 13:00-14:00 (parent meeting also)
- Thursday 30th June 13:15-14:15
- Thursday 7th July morning.



Pause for thought

*"We make a living by what we get.
We make a life by what we give."*

Winston Churchill, former British Prime Minister

Singing Festival

Hedgehogs and Rabbits took part in the town wide Year 1 Singing Festival today. They had a great time and the teachers commented it was lovely to be able to join in once again with cross school events.



Figure Drawing Day

Thank you to our volunteers for making the Figure Drawing Day such a success.

The children's blew us away with their artistic skills. It was also lovely to begin the project that will take place each year marking the children's development as they progress through our school.



Voles Class Trip to St Albans Abbey

On Monday, Voles had their first whole day trip to St Albans Abbey. It was a great adventure for our youngest children, many of whom have not experienced anything like it especially with COVID changing our landscape in recent years.



Squirrels local walks

Squirrels Treehouse will be visiting Berkhamsted library on Friday 10th June. If you are able to help with the walk there and back, please let Mrs Stone know or email the [office](#).

Squirrels Base will be visiting Berkhamsted Castle on the same day. If you are able to help with the walk there and back, please let the teaching team know or email the [office](#).

Friends of Swing Gate School

The FOSG Team wanted to say an enormous thank you to everyone who came along on Saturday and helped make the Street Party a huge success. Everyone had such a good day and we raised an amazing amount of money for the charity.

We're already thinking of how we can make it bigger and better next year, so shout if you have any ideas.



The next date for our diary is Friday 24th June when we will be hosting an evening of 'booze and bangers' tasting at school. If you are able to volunteer to help make this event as successful as the fair, please [email](#) us!

We are also going to be holding a Pre-Loved Uniform sale in the final summer term to help get ready for the next school year. Details to follow, but if you're happy to donate any items your child has now outgrown, we'll be putting a box in the Reception area.

BookTrust

BookTrust, the UK's largest reading charity, have created a list of 100 best children's books of the last 100 years for children 0-14 year olds. The list has been curated using recommendations from a panel of experts, previous lists of children's classics and BookTrust favourites. The list reflects the diverse nature of children's lives today and celebrates the truly brilliant books that entertain, inform and delight children.



Please take a look at the lists for [0-5](#) and [6-8](#) share one you haven't read with your child. We have many of these texts in school and the local library has a great stock.

Please visit booktrust.org.uk to find:

- Hints and tips for reading with your child.
- Book suggestions and reviews.
- Stories you can listen or read along to and interactive games

St Peter's 800th Celebratory Events

St Peter's Church in Berkhamsted is 800 years old this year having been built in 1222. There are lots of events and activities happening to celebrate the anniversary. If you're looking for things to do during half term, you can visit the church to have a look around and see the historical display and screen animation by Berkhamsted Local History and Museum Society. Admission is free. The exhibition is on between 09:00-16:00.

Queen's Jubilee Service and Tea

St Peter's is holding a short service of thanksgiving to celebrate the Queen's 70 years on the throne on Sunday 5th June at 15:00. The service will take place outside the church, weather permitting, and will be followed by tea and cake, by donation, a bell ringing peal and with a magician in attendance too. Everyone is welcome to attend. Please bring something to sit on. We are also expecting a spectacular Spitfire to fly overhead at 15:20. Further information can be found [here](#).

Wellbeing in Action

Healthy Eating

Oatmeal Cookies (makes 12 biscuits)

Ingredients

- 100g butter
- 150g brown sugar
- 1 egg
- 1tsp vanilla extract
- 100g plain flour
- ½ tsp ground cinnamon



- ½ tsp baking powder
- ½ tsp salt
- 125g oats
- 75g raisins

Instructions

Preheat the oven to 200C. Beat the butter and sugar together until light and fluffy. Beat in the egg and add vanilla extract until well combined. Add the remaining ingredients and stir well. Form the dough into 12 equal balls. Bake on a lined baking for 12 - 14 minutes depending on your oven. Allow to cool on the baking sheet until they are firm enough to handle.

Mindfulness

Identify trees with the Woodland Trust Tree ID app. Wander amongst the trees in half term and use the free [Tree ID app](#) for Android and iPhone to identify the UK's native and non-native trees. It's an A-Z tree guide in your pocket. In just a few steps you can identify native and common non-native trees in the UK whatever the season using leaves, bark, twigs, buds, flowers or fruit. Watch the film to see how it works [here](#).

And finally...

Thank you to those of you who helped support the Street Party at the weekend. I heard that it was a roaring success and I am sorry to have missed it due to illness.

I had a wonderful time at lunchtime today with all of the children in the hall, waving our Union flags and eating a special jubilee picnic together. I hope you are able to enjoy half term and spend some time celebrating.

Stay safe!

Francesca Gallagher (Mrs)
Headteacher