



DIARY DATES

June 2022

Mon 13th

Parent visit to talk about their job - Voles

Tues 14th

Transition session 1 for all children

Wed 15th

Voles Class Assembly

Thurs 16th

Parent visit to talk about dogs - Voles

Multisport Workshop – YR, Y1 & Y2

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

14:00 Year 2 Guitar students assembly

Fri 24th

Shared reading Year 1

19:00 FoSG Parent Event

Mon 27th

Samba Bamba Workshop

10th June 2022

Chicks in school

On Monday we were very excited to receive delivery of our two incubators. We now have 19 happy and healthy chicks. It has been a fascinating week



for all of the children who have been able to watch them develop from egg to fluffy chick.



Transition arrangements

You will have received a letter this week outlining the transition arrangements we have planned for all of the children.

Today Lisa Williamson visited our Year 2's that are moving to Thomas Coram in September as the start of their transition plans.

Staff news

After fourteen, hugely successful, years in education, Miss Turnham is leaving to pursue a new career in an equally rewarding position supporting victims of abuse. We are very sorry to see her go and wish her lots of love and luck in her new role. Miss Turnham's last day will be Friday 17th June.

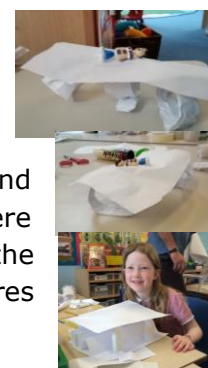
Governor visit

The Governors were in school yesterday, to see how the new Little Wandle reading practice and phonics has been implemented in

school since the new approach to systematic synthetic phonics was introduced earlier this year. They were delighted to note positives, including, the children's engagement and obvious enjoyment in lessons, the strong sense of progression across the school and the children's knowledge and application of phonics.

DT Week

As part of DT Week the children have been designing and building bridges. Here are some of the fantastic structures they made.



Healthy lunch solutions

The summer edition of Veg Power's popular lunchbox hacks is out. Focussing on raw veg and include ideas and advice to help make seasonal veg choices with minimal prep. You can [download the file](#) here to help with ideas on how to get healthy choices into lunchboxes and after school snacks for your children.

Can you help?

We have a fantastic and active marketing committee that support our school with ideas on how to promote everything we do at Swing Gate to the wider community. Do you have the skills and can spare some time to join the committee? It's also a great way to get to know other parents and also find out more about us.



Pause for thought

"Six year olds laugh an average of 300 times a day. Adults only laugh 15-100 times a day. Be six again."

Japanese Press visit Swing Gate

Two Japanese journalists, Risa Nagasawa and Yuiko ABE from the Iwate Nippo Newspaper, along with their interpreter, visited Swing Gate this week. They are doing an article reporting on special features of schools across Europe. They have already been to schools in Finland, France and Germany. They visited Harrow Public school earlier in the week and came to interview Mrs Gallagher and see the children on Wednesday. The focus was on the English educational system, the curriculum and what makes Swing Gate unique. Mrs Gallagher discussed the school's commitment to experiential learning, how the school approaches the teaching of core subjects, the breadth of curriculum and the focus on the whole child. They were very impressed at the high standards of work produced by the children, how engaged the children were and the positive learning ethos. They also had a chance to visit the new chicks being hatched!

Reading at Swing Gate

Part of our intent for the teaching of reading is to develop children's love of literature through widespread reading for enjoyment. We want to support parents and carers to read with their children. What can you do at home? Here are some top tips to help you guide your child to foster a love of reading:

- **Talk to your child.**

Use every opportunity to talk with your child and develop their language. Play provides the perfect opportunity to initiate talk.

- **Read aloud regularly.**

Read aloud to your child. Model pace, expression and fluency. Talk about the words and pictures, and share ideas about the book.

- **Be a reading role model**

Children need to see adults reading and enjoying the process. They are more likely to want to read themselves if they see you reading. Read everything around you.

- **Surround your child with books**

Ensure your child has access to literature, for example, books, magazines or comics. Spend time together at a library or bookshop browsing books and making choices. Put your books on show in your home.

- **Prioritise reading**

Share a book with your child every day.

This [Book Trust booklet](#) provides parents with a wealth of information and top tips for reading with their children at home.

Friends of Swing Gate School

Swing Gate Shindig

Our end of term parent's event is ON! Introducing the Swing Gate Shindig. We will be hosting a night of competitive tasting and game show antics. A ticket price of £8 buys 8 tastings as well as guaranteed (probably) belly-laugh games.



There will be a full bar, cheese boards to fill us up (please pre-order) and some cheesy entertainment to keep us on our toes.

We really hope you can come along and have some fun. The link for tickets is [here](#).

And as some of our wonderful FoSG members go off up the hill to TC, we're looking for a new Vice Chairs and a Secretary as well as committee members. If you're interested in helping raise funds for the school, [please drop us a line](#). We always need more people involved and are appreciative of even the smallest tasks being done.



School Learning

Voles Class have been continuing with the Jubilee celebrations this week. Laila and Layla told Mrs Hardwick they were taking selfies in the royal palace.



Game On have been here this week offering all the children a hockey workshop. Here is Jude in Voles displaying great skill dribbling with a hockey stick.



Squirrels Base children asked if they could go to visit Berkhamsted Castle after being inspired when learning about the Queen. Today they went and saw the castle ruins, the old kitchen and even walked to the top of the motte to observe the local surroundings. Their Moki band told them that they walked 2.5 miles and 6,000 steps!

Squirrels Treehouse children also had a trip today, to the local library to find out more about the type of books they stock. After a short talk the children spent time sharing books and even using the library machine to borrow books on their own library cards. The library staff will be coming into school soon to tell all children about the new Summer Reading Challenge.

Healthy lunch solutions

The summer edition of Veg Power's popular lunchbox hacks is out. Focussing on raw veg and include ideas and advice to help make seasonal veg choices with minimal prep. You can [download the file](#) here to help with ideas on how to get more healthy raw vegetables into lunchboxes and after school snacks for your children.

Fantastic children!

We are always proud of our wonderful children at Swing Gate. This week we received a

glowing letter from the organisers of the Berkhamsted Art Society event that our Reception and Year 1 children visited before half term. They commented

'The children were an absolute delight and we were all impressed by how well informed and perceptive they were.'

They are also looking forward to welcoming us to their Christmas exhibition later this year.

Dear Mrs Gallagher
We were so pleased that your school was able to visit our Spring Exhibition. The children were an absolute delight and we were all impressed by how well informed and perceptive they were.
All the children were very well behaved and respected the fact that the paintings and ceramics should not be touched.
The children's enthusiasm made it all worthwhile.
We very much look forward to welcoming you to our Christmas Exhibition.
The children were a credit to the school & its staff.
Bob Davies
Bernadette Cathmaes Lyria

They have sent us a leaflet about their Children and Families After School Drawing Drop-in session on Monday 20th June from 16:00-17:30 in and around St Peters Church, Berkhamsted. The flyer is attached to the newsletter email.

Berkofest Children's Book Festival

A reminder that the Berkofest Children's Book Festival is taking place on Saturday 18th June. Each ticket purchase is an all-day ticket (maximum 2 adults and 4 children [under 14] per family ticket) which entitles the ticket holder's children access to each author session. Each child can also participate in the other activities; 'Books in the Woods' storytelling, Gravedigger Stories with Mrs Ghost, children's adventure yoga, face-painting. There will be some mouth-watering food stalls on site to purchase refreshments. To book tickets and for more info visit [here](#).



Bounce Forward Raise Resilience Course

Just a reminder that the Raise Resilience Course for parents/carers which is a 6 session online course fully funded by HCC, has spaces available for the course starting on the Monday 13th June. You can reserve a place [here](#).



Berkhamsted Community Primary Schools Festival

Berkhamsted Tennis & Fitness have asked us to share the following information about their upcoming event:

Berkhamsted Lawn Tennis Club in conjunction with the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) will be running Great British Tennis Weekends on Sunday 17th July. This will be a Berkhamsted Community Primary Schools Festival. The free event runs from 12:00-15:00. There will be tennis & tennis related games for children to participate in, plus prizes for all attendees. At the end of the festival one school will be crowned as Festival Champions 2022 and take the trophy back to their school.

They hope to make it an annual event bringing the community, schools, and tennis club together and will be inviting all Year 1's and 2's to their club on Sunday 17th July.

During the children's sessions, there will also be a chance for parents to try out some of our adult classes. These include classes in our popular Rusty Rackets (crash course in the basics of tennis for players new to the game or who haven't played for some time) and Cardio Tennis (on court tennis fitness class run to music). All equipment will be provided for those that don't have rackets and tennis balls. There will be food and drinks available too.

To book onto these sessions, click the links below and enrol:

[School's Tennis Festival 12:00-15:00](#)

[Adult Cardio Tennis 12:15-13:00](#)

[Adult Cardio Tennis 14:15-15:00](#)

[Adult Rusty Rackets 13:15-14:00](#)

[Adult Rusty Rackets 14:15-15:00](#)

For any more information or any questions, please email craig@berhamstedtennisfit.com.

Herts Inclusive Theatre Summer Activity Weeks

This August the Herts Inclusive Theatre group will be running two activity weeks in Hemel Hempstead for 5-12 year olds and Borehamwood for 12-18 years. They welcome everyone and all abilities.

Aiming to give children and young people a creative and relaxed space to come during the holidays and give parents and carers some much needed respite, the leaflets with all the details are attached.

Wellbeing in Action

Healthy Eating

Apple Smoothie

Ingredients

- 1 cup plain whole milk Greek yogurt or milk
- ½ cup apple sauce
- ½ cup sliced apple (about 1 small, fresh or frozen; if using fresh apple, add a few ice cubes)
- 1 tbsp peanut or almond butter (optional)
- pinch cinnamon (optional)
- 1 tsp maple syrup (optional)

Method

1. Add the ingredients to the blender.
2. Blend, starting on low and working up to high until the smoothie is super creamy.
3. Serve in a small cup with a straw.

Tip: You may need to thin the smoothie a little to work with your straw.

Tip: Using Greek yogurt will add more protein and creaminess to the smoothie, though it's good with milk too!

Mindfulness

Practice a cloud meditation

Children have natural mindfulness when it comes to nature. Cloud meditation taps into





this natural inquisitiveness, and supports their development of mindfulness.

How to do cloud meditation:

- Ask your child to sit or lie down with a good view of the clouds.
- Begin by asking them to take five deep belly breaths and ask them to stare at the clouds while asking them these questions to guide the meditation.
 1. Are the clouds fluffy or thin?
 2. Are they moving?
 3. Are they making shapes of things you know?
 4. Are they all the same colour?
 5. What does the sky look like behind the clouds?
- Give your child some silent time just to gaze and mindfully explore the clouds.
- Complete the meditation by discussing what they noticed and what emotions they felt.

And finally...

What a busy week we have had in school, the children have taken part in so many different inspiring events across all year groups. It has been wonderful to spend time in the classrooms this week, visiting chicks and watching phonics sessions. I have been very proud of the children's enthusiasm for their learning.

Have a good weekend and stay safe!

Francesca Gallagher (Mrs)
Headteacher

