



DIARY DATES

September 2022

Tues 27th

Game On Session
(EYFS)

Wed 28th

Game On Session - Y2

14:00 Phonics and
Reading Workshop for
parent/ carers

Thurs 29th

Walk to Sunnyside
Allotments - Y2

Fri 30th

Game On Session - Y1

October 2022

Mon 3rd

09:00 FoSG AGM -
everyone welcome,
come to reception

Tues 4th

Game On Session -
EYFS

Wed 5th

Game On Session - Y2

14:00 Mathematics
Workshop for parent/
carers

Fri 7th

Slip into Slippers Day
for Dacorum Age UK (£1
suggested donation)

Game On Session - Y1

Mon 10th

09:45 Harvest Festival
at St Peters

Tues 11th

Open Morning for
prospective families
with children starting
Reception September
2023.

For further dates visit
[the school website](http://www.swinggate.herts.sch.uk).

23rd September 2022

We are delighted that the children are continuing to settle into their new routines. There has been lots of happy, active and inspired learning taking place across the school from baking to school trips.

Welcome back to Carole Lollipop!

It is great to see Carole Lollipop back manning the crossing at drop off and pick up. Please make sure you cross with



Carole, as we have noticed a large number of people crossing at the bottom of Swing Gate Lane near the roundabout. Please take the time to walk the short distance to Carole's crossing to ensure your children are kept safe.

Parent Workshops

We are running two parent/carer workshops that we strongly recommend that you attend. The Phonics and Reading Workshop is on Wednesday 28th September and the Mathematics is on Thursday 5th October both at 14:00. For parents that are unable to attend there will be a voiced over presentation available on our website.

Attendance

Hopefully all families have had a chance to read the welcome letter sent by Mrs Gallagher and Mrs Crane, Chair of Governors that informed you about the

importance that schools put on attendance and punctuality.

All schools are judged by Ofsted using grade descriptors, and attendance comes under the banner of behaviour and attitudes. The behaviour and attitudes grade descriptor for a good school is: *'Pupils have high attendance, within the context of the pandemic. They come to school on time and are punctual to lessons. When this is not the case, the school takes appropriate, swift and effective action.'* Anything less than this is considered requires improvement by Ofsted.

As it stated in the letter there is a strong correlation between good attendance and achievement, and we are committed that all children should achieve their potential. As parents, we value your support in ensuring your child arrives on time.

Slip into Slippers Day

We will be supporting Slip into Slippers Day again this year. On Friday 7th October, the children and staff will be invited to wear slippers at school in exchange for a suggested £1 donation. The funds raised will be given to Dacorum Age UK.



Water Bottles

Water bottles are available to buy (cash or cheque accepted) from the school office. They cost £1.50 and you can also buy replacement lids for 60p.



Pause for thought

"A well spent day brings happy sleep."

Leonardo Da Vinci, artist and engineer

Reminders

Name labels

A polite reminder that all your child's clothing and belongings should be clearly labelled with their name. We do our best to get misplaced items back to their rightful owner but without a label we are unable to help.

Parking and idling

A polite reminder to all our families to please park considerately and safely. There are a number of cars parking on the single yellow lines opposite the school gates which is neither legal nor safe. PCSO's patrol the area and you may find yourself the recipient of a parking fine.

Also please do not leave your engine idling. This creates harmful pollution that can affect our children.

Scarlet Fever

Hertfordshire County Council has asked us to let families know of the continued national increase in scarlet fever and iGAS (invasive group A streptococcal).

They would like us to raise awareness with you to remain vigilant in looking for the signs, symptoms and the actions to be taken if your child develops scarlet fever. These include sore throat, headache, fever, nausea and vomiting. After 12 to 48 hours the characteristic red, pinhead rash develops, typically first appearing on the chest and stomach, then rapidly spreading to other parts of the body, and giving the skin a sandpaper-like texture. The scarlet rash may be harder to spot on darker skin, although the 'sandpaper' feel should be present. Patients typically have flushed cheeks and pallor around the mouth. This may be accompanied by a 'strawberry tongue'. As the child improves peeling of the skin can occur.

Save the Date!

Save the date for our annual Swing Gate School Litter Pick around the local area. On Saturday 5th November from 10:00-12:00 we will be heading out with our litter pickers to clear up the local area. Everyone is invited to join us to give back to our community and keep our environment clean and tidy.

School Learning

Squirrels Class impressed their teachers this week by changing for PE in less than ten minutes! The children persevered with changing into their PE kits and managing buttons and zips. All were excited to go into the hall to take part in a PE coaching session with Game On. The session focussed on ball



skills; dropping and catching and throwing and catching to a partner. Game On will be holding PE coaching sessions each week with children across the school.

The children in Voles decided to make cakes. They each had their own bowl and added the ingredients. They concentrated hard on mixing and stirring. When their mixture was ready they



spooned it into cake cases ready to cook. They took their cakes home to eat.



Year 1 have enjoyed mark making in their art lessons and have explored the different



types of pencil and the effects they can create. 'I can't wait to buy a 6B pencil and do this at home' Rory enthusiastically told the class. Children then explored finding their own mark makers and using paint to explore what happens with forks, sponges and even Lego! They had great fun finding out how they could paint using paper and tissues. Mark making skills were used to sketch a natural object, where they had to look closely at all the details. 'I like the soft pencil where I can smudge' said Effie, as she intricately sketched a shell.



As part of the history topic, Year 2 have been finding out about homes built in the past. They created the foundations for their fantastic Anglo-Saxon houses. The children also visited Berkhamsted Castle to continue their learning.



It was lovely to see all the Year 2 children arriving today ready to experience Castle Day. An immersive day of learning started with a trip to Berkhamsted Castle, including a stop at the bust of William the Conqueror at Berkhamsted School, making



lavender pouches, clay pots and shields and finishing with a medieval feast fit for a king.



Queen Elizabeth II Condolence cards

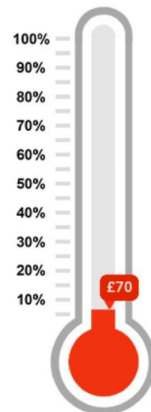
The children have all made condolence cards to mark the passing of Queen Elizabeth II. Here are some examples.



Friends of Swing Gate

For the first time in six years, a contribution from FoSG is a line item in the school budget. That means our school is relying on us to help with the Strategic Improvement Priorities. We have committed to help, so now need to get our shizzle on. We have a target of £10,000 and so far, have made £70. Now that's not bad given that was purely from our beginning of term pre-loved sale, but now it's time for us to get motoring.

Goal: £10000



Our first mega event will be our autumn quiz on Friday 4th November. It'll be a cracking evening with good food and a very reasonably priced bar. Our quizmaster is busily crafting questions and our FoSG team is buttering up local businesses to donate

Friends of Swing Gate Present

Swing Gate's BIG QUIZ NIGHT

Friday 4th November
7.30pm
Swing Gate School

DINNER INCLUDED.
WELL STOCKED BAR.
SILENT AUCTION.
TICKETS: £10 PER PERSON

Scan the QR code with your phone camera for the link to tickets



items for our silent auction. Please come along, it's guaranteed to be a lot of fun.

In other news, the winner of the first ever 100 Club draw has been talking about how the win has changed her life. Tickets for that can be bought [here](#). For a fiver, you'll be in with the chance of winning a cash prize of £150. Who wouldn't like that in the run up to Christmas!

Foxes Class New Steps

We are delighted with the new Foxes steps that were replaced over the summer. Thank you to Mr Halsey and Mr Bowers for their hard work.



Tech Camp at Swing Gate for half term

A Tech Camp will be taking place at Swing Gate during the October Half-Term with all new activities! The dates are Monday 24th – 28th October 2022 from 09:00-16:00 each day.

Your children are invited to join them for a spooktacular tech experience, with lots of exciting Halloween themed activities from creepy coding, and revolting robotics, to mysterious Minecraft coding. Children aged 5 – 11 can learn how to build and code their own droid robots, program pixels, dive into stop motion animation, modify madness with Minecraft and even compose their own songs!

Spaces are limited and work on a first come first serve basis. Use the code 'OCTOBER22' to get £5 off. For more information, please see the attached flyer or to [click here](#) to enrol now.

Nippers and Netiquette

Being open and have fun with devices.

Establish open, non-judgemental, supportive communication about the use of digital devices. This way, if there are any problems, it

is much more likely your child will tell you about them in good time. Always stress that your aim is to keep them safe and happy, not to restrict them. Play a game together on a digital device so they can see you value it being used correctly.

Wellbeing in Action

Healthy Eating

Big Soup Share

On Monday 3rd October we are holding the Big Soup Share in school.



What is the Big Soup Share?

What better way to celebrate growing your own vegetables than turning them into a delicious meal? Coming together over a meal and cooking together, with the satisfaction of eating your own produce, can give you a sense of achievement and connectedness.

If you have any harvested produce that we can make use of and turn into soup then please send it in to school on the morning of Monday 3rd October. We will welcome all edible donations.

Have a look [here](#) for some recipe suggestions using up 'spare' produce.

Mindfulness

Why not have a Sound Bath. Close your eyes, lie down and listen to [this clip](#) as you relax.

Could your child be a chorister?

On Saturday 24th September, St Peter's Berkhamsted are offering an opportunity for children aged 6-14 to experience singing in a church choir. The afternoon will include musical fun and games, the chance to sing with the choir and to explore the church. No singing experience is necessary! A flyer with all the information is attached.



And finally...

As I walked around school since the start of term there are a number of things that I have noticed... the children are eager and ready to learn; the learning behaviours are excellent, children's independence is growing and they are rekindling old friendships and making new ones.

It was also lovely to meet our new (and continuing) parent representatives at this morning's Parent Forum meeting. It was especially good to hear such positive feedback of how well you feel your children are settling into the new school year.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at next week's reading and phonics parent workshop on Wednesday at 14:00.

I hope that you have a good weekend with your family and friends.

*Francesca Gallagher (Mrs)
Headteacher*