



DIARY DATES

October 2022

Tues 11th

Game On Session
(EYFS)

Wed 12th

Game On Session - Y2

Thurs 13th

Andrew Masters Bible
Assembly – Year 2

Fri 14th

Game On Session - Y1

Mon 17th

09:45 Harvest Festival
at St Peters (all
families welcome to
join us at church)

Tues 18th

Game On Session
(EYFS)

Parent Consultations –
Whole School (time
slot booked)

Parent Consultations –
Y1 & Y2 (time slot
booked)

Wed 19th

Game On Session - Y2

Parent Consultations –
Squirrels (time slot
booked)

Thurs 20th

Individual & sibling
group photo day

Parent Consultations –
YR, Y1 & Y2 (time slot
booked)

Mon 24th – Fri 28th

Half term

Our [school calendar on the website](#) has all of
important dates.

07th October 2022

A comfy,
fun and
charitable
end to this
week with
Slip into
Slippers



Day. Here are Rabbits Class and
their circle of slippers! Thank you
for your generous donations we
will let you know the fundraising
total soon.

*** Open Mornings ***

Reception 2023/24 admission
Open Morning dates for are taking
place at 09:30 on:

- Tuesday 2nd November
- Wednesday 25th November
- Thursday 12th January.

We are excited to welcome
prospective families to our school
to show them what makes us the
perfect place for their child to
begin their learning journey. If
you, or someone you know, has a
child due to start Reception in
September and would like to
reserve a place, [contact the office](#)
to book. More information can be
found on our [admissions pages](#) of
our website.

We will announce further dates
for Nursery admissions open
mornings shortly.

School lunches

All of our Reception, Year 1 and
Year 2 children are entitled to the
Universal Infant Meal that means
they receive free school lunches.
However, we have noticed a
number of children are coming to
school with packed lunches. If this

is due to your child being hesitant
to try school lunches, the kitchen
are happy to provide a school
lunch each day whilst still having
a home provided packed lunch as
back up. We have had children go
from only being willing to lick or
nibble foods to fully enjoying a
roast dinner so we recommend
giving it a go!

Parent consultations

Thank you for your understanding
with the technical issues on Arbor
that are now resolved. Please
ensure that you have booked an
appointment to come and meet
with your child's class teacher.
You can book via your child's
Arbor account.

Nasal Flu Vaccinations

Vaccination UK will be visiting
Swing Gate on Wednesday 2nd
November to administer nasal flu
vaccine to children on with a
backup session on Tuesday 6th
December. An online consent
form will be sent to families two
weeks before, only those children
with a signed consent will receive
the vaccine.

For our Voles families, if you
would like your child to receive
the vaccine you will need to speak
to your GP surgery.

Letters and forms on the website

You can now find school letters
sent to our families and useful
forms, such as absence of leave
requests on our website [here](#).



Pause for thought

*"Why fit in, when you were born
to stand out!"*

Dr Seuss

Harvest Festival

The new date for our Harvest Festival is Monday 17th October at 09:45. Thank you to those who have volunteered but we still need parent volunteers to walk to and from the church, if you are able to help please email to let teachers know at their class email address:

voles-teacher@swinggate.herts.sch.uk

owls-teacher@swinggate.herts.sch.uk

squirrels-teacher@swinggate.herts.sch.uk

hedgehogs-teacher@swinggate.herts.sch.uk

rabbits-teacher@swinggate.herts.sch.uk

badgers-teacher@swinggate.herts.sch.uk

foxes-teacher@swinggate.herts.sch.uk

We will be collecting for the Hope Food Bank at Kings Road Church, a small foodbank that helps families in need in Berkhamsted. Please drop your donations in the box by the main office on Monday 31st October. A list of high need items is attached.

Donation request

Nursery and Reception children are enjoying sharing their interests and favourite things and love telling us about them. To add to our resource collection we are hoping to source some small world/figurines/houses of the children's favourite characters including Peppa Pig, Bluey, Fireman Sam, Happy Land, Octonauts, Cocomelon.

If you have any of these at home which your child has grown out of and no longer needs, we would love donations for our children to enjoy.

Reading in Unusual Places Challenge

There is still time to enter our 'Reading in Unusual Places' challenge! We are asking children to submit a photograph of themselves reading in an unusual place or even doing something unusual whilst reading. There will be a certificate for every child who enters.

Ideas could include reading at the park, while doing a sporting activity or near a famous landmark- the more unusual, the better! Here is Renu in Foxes pausing to read a book in the supermarket. This week in assembly, Mrs Gallagher



read a book to the children whilst hula hooping!



Please send a picture via the class teacher emails or pop a photo in your child's book bag by Monday 17th October. We are hoping to make a fantastic display for library area.

Thank you...so much for the book donations from our [Amazon wishlist](#). So far we have ten new books. Our continued intent is to promote children's love of reading, children therefore have many opportunities throughout the day to read books from their class library.

This term, we have sorted through the classroom book stock to ensure there are suitable texts for each year group. Many texts have been moved to school library which children access weekly to choose their 'reading for pleasure' home reading book. However, our class libraries are now in need of some new books. If you are able to donate one from our [wishlist](#), then we would be very grateful.

Parent Workshops

Thank you to those parents and carers who came along to our Phonics and Mathematics workshops. Both presentations are available in the curriculum section on our website you can find phonics [here](#) and maths [here](#)

Thomas Coram Open Mornings

Thomas Coram School are holding open mornings for Year 3 2023/24 Admissions. They are taking place on Tuesday 15th and Thursday



17th November. If you are hoping to attend, please complete [this form](#) to reserve a place.

Nativity dates

Please look at the school calendar for a full list of Nativity dates for each of our year groups. If you have an older sibling at Thomas Coram they are invited to join us for the dress rehearsal but must be accompanied by an adult and remain your responsibility in collecting or returning them to TC.

School Learning

The children in Voles really enjoyed preparing all the vegetables and herbs to contribute to our whole school Big Soup.



They used scissors to snip the herbs, the beans and the celery. They used knives to cut tomatoes, courgettes, potatoes, peppers, carrots and onions. The soup was delicious!

Voles also made savoury and sweet yoghurt, they snipped the herbs with scissors for



the savoury yoghurt and dipped breadsticks in it. They then mashed bananas with a fork, this was mixed into



yoghurt with a little honey and drinking chocolate powder. Both types of yoghurt were very tasty.

In their Game On PE session, Voles developed hockey skills and learnt how to hold the hockey stick safely.



The Owls children really enjoyed creating 'dinosaur skin'. They thought carefully about the colours they needed, with some mixing

their own shades of brown, green and purple. They practised printing with bubble wrap and textured stamps. The children were



really proud of their finished work it is now on display in the hall.

Last Thursday, Year 2 enjoyed a fantastic visit to the local allotments. Thank you to one of our Governors, Mrs Sippings and Mr Eaton for showing



us around. The children learnt about seasonal fruits and vegetables. We used the courgettes, marrows, squash, potatoes, beetroots, chard, tomatoes and apples which were harvested for the Big Soup on Monday.

Curriculum Corner

Maths mastery for all!

Real objects and counters

When learning mathematics at Swing Gate School, the children develop a conceptual



understanding through the Concrete, Pictorial and Abstract (CPA) approach where children handle physical resources, use pictorial representations and record using traditional abstract numbers and symbols. To help you understand this approach, we will explore some of the key pieces of equipment and representations that we use at school. This week, we are looking at real objects and counters.



The concrete stage of the CPA sequence is the "doing" stage. Here, the children use real objects to solve problems. This brings mathematics to life as the children experience and handle physical (concrete) objects. The aim is for children to experience every area of mathematics by first interacting with it in this practical, real way.

For example, when learning to count, children can first handle actual fruit and count out pieces for everyone at their table. From there, they can progress to handling counters or cubes which represent the fruit.

Whenever children are set a maths problem at home, see if you can use physical items to represent the numbers. This could be counters, pieces of pasta, toys or any other physical item.

Keeping Berko Clean!

Why not join staff and families in our local area for a litter pick! On Saturday 5th November from 10:00-12:00, we will be coming together to do a litter pick. Please arrive at school promptly to grab a picker and bag, everyone welcome so maybe ask family and friends if they fancy coming to help us 'Keep Berko Clean!'

Berkhamsted Rotary Fireworks

The annual Berkhamsted Fireworks has launched ticket sales for their 2022 event at Berkhamsted Cricket Club on the evening of Saturday 5th November, 2022.



As in previous years, we are pleased to offer you the opportunity to buy tickets directly from the school office at the early price reduced rate of £9 for an adult, £6 for under 16's and family ticket (2 adults, 2 children) £23. Children under 5 are free. As a thank you for helping promote their event we will receive a small

commission from the ticket sales. It's a perfect fundraiser for our families to enjoy a fun night out while raising money for the school at no extra cost to you! You can buy your tickets directly from the school office.

Help for families this winter

Benefits and money advice for families

We understand that with the rising energy prices there are struggles for many families entering into this autumn term. Please see the information below for some helpful links with advice for parents experiencing this struggle.

For information about benefits such as PIP, ESA and universal credit, please see the free factsheets produced by the Money Advice Unit www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/benefits, which are also available in printed form from HertsHelp.

In addition, the moneyhelper.org.uk website is really helpful for advice and guidance about managing on a reduced budget.

Help for young families in the event of power cuts

Ofgem has included pregnant mothers and families with young children in a group that will receive additional support and protection in the event of shortages/blackouts. You can find out more information [here](#).

The help you will receive includes:

- advance notice of planned power cuts. If you rely on your energy supply for medical reasons your network operator can tell you about planned power cuts. For example, when they plan engineering work
- priority support in an emergency. Network operators could provide heating and cooking facilities if you are cut off supply.

Friends of Swing Gate

Going forward you may be aware that FoSG will send an update on alternate Wednesday's with their exciting news, events, fundraising and competitions. Make sure you look out for it.



Nippers and Netiquette

Digital Footprints

From an early age, work with your child online, accessing content together and discussing tracking features, such as cookies. If your child has an understanding at an early age that their interactions in the digital world are recorded, they are far more likely to develop a careful approach. As a start, you could search your own name on the internet with your child to see what your digital footprint contains. Discuss how the information got there and if there is anything that you are unhappy about.

Wellbeing in Action

Healthy Eating

Tuna Sweet Potato Jackets

Ingredients

- 4 small sweet potatoes (about 200g each)
- 185g can tuna in spring water, drained
- 1 small red onion, finely sliced
- juice 1 lime
- 6tbsp Greek yogurt
- 1 small red chilli, deseeded and chopped, optional
- handful coriander leaves, optional

Method

- 1) Scrub the sweet potatoes and prick all over with a fork. Place on a microwaveable plate and cook on high for 18-20 mins, or until tender. Split in half and place each one, cut-side up, on a serving plate.
- 2) Flake the drained tuna with a fork and divide between the sweet potatoes. Top



with the red onion, and chilli if using, then squeeze over the lime juice. Serve with a dollop of yogurt and, if using, scatter over the coriander.

Mindfulness

Warrior pose – for confidence and concentration

Stand up tall with your feet wide apart. Turn your right toes out and press your left heel away. Bend your right knee deeply, stretch your arms out at shoulder height and make like a surfer. Hang ten for a few relaxed breaths, feeling the strength of your body, then shake out your legs and try it out on the other side. This is a great distractor from worried thoughts.



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...

The Senior Leadership Team and I have been doing learning behaviour walks this week, and I am pleased to say that children were on task and enjoying their learning opportunities.

I hope that you have a lovely weekend.

*Francesca Gallagher (Mrs)
Headteacher*