



DIARY DATES

October 2022

Mon 24th – Fri 28th

Half term

November 2022

Tues 1st

Herts County Council Online Admissions open for Reception and Year 3 places for Sept 2023

Wed 2nd

08:45 – 10:15 Stay & Play Little City Session

09:30 Open Morning

Vaccination UK in school for Nasal Flu Vaccine (YR, Y1 & Y2)

Thurs 3rd

Premier Sports Session (YR, Y1 & Y2)

Fri 4th

Visit from Ross Montgomery, author (YR, Y1 & Y2)

Visit to Berkhamsted Arts Society Exhibition (YN & YR)

FoSG Quiz Night

Sat 5th

10:00-12:00 Litter Pick

Thurs 10th

Premier Sports Session (YR, Y1 & Y2)

Mon 14th

Odd Socks Day (children to wear odd socks for the day)

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

21st October 2022

The half term break has arrived!

The children (& staff!) have well and truly earned their rest after an inspiring and active start to our school year.

Open Mornings

Our first Open Morning takes place on

Tuesday 2nd

November at

09:30. If you,

or someone you

know, has a

child due to start Reception next 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.



Stay & Play featuring Little City Session - 02.11.22

The Stay & Play session for younger siblings is nearly fully booked. If you were hoping to join us on Wednesday 2nd November please email to book a place, it's free to attend and is guaranteed fun for your little one.

Attend and Achieve

The Attend and Achieve assembly will be held after half term. The proud winners of the cup for this half term were **Rabbits Class** with an attendance of **96.4%**, they were delighted to receive the trophy. The other classes' attendance levels are:

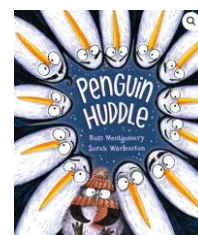
- Badgers with 95.0%
- Hedgehogs with 94.2%
- Foxes with 93.6%

- Squirrels with 92.2%
- Voles with 94.9 %
- Owls with 89.8%.

The overall attendance for the whole school is 93.2% and the DfE target is over 95%. The school is working tirelessly to bridge the gaps in the children's learning, especially as there has been major disruption to their education in the last few years due to COVID 19. Good attendance is key for us to be able to achieve this and we really value your support.

Author Visit

We are excited to have the brilliant author Ross Montgomery coming to school



on Friday 4th November. He'll be hosting an assembly for Reception and KS1, then signing books for the children afterwards.

Ross has been nominated for and won many different book awards and we are very excited to read his latest book, Penguin Huddle.

You can order a copy of his book for your child, to be signed on the day, through Tring's [Our Bookshop](#). This will be given to your child after the event. We anticipate that the children will be excited at seeing the author in person. When ordering your book, do not choose postage - all books are being delivered together on the day. In the notes box - please add your child's name, school and their class.



Pause for thought

"We must never stop believing that beautiful things can happen even in times of chaos."

Wonder Doodles

Black History Month

October is Black History Month with a focus on 'Black Health & Wellness', at Swing Gate School we try not to confine it to a month or an individual event. Across the school, we ensure there is a range of books, stories and images that we share with the children during the year that celebrate diversity and multiculturalism. These are some of the activities and themes that we carry out; African and Indian dance sessions in PE, history and geography topic work in years 1 & 2, assemblies from a range of faiths including Diwali, and diversity throughout our RE and PSHE lessons. EYFS planning reflects children's interests, multicultural events, a range of cultures and significant individuals at an age and stage appropriate to young children.



In assembly, Mrs Marshall the inspirational story of Martin Luther King Jr from the 'Little People, Big Dreams' series and the children have been listening to music by ground breaking black artists such as Nina Simone.

School Photo Ordering

All of the children in school on Thursday had their school photo taken by VanCols. For Reception, Year 1 & Year 2 your child will have an order form in their book bag for you to order online. You can register now and the pictures should be available to view by the end of half term. We also took pictures of sibling groups and these will be on your older child's account when you login.

For Voles, your order form will be sent home in their book bags after half term.

Nasal Flu Immunisation

A reminder that the Vaccination UK team will be in school on Wednesday 2nd November to give children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 the nasal flu immunisation. Parent/carers will need to consent to this being administered by completing the online form [here](#). If your child has already had the vaccine or you DO NOT want your child to receive it you must still complete the form and refuse consent.

Charity Days next term

We have a number of charity days happening next term, details are below:

14.11.22 Odd Socks Day – to raise awareness of Anti-Bullying Week. Children are encouraged to wear odd socks to school with their normal uniform. We will not be collecting donations on this day.

18.11.22 Children in Need Day – children are encouraged to wear something spotty or even just a few spotty stickers with their uniform or whole outfit (parent/carer choice) in exchange for a £1 suggested donation.

08.12.22 Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day – £1 suggested donations in exchange for wear a Christmas top or jumper.

In a bid to keep costs down for our families and lessen the social impact of buying one off items of clothing, we are asking people to donate outgrown Christmas clothing (aged 3-8) for us to create a swap shop this year. If you would like to donate, 'swap' or help with this please let the office know.

Thank you to Joanna Bateman & her family and Joanna Mendis

Our planters and Early Years Foundation vegetable garden and beds had a recent make over by Joanna Bateman, her family and Joanna Mendis. Thank you for a much improved and welcoming entrance to Swing Gate and EYFS outdoor learning environment.



Harvest Festival Donations

Following our Harvest Festival this week, 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 or Tuesday 1st November. A high needs list of items they need is attached with the newsletter.

School Learning

Voles have been exploring the outdoor environment looking for broomsticks. They then created this



wonderful display.



Here are some of the children enjoying their new 'build your own' dolls house too.

Squirrels Class have been practising their fine motor control by using the new geo boards and elastic bands. Stretching elastic bands to fit and make shapes is a great way of developing fine motor skills, which in turns supports handwriting and mathematics. They have loved making patterns and shapes using the boards.



Year 1 have embraced all that is autumn! They have been perfecting their sketching technique, drawing still life and adding colour to their



autumn vegetable pictures using pastels. All inspired by the work of Paul Cezanne. Autumn poetry has been flowing in the classroom and the children have been observing the seasonal changes in nature. Baking activities were also linked to the autumn theme with some apple crumble muffins made in design and technology. We hope they taste delicious!



Year 2 have been exploring different everyday materials as part of their science lessons. This week they have been learning about how paper is made and the need to use recycled paper. The children have made their own recycled paper from classroom scrap paper, which they will be able to write on after half term.

Sign up to our litter pick!

If you are free on Saturday 5th November from 10:00-12:00, please join staff and families in our local area litter pick! Please arrive at school for 09:45 ready to grab a picker and bag, everyone welcome so maybe ask family and friends if they fancy coming to help us 'Keep Berkhamsted Clean!' Please [let the office](#) know you are able to join us.

Friends of Swing Gate Pumpkin Carving Competition



Halloween is not far away and Mrs Gallagher is very much looking forward to judging the entries in this year's FoSG Pumpkin Carving Competition! Create a traditional jack-o'-lantern or come up with your own design. To take part, please make a donation (suggested amount £3) via PayPal to friendsofswinggate@gmail.com. Then send a



photo of your **child's** creation to fosgumpkins@gmail.com by **midnight on 31st October** (just the pumpkin, not your child, to keep the competition anonymous).

Preloved Uniform

Don't forget you can now buy preloved uniform online at our dedicated [virtual shop](#).

Fireworks tickets

Reduced price tickets are available from the office for the Annual Berkhamsted Rotary Firework Show at Berkhamsted Cricket Club on the evening of Saturday 5th November. Pop in the week after half term to get yours before we sell out!

Poppy Appeal

Sunday 13th November is Remembrance Sunday. The Royal British Legion have delivered boxes of poppies (sticker and pin versions) plus other items including key rings, slap bands, and bracelets. All are available to purchase from the school office with all the proceeds going to the Poppy Appeal. If you or your children would like to make a donation and buy a remembrance item, please visit the school office.



Herts Help

Need help and don't know where to turn? HertsHelp is here to listen and help you find the support, advice, and information you need to get the most out of life. Their network of community organisations can help you to make positive changes to your life and feel more in control. Worry and stress can make you feel unwell, so take the first step towards getting back on track by calling HertsHelp on 0300 123 40 44 or email info@hertshelp.net.

Nippers and Netiquette

Balancing Screen time - top tip

Set rules on the use of screens in and out of the home. Create a family agreement together

to manage expectations of how screens and online platforms should be used and why. Set rules to meet the needs of each child based on their use, interest and engagement of screens and consider how screen time can complement what they do offline. Make sure to stick to the rules and model the behaviour you'd like your child to follow to make it a success. It's a good idea to review the rules as children grow and become more active online. For younger children, it's important to prioritise face-to-face interactions and apps that encourage active play to support their development of language and other skills.

Curriculum Corner

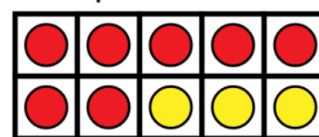
Maths mastery for all!

Ten Frames

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 ten frames...

What equation matches the dots?



$$8 + 2 = 10$$

$$7 + 3 = 10$$

$$6 + 4 = 10$$

$$4 + 6 = 10$$

Ten frames are two-by-five rectangular frames. These can be used to physically place counters to construct numbers that are less than or equal to ten. This helps children to visualise numbers and support their developing understanding of number facts and place value.

As children progress in Key Stage One, they may begin to explore a double ten frame.



Here, two ten frames are placed side by side and children can explore numbers from 0 – 20. Children can also record their own ten frames by drawing their own versions in their books to help them solve calculations.

At home, you can draw a simple tens frame on a piece of paper and use any small objects as counters. Older children can draw their own representations.

Wellbeing in Action

Healthy Eating

2 minute Bread pizza

Ingredients

- 2 bread slices
- 2 tsp tomato ketchup
- 2 tsp pizza sauce
- 1 bowl chopped onion, tomato, carrot, pepper & sweet corn
- 1 tsp oregano
- 1 tsp chat masala
- 1 tsp chilli flaked
- 1 cheese cube
- 1 tsp butter



Cooking Instructions

1. Heat a pan, put butter and bread slice on it. Spread pizza sauce, put veggies and sprinkle chilli flakes, oregano and chat masala. Cook gently.
2. Now add tomato ketchup and grate cheese on it. Place under the grill and let the cheese

spread and melt. The 'pizza' crust will also become crispy. Serve it hot.

Mindfulness

In Voles the children have been learning the Makaton sign of the week, 'calm'. We have found it to be very calming. Have a go at home as you have a mindful moment by watching [this video](#).

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...

It was really great to see parents in school this week for parent consultations. Being able to meet face-to-face in the autumn term feels like a novelty after the recent Covid years.

I hope that you manage to have a lovely and well deserved break this half term and we look forward to seeing the children back rested and ready for the term ahead.

Francesca Gallagher (Mrs)
Headteacher