



## DIARY DATES

### **November 2022**

#### **Sun 27<sup>th</sup>**

Festival of Light –  
FoSG will be there too

#### **Wed 30<sup>th</sup>**

08:30-08:50 Hedgehogs  
Shared Reading

### **December 2022**

#### **Thurs 1<sup>st</sup>**

09:15 Nativity Dress  
Rehearsal (YR) – TC  
siblings if accompanied  
by a parent/carers

#### **Fri 2<sup>nd</sup>**

FoSG Santa Sleigh Rotary

#### **Sat 3<sup>rd</sup>**

13:00-16:00 FoSG  
Christmas Grotto and  
Fair

#### **Mon 5<sup>th</sup>**

09:00 Rev Stuart visit to  
Voies

09:15 Nativity  
Performance (YR)

14:00 Nativity Dress  
Rehearsal (Y2) – TC  
sibling if accompanied by  
a parent/carers

#### **Tues 6<sup>th</sup>**

09:15 Nativity  
Performance (YR)

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

14:00 Nativity Dress  
Rehearsal (Y1) – TC  
sibling if accompanied by  
a parent/carers

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

## 25<sup>th</sup> November 2022

Our fish tank has had a major refurb. Here are some of our new fish enjoying their environment. More details to follow in the next newsletter.



### Timing of the school day

A parent comms was sent out this week about the timing of the school day, in summary:

**08:20** approx side gates will be opened

**08:30** classroom doors will be opened

**08:35** gates and classroom doors will be locked (if you arrive after 08:35 please enter via the school office)

**14:55** approx side gates will be opened

**15:05** classroom doors will be opened

**15:10** gates and classroom doors will be locked (if you arrive after 15:10, please collected your child via the school office).

The queueing system is no longer operating. Once a school adult is manning the class door, children can walk straight into class and do not need to wait in line.

### Governor vacancies

We currently have vacancies on our Governing Board. We are talking to a couple of interested parents and, in order to keep a good balance between parents,

staff and members of the community, we are also interested in hearing from people who do not have a direct involvement with the school. Perhaps you know of family members, friends or neighbours who have some time to contribute their skills towards the leadership of the school? Governors do not have to have an education background and we are always interested in hearing from people who have business, finance, premises, health & safety, marketing or HR experience. Please [email](#) for more information. We would be very happy to talk to anyone who might be interested.

### Open Morning

Our second Reception focussed Open Mornings was very well attended today. Our final Reception one takes place on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January at 09:30, book your place via [email](#).

### Parent Forum

The minutes of the last Parent Forum are viewable on our website [here](#). The staff would like to thank you for your kind comments.

### Reminders

Please ensure water bottles are never carried in your child's book bag. Even the most robust 'leak proof' bottle can leak and damage resources. Why not try a water bottle carrier as a potential solution, they even come in Swing Gate red! A link to one is [here](#).



## Pause for thought

*"Now and then it's good to pause in our pursuit of happiness and just be happy."*

Guillaume Apollinaire, French poet

## Chickenpox advice update

Further to our email this week we are asking families to check their children regularly as the cases have steadily risen.

If your child has chickenpox they will need to remain at home for five days from the rash first appearing and all the vesicles (pox) should be crusted over too. Please note that ibuprofen should not be used as pain relief, unless advised to by a qualified doctor, when a child has chickenpox. Here is a [link to the NHS guidance and advice](#).

## Rotary Shoebox Scheme

Every year Rotary Club organises a collection of filled shoeboxes to send to disadvantaged people and families in Eastern Europe.

If you would like to take part filling one for a baby, child, teenager or household, please collect a shoebox from the school office.

**Please return any filled boxes to the office by Friday 9<sup>th</sup> December.** A leaflet with further information is attached.

## Christmas Jumper Day

On Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December we are taking part in the Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day. Children will be invited to wear festive clothing in exchange for a suggested donation of £1. To help families with the current cost of living crisis and to help the environmental impact here are some ideas:

- visit the preloved Christmas Jumper stall at the FoSG Christmas Grotto on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December from 13:00-16:00
- why not take a well-worn top and cover it with stickers, felt, tinsel or glitter.
- donating is optional and any amount you can spare – 10p, 20p, 50p - makes you an awesome fundraiser.

## School Learning

In Voles Class, the children enjoyed making pasta from scratch for their pasta point treat. They were great at kneading and most of them loved the pasta, eating it with peas, sweetcorn and cheese.



The children practised dinosaur steps using the balance bikes. It was great to be able to use all the space in the big playground - even though it poured.

Orson in Reception brought in a Frozen Planet poster from home to share with the class. It prompted a conversation about the Arctic and which animals live there. The



children decided to create a new display in the classroom, putting up the poster, creating snowflakes and making a small world scene with the snowy animals.

Year 1 have had a busy couple of weeks. We were delighted to invite parent/carers in for two shared reading sessions – Wednesday in Hedgehogs and Friday in Rabbits.

They also took an inspirational trip to Rectory Lane Cemetery this week. With Andy Goldsworthy in mind, they created natural art displays and took time





to reflect in the peace and calm of their surroundings. In line with our 'Five Ways to Wellbeing' the children had a truly mindful outing. Thank you to our volunteers without whom, trips would not happen.

As part of their topic 'All Fired Up', Year 2 learnt how the fire of London began in a bakers in Pudding Lane.



They made bread rolls to enjoy at home and thankfully didn't burn the school down in the process!



## Christmas Tree Farm

Can you help us to be a winner again this year?

If you plan to buy a real Christmas tree, please consider buying it from the Christmas Tree Farm and hand in the flyer sent home in book bags today. They run a competition every year with cash prizes for the school that give the most flyers, we have been 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> for the last few years and hope to keep the run going!



## Friends of Swing Gate

For anyone planning to go to the Festival of Light this weekend, don't forget to support all the wonderful FoSG volunteers on the bottle tombola stall!



## Curriculum Corner

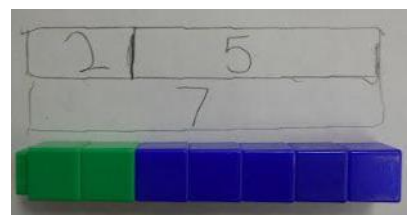
### Maths mastery for all!

#### Bar Models

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 bar models.

Bar models are an effective way to represent concepts that involve any of



the operations: addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. They can first be created using stacking cubes to represent the number involved. The children can then create their own informal pictorial representations. This model is particularly useful when solving multi-step problems involving missing numbers.

At home, you could use any stacking toys to explore the idea of having a whole number that can be split in different ways. Lego or Duplo towers would work well.

## Wellbeing in Action

### Healthy Eating

#### Banana, pear and oat cookies

##### Ingredients

- 1 medium sized banana ( $\frac{1}{2}$  cup mashed)
- 1 cup rolled oats (Choose gluten free oats if needed).
- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup grated pear
- $\frac{1}{4}$  cup apple juice
- 1 tbsp ground seeds
- 2 tsp cinnamon.



##### Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 180°C/350°F.
2. Mash banana in a large bowl with a fork.





3. Add oats, grated pear, apple juice, ground flaxseed and cinnamon. Mix everything together until well combined.
4. Line a baking tray with parchment or baking paper.
5. Get a spoonful of the mixture and gently form into a ball so is shaped like a cookie.
6. Place the cookie balls onto the tray spaced evenly. Press down gently on each ball with the bottom of a glass to gently flatten.
7. Bake the oat cookies for 12-14 minutes until golden brown.

## Mindfulness

Why not go on an autumnal mindfulness walk, take along our attached inspiration sheet to note down what the children see, hear, smell and feel.

## Nippers and Netiquette

### Sharenting

We have to admit that we like to share the positive moments in our child's life; social media is certainly a platform to do this. However, do we fully understand the potential risks of posting to social media? How often do we ask our child if we have permission to put an image of them online? Do we think it is OK to post about our child and share content because our accounts are only visible to friends? Do we understand the damage that posting and sharing content about our child could have in the future? These questions must

be considered carefully. If in doubt, don't share! Year one read a book called '#Goldilocks' which addresses online reputations and conducting ourselves responsibly when sharing online.

## 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...

The festive season is almost upon us, the children are getting very excited about all the activities in store, from Elfridges, to the Panto, to the Grotto, to their Christmas performances.

Rehearsals have begun this week. The stage is up and the sound of children singing beautifully has been enjoyed throughout the school. The ticket order forms have been sent to all our families this week, please make sure you order by next Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November. We are looking forward to seeing you in school soon!

Have a good weekend!

*Francesca Gallagher (Mrs)*  
*Headteacher*