



DIARY DATES

March 2023

Sat 25th

14:00-16:00 Litter
Pick

Tues 28th

11:40-15:30 Parent
Consultation – Voles

15:30-17:30 Parent
Consultation – YR, Y1
& Y2

Wed 29th

14:30 iRock Parent
Assembly

Balanceability YN

Thurs 30th

14:30 Guitar Parent
Assembly

17:30-19:10 Parent
Consultation – YR, Y1 &
Y2

Fri 31st

13:30 Early finish for
last day of term

April 2023

Mon 3rd – Fri 14th
Easter holidays

Mon 17th

INSET Day

National Allocations
Day for Reception
2023/24 places

Tues 18th

First day of term

Wed 19th

Balanceability YR

Thurs 20th

Premier Sports Multi
Sports YN-Y2

Fri 21st

Nursery 2023/23 Places
offered to families

24th March 2023



What a lot of lovely 'fish' book reviews we have gracing our display in school. Thank you for supporting your children in taking part in our recent 'Reading Sea' Challenge.

Deadline for Nursery applications



Our [Nursery 2023/34 Admissions Portal](#) will close at midnight tonight. If you have a child due to start Nursery in September 2023 please complete the online application tonight. For any queries please [contact the office](#).

Class Photos

On Thursday, VanCols, our school photographer, were in school to take the class group photos. Your child will be coming home with an order slip with a link for you to view and buy the photo.

Please note that the pictures were taken outside except for Year 1 as

a sudden and torrential downpour occurred.

Parent Consultations

Next Tuesday and Thursday our parent consultations are taking place. Please arrive via the main entrance in good time for your appointment.

Final call for litter pickers!

We would love more of our families to join our termly litter pick this Saturday 25th March from 14:00-16:00. If you are free to come along (even an hour makes a difference!) let the office know by email admin@swinggate.herts.sch.uk.

All volunteers need is suitable clothing, a pair of gloves and eagle eyes for spotting litter.

Long Service Assembly

Mrs Harding, our head cleaner has been working at Swing Gate School for 45 years this week! Mrs Gallagher led a celebration assembly this afternoon to mark the occasion. Mrs Harding was touched by the handmade card from the children and gifts from the staff.

School Office

The office hours are Monday-Friday from 08:15-16:00. Outside of these times emails and the office answerphone are not checked. We will respond to messages on the next working day once back in school.



Pause for thought

"Where flowers bloom, so does hope."

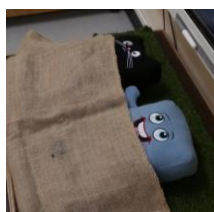
Lady Bird Johnson, business woman and former first lady of the United States

School Learning

In Voles the children listened to lullabies and relaxed with Jigsaw Jenie and Jigsaw Jerrie Cat ... Learning about the importance of rest and sleep.



They have also been exploring Gymnastics with Premier Sport.

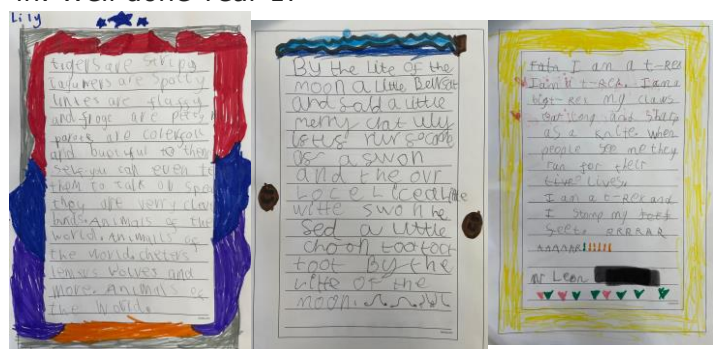


Squirrels (and Owls and Voles too) were delighted to receive a parcel in the post this week – balance boards for their classroom. The children have been enjoying exploring different ways

to balance and move on them. It has been great to see their ideas, and the concentration on their faces as they balance. Miss Oliver, our PE lead, has been thinking of new things to buy for the whole school from the government funded PE and Sports premium money for the summer term and the balance boards were the first purchase.



It was World Poetry Day on Tuesday. For this Year 1 were asked to bring in a favourite poem to share or perform in front of the class. We were really impressed with the number of children who brought in a poem and who were able to recite it for everyone. Some children even knew their poems by heart. They were then given the opportunity to copy it and decorate it to make it look special. Here are some of the poems that the children brought in. Well done Year 1!



Children in both Badgers and Foxes class designed their own healthy pizza as part of their D&T learning. The criteria for the design was to include three of their 5 fruit and vegetables per day. The children were then able to make the pizza and compare the finished product with their original design. This process also allowed the children to learn about food hygiene and why we need to wash our hands, as well as life skills, including safe cutting and grating. We think the children found the learning yummy!



Friends of Swing Gate

The 2023 Challenge is open until the end of the Easter holidays. FoSG is asking parents to help their children raise £23 (or more!) by earning sponsorship for an activity of their choice. We have singers, bakers, readers, litter pickers, gamers. Anything goes. If you'd like to use our [Just Giving page](#), follow this link and you can set yourself up really easily. The money then goes straight to FoSG.



Method

Step 1 Heat the oven to 180C/160C fan/gas 4. Put each pizza base on a baking sheet and spread each with half of the passata. Arrange the tomatoes on the top in rings or wedges of colour and add the broccoli and the olives, if using. Squish the mozzarella cherries (boconcini) a little before dotting them over the pizzas, then drizzle 1 tbsp pesto over each.

Step 2 Bake for 15-20 minutes or until the top is bubbling and just starting to brown a little. Scatter over the basil leaves before serving.

Mindfulness

Go for a listening walk

How: Go for a walk in a nearby nature area or just around the neighbourhood. Stay silent for 5-15 minutes, depending on your child's age and attention span, and listen carefully to all the sounds around you. After the time is up, discuss what you heard and where the sounds may come from.

Variation: For a more meditative experience, do the listening exercise while lying down on the ground with closed eyes.

Why: Listening walks can help put your child in a calm but alert state, which is ideal for sensory integration.

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...

I had a wonderful end to the week with a whole school assembly this afternoon to thank our dedicated cleaner Mrs Harding and to celebrate her 45 years of service. The children shared their ideas to thank Mrs Harding which brought smiles to our faces.

I hope that you all have a good weekend and hopefully the sun will be shining for our Swing Gate litter pick tomorrow.

Francesca Gallagher (Mrs)
Headteacher