



DIARY DATES

April 2023

Tuesday 25th

Trip to College Lake -
Y1

Wed 26th

Balanceability – **YR**

15:15-16:15 Game On
Summer Sports **Y1**

Thursday 27th

09:00 Hedgehogs
Class assembly

Multi Sports workshop
– all school

15:15-16:15 Game On
Summer Sports **Y2**

Fri 28th

09:00 Rsbbits Class
assembly

Deadline to accept
Nursery 23/24 offers

08:30-08:50 Shared
Reading – **Owls &
Squirrels**

May 2023

Mon 1st

May Day bank holiday

Deadline to accept
Reception 23/24 offers

Wed 3rd

Balanceability – **YR**

School Nurses in school
for Health Screenings **YR**

Thurs 4th

Voles Class closed for
local elections

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

21st April 2023

Welcome back to the start of the summer term! We have loved seeing all the children back and ready to continue their learning adventures with us.

Local Elections

On Thursday 4th May Voles Class will be **closed** to the Voles children while the classroom is used as a polling station for the local elections. There will also be no Little Deers 30 hours provision that day.

All other classes and Little Deers After School Club are unaffected.

New lunch menu

The children have been enjoying the new menu for summer/autumn 2023 this week. A copy is attached for your reference. We would appreciate it if you could talk to your children about lunch choices each day to encourage them to select something they will enjoy.

Class trips

Next week Year 1 will be visiting College Lake for their school trip. Please make sure they arrive at school dressed appropriately and with a packed lunch if you opted to provide one from home.

Voles will be going to Bekonscot Model Village on 6th June. A letter was sent home today.

For Reception and Year 2 we will be sending the letters next week.

After School Clubs

Our external provided after school clubs are all starting back next

week. The individual clubs will have confirmed your child's place and details of what they need to bring to their sessions. You are welcome to send them in with snack to be attend after school before the club begins as well.

Boo Yoga club on Friday's still has places if you would like to book your child in please contact Boo Yoga [by email](#), their booking form is also being sent.

MSA Vacancy

We will shortly be advertising for a Midday Supervisor Assistant. If you or someone you know would like to apply, please visit our [Teach in Herts](#) page after 11th May or contact the school office.

Thank you from Mrs Day!



Mr Day and I would like to thank each and every one of you that sent us wishes, gave us cards and donated towards the gift card. We are overwhelmed by the generosity of you all! We had a fantastic day, made even better by having our friends and family with us, as well as some added sunshine!



Newsletter

Pause for thought

"School is a building which has four walls with tomorrow inside."

Lon Watters

Breakfast Club

We wanted to remind all our families that Breakfast Club **must be booked by 14:00** the day before the session you wish your child to attend. If you need help using Arbor please speak to the school office.

Please also note the office closes at 16:00 and emails are not checked until we return the following working day.

School Learning

The children in Voles looked at a painting by Sophia Oshodin before drawing a mango in the same style. They used pastels. These mangoes were created by Arthur, Archer and Georgie.



Voles also looked at carvings from Afghanistan and Pakistan before using a variety of tools to make marks in wood.



They then carved polystyrene tiles to create printing blocks.



Reception have begun their Balanceability sessions with the children developing their balance and bike skills. Both Owls and Squirrels will

continue to have weekly sessions over the next few weeks.



Year 1 have been immersed in their new Africa topic this week as their shared area was



transformed to support the topic 'Kenya'. They have explored the sights, sounds, smells and tastes through foods, spices, videos, music and lots more. Even their English text is about a talking Papaya! It has been lovely that some children have shared photos and artefacts linked to the topic. We can't wait to find out more!

The children in Year 2 have returned to school refreshed and eager to learn after the break. They have been learning about 'finding stories' and hearing about Pirate Tom in English lessons this week. The children have been looking at an old map and then creating their own old map to be used to find treasure. The children have really enjoyed acting out and suggesting further actions and gestures for finding the treasure.



Coronation Day

As part of our Coronation celebrations the children will be having a Perform dance and drama workshop, on Thursday 4th and Friday 5th.



In addition, on Friday 5th May, the kitchen will prepare a 'street party' style picnic lunch for the children. The choices on this day will be a meat or vegetarian lunch box. The children will make their choice on the day.



Families First

Families First is the term used in Hertfordshire for services that work together to support families who may need extra help. These are also known as early help services. Families First can help you find early help and information to prevent issues from getting worse. If you feel you need more help than your usual support network - for example your health visitor, school, doctor or family centre - they can work with you and your family to create a package of support.

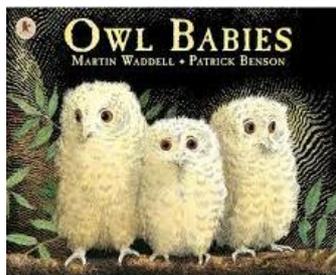
Issues they can help with include:

- parenting
- mental and physical health problems
- drug or alcohol dependency
- domestic abuse
- school related concerns – such as your child is not attending school
- debt problems
- risk of becoming homeless.

To find out more and about how to access their support via their [website](#).

Book recommendation from Mrs Gallagher

My favourite book is 'Owls Babies' by Martin Waddell. I particularly like it because it reminds me of reading the story of the three baby owls with my three children when they were young. 'Where's my mummy?' The baby owls want to know. See if they find out... Martin Waddell has written numerous books, why not try one of these too!



Nippers and Netiquette

Demonstrate your own 'netiquette' by modelling appropriate behaviour for your child, especially they have access to your devices or you are using them together. Avoid commenting on, posting or following social media posts that you wouldn't want your child

to see. Always post and communicate respectfully.

If your child sees you on your smartphone or tablet during dinnertime or late into the evening, what message is this giving them? You could allot defined technology-free times for focusing on conversation or other activity.

Wellbeing in Action

Healthy Eating

Bunny Buns

To make the bunny buns the ingredients you will need are:

- 1 cup plain yoghurt
- 1 cup self-raising flour
- ¼ tsp salt
- butter for greasing
- plus a little salt to season and butter to grease your baking dish as well.



Method

1. Preheat your oven to 180 degrees Celsius, 360 degrees Fahrenheit.
2. Place yogurt, self-raising flour and salt in a bowl. Combine well until the dough comes together in a ball.
3. On a dry floured surface. Divide the dough into six even pieces (approx. 70g each). From each of these six pieces you will be making a larger ball (45g ish) and two smaller balls (12g ish each).
4. Grease a large ovenproof dish with butter. Place the six larger balls evenly around the oven dish. These will be the bunny bun faces.
5. Roll the smaller balls into short stubby sausages, place them in pairs so that they touch the larger balls (these are the bunny ears)
6. Brush the bunny buns with a little melted butter and bake for 20 minutes.

Optional: Use an edible marker to add eyes and a mouth to your bunny buns!



Mindfulness

'50 things to do before you are five' app

We are keen to let you know about a free Hertfordshire App, '[50 Things To Do Before You're Five](#)', an exciting new initiative that supports children's learning at home and in their early years setting.



The app has a menu of activities for families with young children, giving great suggestions for how to have fun and learn at the same time.

The "50 Things" app is free to download [here](#) or through the AppStore or GooglePlay store, and then select Hertfordshire from the list of regions/cities. Once downloaded, the app offers a list of 50 free or low-cost activities (under £20 for a family of four) that parents can experience with their child/children in or around Hertfordshire. This no-cost resource can be used to complement the EYFS curriculum and home learning.

We also have hard copies for families to borrow if you cannot access the app. Please ask at the school office.

'Calm Me Time' Audio

This [Calm Me audio](#), from the Jigsaw Families Programme (Age 5+ set), which is available on our school website so that children can use it at home. It is intended to be listened to with another member of their family (in family pairs).

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 has been so lovely to have the children back in school this week.

I have really enjoyed seeing the artwork produced, watching drama relating to stories they have been sharing, and reading their writing about their new topics and hearing the children read.

I hope that you all enjoy the weekend and hopefully the sun stays out!

*Francesca Gallagher (Mrs)
Headteacher*