



DIARY DATES

May 2023

Sat 20th

**12:00-16:00 FoSG
SPRING FAIR!!**

Wed 24th

Balanceability – YR

Walk to Butts Meadow – YN

Thurs 25th

School Trip to
Whipsnade Zoo – Y2

**Mon 29th May – Fri 2nd
June**

Half term

June 2023

Mon 5th

First day of summer
term 2

Tues 6th

School Trip to
Bekonscot Model Village
– YR

Thurs 8th

Premier Sports Dance
Workshop – all school

Tues 13th

Trip to see 'Sister Act Jr'
theatre show – Y2

Thurs 15th

Premier Sports Dance
Workshop – all school

Tues 20th

Beach Day – Year 1

Thurs 22nd

Premier Sports Dance
Workshop – all school

Thurs 29th

Premier Sports Dance
Workshop – all school

July 2023

Wed 5th

iRock Concert for
parents

19th May 2023

We are looking forward to seeing lots of you at tomorrow's FoSG Spring Fair. Thank you to the committee and volunteers for all the planning and hard work it takes to put on such an epic event. We are sure it'll be a great fun day for all the family.

Transition

As we head towards the end of this half term we are finalising the transition plans including our new September 2023 starters in Nursery and Reception; current YR and Y1 moving up to their next year group and Y2 moving on to their new schools. We will be sending home letters outlining our plans next week.

New recycling bank

The eagle eyed amongst you may have spotted our new textile recycling bank that has been placed by the outside of the school kitchen this week.



All donations of unwanted clothing, shoes, handbags and household materials (bedding towels, linen etc) will be recycled to raise funds for Swing Gate School.

Please pack your textile donations in bin bags or similar which can then be dropped safely inside the bank. Donations must not be wet or damp as this will ruin the clothing inside the bank.

Recycling is important for our planet and this is a great first step to educate children on the importance of recycling and sustainability.

There will be regular collections so please help us to raise valuable funds by donating all your old textiles.

Reminder

Sun hats and sun cream – now the weather is improving, please make sure your child has their Swing Gate sun hat in school. We have some available to buy from the school office (cash or cheque only) for £5.10. Could you also apply a high factor long lasting sun cream each morning to any exposed areas on your child.

Uniform – all children should be in full school uniform every day. Your child also needs a PE kit, to remain in school for each half term, consisting of a red Swing Gate t-shirt and black PE shorts. You can view what the children need for their uniform on our [website](#).

Also, please can we ask that you clearly label your children's clothing. We have had a size 7-8 cardigan handed into the office with the name of a child no longer at our school inside. There was also a fidget toy in the pocket. The children when asked have denied it's theirs and just want the toy! Please help us to reunite clothing by labelling their clothes clearly and with correct names.



Pause for thought

"Learning is a treasure that will follow its owner everywhere."

Chinese Proverb

MSA post

On Wednesday next week our advert for the MSA position will go live on [TeachinHerts](https://www.teachinherts.co.uk). If you or anyone you know would like to apply please visit our page on the website.

School trips

Year 1 and Reception have already had successful trips to College Lake and Whipsnade Zoo. Next week is Year 2s turn to visit the Zoo and Voles will be going to Bekonscot Model Village after half term.

Donations for Little Deers

Little Deers are looking for donations of the following items to make the After School Club more homely including blankets, bean bags, teddy bears, cushions and good quality books.

They are also looking for a wooden train set with trains and items to make a hairdressers box. If you have any of the above items, please contact Lynne Hanson via Little Deers [email](mailto:little.deers@swinggate.herts.sch.uk).

School Learning

The children in Voles were excited to have a visit from Lily in Rabbits class. She told them all about unicorns and alicorns. She also answered all their questions.



The children have been planting the seeds that they brought in for 'show and tell'. They are excited to see them all sprouting and growing. We will plant them outside soon.



Last week the Reception children were very excited to board the coach for their day trip to Whipsnade zoo. Linked to their recent learning about African Animals they visited many animals including elephants, rhinos, lions, meerkats, cheetahs and giraffes. A highlight was seeing two young lions come right up to the fence and prowling around.

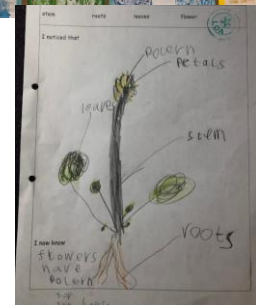


A workshop was organised by the African Animals zookeepers, right in the heart of the African animals section. They taught them about how lions hunt and how meerkats camouflage.



By the end of the day everyone had walked over four miles and the ride home on a comfy seat of the coach was welcomed by all!

Year 1 have been immersing themselves in their flowers and seeds topic this week. In science, they have been on a flower learning walk, dissected flowers to label the parts. They planted seeds in bags so they can observe the roots and shoots over the coming weeks. In art, the flower theme continued in their unit on printing. They have created vibrant relief print tiles of flowers and we can't wait to see their flower collographs today!



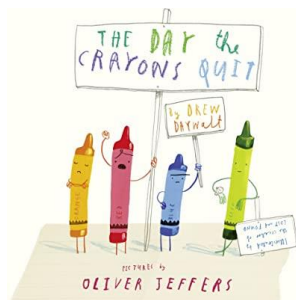


Year 2 have worked really hard this week and we are all so proud of them. They still found the energy to engage enthusiastically with their mathematics. The children were learning to give and receive directions using specific vocabulary. The task was to direct a peer across the carpet squares to find the 'treasure' using only these directional words; right, left, forward, backwards and the number of steps to take.



Book recommendation

'The Day the Crayons Quit' by Oliver Jeffers is a fabulous family read where crayons write letters to Duncan, their child, giving reasons why they quit. Some feel they are used too much, while others feel ignored and then they are arguing about who is the best of them for colouring in saying, 'Should the sun be coloured using the yellow or orange crayon?' A story loved by children and adults alike, we highly recommend this for an inspiring read.



Parent/Carer eSafety Online Session

On Thursday 15th June at 19:30, parents and carers are invited to an essential eSafety session to help you understand the latest trends and associated issues surrounding infant and primary age online activity, how to spot potential problems, reduce risk, and some helpful pointers for helping to keep your child safer when using electronic devices.

This eSafety Parent session will cover electronic devices, gaming, cyberbullying, current online threats and risks and will:

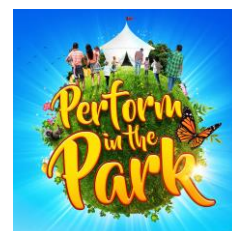
- look at how children are using the Internet
- raise your awareness of current eSafety issues and concerns

- offer guidance on keeping your child safe
- support parents and carers and make you more confident keeping track of your child's online activity
- help you understand how to report issues or concerns.

If you are interested in joining the eSafety online session you can book via this [link](#).

Perform in the Park

This summer, Perform are launching Perform in the Park, London's first ever Festival of Children's Theatre in Coram's Fields, Bloomsbury. They will have a full programme of shows for 2-14 year olds running with live performances all day from 22nd July with *The Three Billy Goats Gruff* for 2-7s, *Elephant & Piggies* for 3-8s, *Mermaids & Pirates* for 4-11s and *The Dream* based on Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* for 7-14s.



Sunnyside Rural Trust

On Saturday 13th May, Sunnyside Rural Trust are open for the first time as a new garden. Perennials, herbs & vegetable seedlings will be available for sale as well as homemade chutney and jam from their own produce. Find out more [here](#).

They also run a [veg box scheme](#) from their Northchurch site, they grow a lot of the vegetables; picked fresh and prepared by trainees. You can sign up and order where you want collect from.

Discover Bucks Museum this half term

Join [Discover Bucks Museum](#) in Aylesbury this May half term from 29th May – 2nd June in celebration of Art inspired by their Open Art Exhibition. Children, parents and carers will have fun illustrating, creating wire sculptures, printing, painting and experimenting with mixed media.



Nippers and Netiquette

Apps

Keep control of the apps installed on devices by setting your security so that your children have to ask for your permission/password entry before being able to install apps or make purchases. Investigate the features of apps, including GPS, nearby device functionality and casting.

Wellbeing in Action

Healthy Eating

Lulu's cheese puffs

Ingredients

- 1 cup of self-raising flour
- 2 cups of grated cheese, any sort of hard cheese
- 1 egg beaten
- 1/2 cup of milk



1. Preheat oven to 180°C. Sift flour into a large bowl.
2. Mix in all other ingredients using a wooden spoon, adding the milk last to bind.
3. Mix well to ensure even combination, particularly the flour and milk – the mixture should be quite sticky.
4. Grease a muffin tin, or baking sheet and set aside.
5. Use a tablespoon to pop golf ball-sized amounts into the tin or onto the sheet.
6. Bake for approx. 10 minutes.
7. Cool in tray for five minutes then pop out separating edges of each puff with knife from tray. Serve immediately.

Mindfulness



A mindfulness activity

Playing with balloons. Tell your children that the aim of this game is to keep the balloon off the ground, but have them move slowly and gently. You can tell them to pretend the

balloon is very fragile if that helps.

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 can't wait to see you all at the Spring Fair tomorrow. I know how much hard work has gone into the day. So a great big...



There have been so many things organised from ponies, to Matilda workshops, to arts and crafts and so much more.

Please look out for me, I might look a little different!

*Francesca Gallagher (Mrs)
Headteacher*