



## DIARY DATES

### March 2024

**Mon 4<sup>th</sup> – Fri 8<sup>th</sup>**

Book Week

**Thurs 7<sup>th</sup>**

World Book Day – children to dress up as a book character

YN & YR Shared Reading

Visit from Robin Ince science and space talk - Y2

**Mon 11<sup>th</sup> – Fri 15<sup>th</sup>**

The Big Plastic Count & Science Week

**Tues 12<sup>th</sup>**

Y1 Shared Reading

**Wed 13<sup>th</sup>**

Local area walk – Owls

**Thurs 14<sup>th</sup>**

Ocean VR Experience Workshop

Visit from Sunnyside Pre-School - Voles

Ashlyns Learning Ambassadors visit – Y2

**Fri 15<sup>th</sup>**

Comic Relief Day

YN Shared Reading

*Premier Sports Workshop*

**Sun 17<sup>th</sup>**

14:00 Litter Pick

**Mon 18<sup>th</sup> – Fri 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Scholastic Book Fair

**Tues 19<sup>th</sup> & Thurs 21<sup>st</sup>**

Parent Consultation

The [school calendar on our website](#) has important dates

## 1st March 2024

We have an exciting couple of weeks ahead, making this newsletter a bumper edition!

### Book Week

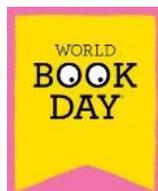
#### Reading Sea Challenge

A letter was sent to all families today, announcing our Reading Sea challenge, taking place next week. We look forward to seeing 'fish reviews' swimming back to school soon to go on our display.

#### World Book Day

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March is World Book Day.

The children are encouraged to dress up as a book character. There are lots of simple dress up ideas [here](#), to save any need to buy new items unnecessarily to suit both your pocket and the environment.



Plus, if you have not already done so, please send a named empty shoebox into school with your child by latest Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March.

There will also be a change of lunch menu, the poster is attached with the newsletter.

A World Book Day token will be sent home with your child next week. This can be used to save £1 on book purchases at our Book Fair running the week commencing 18<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> March.

### The Big Plastic Count & Science Week

For one week in March, thousands of schools will join households, community groups



and businesses to count their plastic waste. We can't wait to join them! During the week we will be doing lots of about the environment, particularly the impact of plastic in the ocean and we have even received a personal message from the authors of the book 'Odd Fish'.

During the week, thanks to FoSG, funding, the children will take part in a VR experience to 'virtually' dive down into the ocean.

### New playground equipment

A big thank you to FoSG for the new playground equipment installed over the half term. Due to the poor weather last week, we are awaiting the turf being laid, it will still need to knit and then final safety check can be completed and then the children can use it.

### Litter Pick

Our next litter pick is taking place on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March from **14:00-16:00**. Continuing our bid to 'Keep Berko Clean', if you would like to join us, please [email the office](#) to let us know. All volunteers will need to be dressed for the weather and must bring gloves. Litter picks and refuse sacks will be provided on the day.

This happens to coincide with 'The Great British Spring Clean', you can find out more [here](#).



## Pause for thought

*"If you think you are too small to make a difference, you haven't spent a night with a mosquito."*

African Proverb

## Feel Good Week

Our new biodiversity area created during Feel Good Week has been a real success. Thank you to all who



contributed and helped to prepare the space including Mr Newland; Mr Beere; Mr Tatham; Mr Kubale; Mrs Baxter; the Davis family; the Morton-Boyce family and the staff who have given time, skills, donations and money. Plus a special shout out to Mrs Wells, one of our student teachers currently doing a placement in Badgers Class, who worked with groups of children across the week and shared her expertise. We are really looking forward to seeing the garden bloom over the coming months.

## Road Crossing Patrol

Carole Lollipop will be semi retiring after the Easter holidays, when she will work the morning duty only. Herts Road Safety Team are now looking for someone to take on the afternoon shift. The advert is attached for anyone interested in applying.

## FoSG

### Berko Half Marathon & Fun Run

The Swing Gate Runners will be out in full force on Sunday as they complete the half marathon and fun run. They would love to see as many of you as possible out lining the route in support. Some will be wearing the red Swing Gate t-shirt so should be easier to spot including our very own Mrs Gallagher, who is competing in her first ever half marathon! You can still sponsor the team [here](#).

## 2024 Challenge

We have loved seeing the creative and fun ways that some of our children have been completing the 2024 Challenge! Well done to Evie in Owls for riding her bike, Daisy in Rabbits for playing football and Maisie in Hedgehogs for litter picking to raise money for school!



## Red Nose Day

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March is Red Nose Day. To celebrate the day, we ask that they wear normal school uniform and bring in a joke to share with their friends. You can make a donation to the charity on our dedicated JustGiving page [here](#). We will also collect suggested £1 cash donations on the day.



## School Learning

How many Voles can you fit in a box? 23! We had a donation of some very large boxes that Voles have enjoyed putting to creative use!



The children had pancake races, needing to run with their pancake balanced on their 'pan' before tossing it and





running back. Then they made carrot and raisin pancakes for snack time. They all enjoyed Pancake Day in Voles.

Linked to their learning about the Very Hungry Caterpillar story, Squirrels class have been tasting different foods and talking about words to describe the taste of them.



They said the crackers were cheesy, hard, crunchy and salty. Squirry cream was foamy, fluffy, bubbly, creamy and milky. They also tasted a slice of lemon which they described as sour, juicy, spicy and cold. They also wrote menus for the caterpillar to choose a meal from, ideas included lettuce, hamburgers, watermelon, carrot cake and ice cream.



The Owls children have begun their unit on invasion games with Premier Sports. For today's session they have focused on safely moving around in their own space. The children pretended they were in their own bubbles to help them to do this.



Owls have also really enjoyed creating their new airport role play, making their own



signs. They have helped decide what goes where and what they need to create an airport in Owls.

We were so impressed with the creativity in Year 2, when the children designed and made

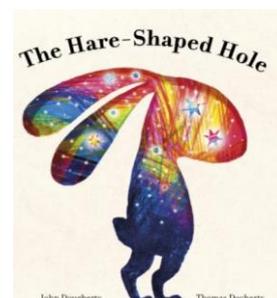
puppets. In history, they had been learning about life for Victorian children, considering what toys children might have played with in the past. They then thought carefully in design and technology about how to measure, cut and join materials.



Congratulations to Badgers Class who have been working as a team to demonstrate safety, respect and kindness. They filled up their pasta point jar and voted to bring their bikes and scooters to school for the afternoon.

## Book review by Mrs Marshall

*The Hare-Shaped Hole* by John Dougherty is a beautiful rhyming story which explores death and grief as Bertle the turtle learns to cope with the loss of his best friend, Hertle the hare.



In the book, Hertle disappears and all that is left is a hare shaped hole in the air. Bertle looks everywhere for his friend but all he can see is a hare shaped hole. Bertle is angry and sad. Then, he meets Gerda, a bear, who encourages Bertle to fill the hare shaped hole with all the wonderful memories of Hertle. Bertle gradually starts to feel better. This is a good book to share with a child who is mourning a friendship loss or a death.

## 20mph Zone Consultation

A reminder that the deadline to make a comment for this scheme is Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March. The link to the survey is [here](#). You can read more by clicking the links below:

- [Consultation plan](#)
- [Consultation letter](#)



We are in full support of making our roads safer for the children travelling to and from school and hope you are able to support this campaign too.

## Wellbeing in Action Healthy Eating Smashed broad beans on toast



### Ingredients

- 300g broad beans, blanched and double-podded
- a handful rocket
- 1 clove garlic
- 30g pecorino or vegetarian alternative, plus extra to serve
- ½ lemon, tested and juiced
- 75ml extra-virgin olive oil
- 6 slices sourdough, toasted
- a pinch chilli flakes, optional.

### Method

1. In a food processor blitz ¼ of the broad beans, all the rocket, garlic, pecorino, lemon zest and juice with the olive oil and some seasoning. Add the remaining broad beans and pulse a few times to leave it chunky.
2. Spoon onto the toast, sprinkle with chilli flakes and drizzle with olive oil.

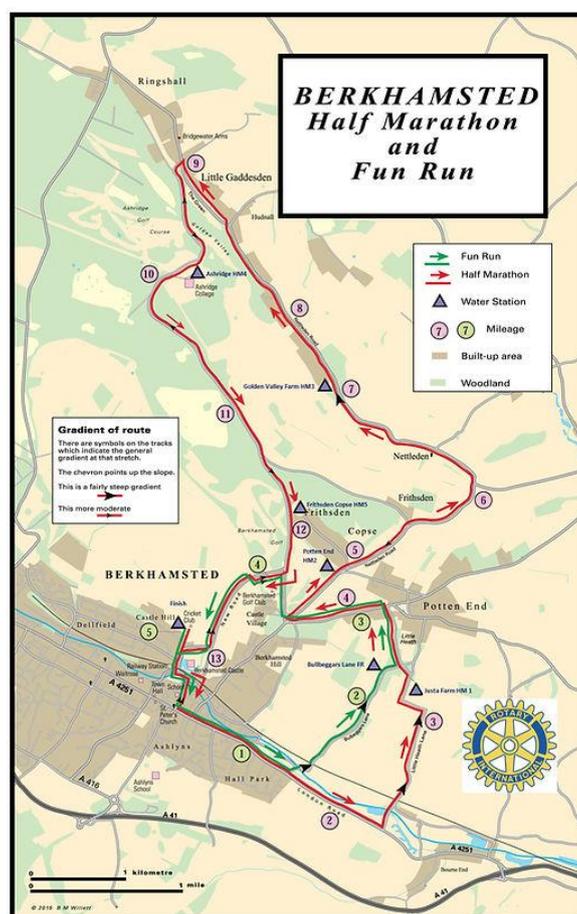
### Mindfulness

#### Sound meditation....

Introduce a peaceful pause to your child's day with our kids mindfulness activities. Snuggle down somewhere safe, close your eyes and listen to all the sounds around you. What can you hear? The clink of coffee cups, snippets of conversation, sounds from nature? Get curious and feel the buzz of life around you.

### And finally...

A BIG THANK YOU for your kind wishes and words of encouragement this week for me and the rest of the Swing Gate Runners. As I mentioned previously, I am not confident in finishing in the required three hours but will hopefully get to the end no matter how long it takes. So, if you are at a loose end on Sunday, the whole team would love to see you along the route cheering us on, I might need a boost! Please see the route below.



Thank you also for your kind donations so far.  
Have a lovely weekend.

*Francesca Gallagher (Mrs)  
Headteacher*