



DIARY DATES

March 2024

Sun 17th

14:00 Litter Pick

Mon 18th – Fri 22nd

Scholastic Book Fair

Tues 19th & Thurs 21st

Parent Consultations

Mon 25th – Fri 28th

D&T Week

Tues 26th

Visit from Sarah Tizzard, Sunnyside church – YN & Y2

Wed 27th

Shared Reading – YN & YR

Voles Class walk

Thurs 28th

Deadline to apply for Nursery Admissions for 2024/25

13:30 Early finish for Easter holidays (note Thomas Coram finishes at 13:00 today)

Fri 29th March –

Tues 16th April

Easter holidays

April 2024

Tues 16th

14:00 SATS Parent Workshop

Wed 17th

Balancebike course – YN

Fri 19th

Class Photo Day

Nursery Admission allocation day

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

15th March 2024

Book Fair & Book Week

Next week, our annual book fair is at school. After pick up (morning session for Voles), we will be inviting families to browse and buy books. This is a brilliant way to raise money for books for the school as we receive a small donation for every purchase made. You will also be able to redeem your book tokens.

Reading Sea Challenge

We have enjoyed seeing all the book reviews swimming their way back to school. They have made a



beautiful display in the library.

World Book Day

The children loved World Book Day, thank you to all for the fantastic effort in supporting your child to foster a love for reading. Here is our very own Miss Trunchball and Matilda!



Reminders

New entrance arrangements

Thank you for adapting to the new drop off and pick up arrangements. The new gate system is working well, though,

we wanted to remind everyone that Gate 2 access to the car park is for vehicles only.

Breakfast Club

A reminder that Breakfast Club **must** be booked by 14:00 on the previous working day before the session takes place. We have also sent out an email reminder. As we have had a number of unbooked children arriving at school, from Tuesday 16th April, we will be implementing a no entry system for unexpected children.

Arriving late to school

If your child will be late arriving at school, after 09:00 and you have not pre-booked a school provided lunch with the office, you will need to supply your child with a packed lunch. We also sent out an email with regards to this.

The Spring Fair needs you!

Save the date Saturday 8th June will when the Annual Spring Fair Extravaganza takes place. As the old adage goes, many hands make light work, FoSG need your support and without it there will be no fair, which will be a real disappointment! To find out more, please email

friendsofswinggate@gmail.com.

Litter Pick

Final call for litter pickers to join us. Come and join staff and families to help 'Keep Berko Clean' on Sunday 17th March from 14:00. You will need to be dressed for the weather and bring sturdy gloves. Litter picks and refuse sacks will be provided on the day.



Pause for thought

*"Children are not thing to be moulded,
but are people to be unfolded."*

Jess Lair, American educator and author

The Big Plastic Count & Science Week

We are looking forward to seeing your tally results for the Big Plastic Count, [#TheBigPlasticCount](#). The children loved being transported to the virtual ocean when taking part in the VR Oceans workshop linked with their learning about the environmental impact of plastic waste. There were no wet feet but lots of gasps in awe as a jellyfish 'swam' by! Teddy in Squirrels was so



inspired he made his own headset at home complete with interchangeable 'scenes'. Thank you once again to FoSG for funding this event.

All of the classes contributed to creating this fabulous 'The Odd Fish' display.



External After School Clubs

We will be sending an email to families to book for the summer term external after school clubs next Tuesday at 17:00.

Class photo

On Friday 19th April our new photographer will be in school taking class photos. We are discussing the possibility of those who were disappointed with the autumn term individual photos having a new individual shot taken. Further information will follow.

Red Nose Day

There has been some fun joke shared in school today. Thank you to those who have donated to Comic Relief, if you would still like to contribute, you can do so via our JustGiving page [here](#). Mrs Gallagher's favourite joke so far is...

Q 'Why did the golfer have two pairs of pants?
A 'Because he has a hole in one!'

School Learning

Voiles made flatfish pizzas and starfish biscuits ready for their visitors from Sunnyside this week.



Year 2 have been learning lots about 3D shapes. They have been spotting faces, edges and vertices. Did you know that a cube has 6 square-shaped faces, 12 edges and 8 vertices? The children even had a go at building their own 3D shapes.

They are also ready to impress everyone at home with their cookery skills. They designed, made and evaluated pizzas. They used pitta bread bases and were challenged to include lots of tasty vegetable toppings. Well done, Badgers and Foxes! Your pizzas look delicious.





On Thursday a group of Science Learning Ambassadors from Ashlyns visited Year 2 to complete fun tasks and activities with them.



Book review by Mrs Sutton

The Odd Fish by Naomi and James. Odd Fish is an awesome eco- adventure story about plastic in the ocean. The authors have captured an important message about looking after our seas through some warm and funny characters. The strange new fish in the ocean is the bottle and all the creatures help it to find it's family as they journey through caves and coral on their mission. Our class loved talking about ways we can be more careful at home and the beach to make sure we keep the oceans plastic free.

Wellbeing in Action

Healthy Eating

What you will need to make Easy Homemade Playdough:

- 3 cups of flour
 - 1 cup of salt
 - 1 cup of cornflour
 - 1/2 a cup of oil
 - 4 tsp cream of tartar
 - 2 – 2½ cups of Boiling Water
 - Food colouring
 - A bowl, spoon and a spatula
- Makes 1.3kg, equivalent of 12 standard 4oz pots of playdough*

Instructions

1. **Prep your ingredients**
Weigh out and measure your ingredients and get a large bowl and wooden spoon ready. Also pop on the kettle.
2. **Mix it Up!**
Add all the ingredients apart from the food colouring and water. Add the food colouring then the water if you are

making a large batch of one colour. Or add water, split mixture and then add in colour afterwards.

3. **Parent Help (if you are making with your child)**

Adult supervision is needed for the boiling water, but apart from that a great child friendly recipe.

4. **Give it a knead.**

Let the mixture cool down slightly then knead the playdough until it's soft and squishy. Add water if too dry and add flour if too wet.

Mindfulness

Squish Easter Playdough

Use the easy play dough recipe below and make some calming Easter themed playdough. Use yellow colouring and add lemon essential oil for a calming, energizing smell. Then try making a bunny rabbit, Easter egg or baby chick. Add lots of fun crafty bits, like pipe cleaners, googly eyes, feathers and cotton balls and let children get imaginative with their creations.

And finally...

My family and I have been busy counting plastic waste at home this week and I was astounded by the amount of single use, non-recyclable plastic, even though we try and use recyclable materials. Hopefully the data that we provide will help make a change.

Thank you for all your kind wishes re the Berkhamsted Half marathon, yippee! I did it and finished in time. Along with all the other Swing Gate runners. You also helped raise a fantastic £1,520, which will benefit the school.

Have a lovely weekend.

*Francesca Gallagher (Mrs)
Headteacher*