



19th October 2018

DIARY DATES

October 2018

Fri 19th Oct
Nursery Teddy Bears Picnic

Mon 22nd Oct
Voles Class train trip

Tues 23rd Oct
PE Workshop KS1

Wed 24th Oct
PE Workshop EYFS

Thurs 25th Oct
Owls and Squirrels class train trip

Fri 26th October
INSET Day

Mon 29th Oct
Half term

November 2018

Mon 5th Nov
Return to school

Tue 6th Nov
Whole School Karate coaching

Tue 6th Nov
Diwali Assembly

Fri 9th Nov
09:30 Prospective Parents Open Day

Thurs 15th Nov
EYFS PE Workshop

Fri 16th Nov
Dress down day for Children in Need

Fri 16th Nov
FoSG Quiz Night

Castle Day

On Friday 5th October, Year 2 had a fantastic opportunity to experience medieval life. Their day began by walking to Berkhamsted castle in their costumes, and spending the morning learning about the local history. In the afternoon, the children took part in a medieval banquet, trying foods that were common during this time period. The children, staff and parent helpers looked fantastic in their costumes.



PE Workshop

All KS1 children enjoyed a PE workshop this week learning new skills to enhance their flexibility. They will also have the opportunity for another PE workshop next week. These extra PE coaching sessions take place in addition to weekly PE provision and are funded with our school ports premium money.

Staff Changes

Wednesday 17th October was Mrs Marshall's last working day at Swing Gate School for a while. Hopefully she will have some well-earned rest before the appearance of her new arrival. Mrs Ayres will be covering Mrs Marshall's maternity leave. She has already visited Badgers class to meet the children and will be teaching on Wednesday 24th October. She will then cover Mrs Marshall's usual days from 5th November.

We will also be saying farewell to Mrs Coombs on Thursday 25th October. After being with Swing Gate School for eight years in a number of roles, we will be sad to see her go. Good luck in your new role Mrs Coombs.

Donations of fancy dress clothing

We are looking for donations of fancy dress clothing for lunch time play. The children love the clothing that we currently have, but if you have any fancy dress items that your children have grown out of, please bring them to the school office. The children really do have fun dressing up and developing imaginative games.

We are also looking for child size wellies and cooking utensils for playing in the mud.



PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

'Creativity is intelligence having fun.'

Albert Einstein

Animal Visit for Year 1

On Monday 8th October, Mr Halsey visited Year 1 with his animals. He spent time showing the frog and snake to the children, explaining how to look after the animals and giving the children time to touch and interact with them. This links with the Amazing Animals theme.



Future dates for your diary

This year's school pantomime will be held on Monday 3rd December.

Christmas presentations will be held week commencing 10th December.

Monday 10th December: Foundation Stage performance, am. Year 2 dress rehearsal for TC siblings, pm.

Tuesday 11th December: Foundation stage performance, am. Year 1 dress rehearsal for TC siblings, pm.

Thursday 13th December: Year 2 performance, am. Year 1 performance, pm.

Friday 14th December: Year 1 performance, am. Year 2 performance, pm.

A letter will be sent home closer to the time, confirming times and ticket allocation.

Childcare survey

HCC would like your feedback on the childcare options available to you and your family. If you are a parent or carer of a child between the ages of 0-14 years then we would like to hear from you.

Please may we ask you to complete the following survey by the **Friday 30th**

November 2018:

<https://surveys.hertfordshire.gov.uk/s/JH FVI/>

Your responses will be incorporated into this year's childcare sufficiency report that the council is required to produce on an annual basis. The report helps us to:

- establish the sufficiency of places across Hertfordshire
- support the sustainability of places
- support the development of places where needed.

Stop means Stop

There is a campaign running this week to highlight the importance of the School Crossing Patrol. Stop means stop and can result in a fine up to £1000 and 3 penalty points for failure to stop. Please keep yourselves, your children and Carole safe.

Reminders

Pets should not be brought into the school unless permission has been granted, this includes the entrance gates to the school where children have to walk past. Due to a number of children and adults having pet allergies, we need to keep them safe. This includes puppies and kittens however cute they may be.

*Francesca Gallagher (Mrs)
Headteacher*