

Swing Gate News

26th Jan 2018



Diary Dates

JANUARY 2018

Mon 29th Jan
Skipping workshop

Tue 30th Jan
KS1 Game On PE coaching

Wed 31st Jan
EYFS Game On PE coaching

FEBRUARY 2018

Thurs 1st Feb
KS1 Fruit workshop

Fri 2nd Feb
NSPCC Mathematics Enterprise

Mon 5th Feb
FoSG Skip and bounce

Tue 6th Feb
Karate workshop

Wed 7th Feb
BMX workshop & assembly

Thurs 8th Feb
EYFS Mr Miller PE coaching

Fri 9th Feb
Speed stacking

Fri 9th Feb 14:00-15:00
Parent workshop - Routines & boundaries

12th – 16th Feb
Half Term

Tue 20th Feb
KS1 PE Coaching

Wed 21st Feb
EYFS PE coaching

Thurs 22nd Feb 9:30
Nursery open day

Healthy Living Weeks

We have a very exciting and busy two weeks ahead, filled with lots of inspiring workshops and engaging activities. From Thursday 25th January to Friday 9th February we will be having a whole school focus on healthy living and wellbeing. Below are some of the learning experiences we have planned.

Mathematics Enterprise

On Friday 2nd Feb we are taking part in the NSPCC number day. The children have begun their class enterprise projects, ready for the enterprise event on Friday from 2:30pm. Each class has a budget of £10 and is aiming to make and sell home made products. All proceeds are going to the NSPCC. Don't forget that it is also a dress down day – come dressed to school in numbers, shapes or patterns to support their mathematics work.

Game On PE Coaching

The Reception and KS1 children will be learning a new sport called handball with the Game On coaches. After learning the skills the children will take part in mini handball games within their class groups.

Skipping Workshops

Using some of our skipping equipment we will be learning the essential skills for skipping, as well as having mini competitions to see how many skips we can complete in one minute. We will also have a teachers skipping competition in assembly!

Fruit workshops

Foundation Stage started learning about healthy living on Thursday with a fruit workshop by Histons, a fruit and veg company, who provide the school kitchen with fresh produce. The children were given the opportunity to see and taste a variety of fruits including dragon fruit, physalis and pomegranate. They also had a go on the special 5-a-day blender bikes, pedaling as fast as they could to blend the fruits to make a smoothie! KS1 will also have the opportunity to take part in this workshop next Thursday.



The starting grid for life!



PAUSE for THOUGHT

“Champions are made from something they have deep inside them – a desire, a dream, a vision.”

*Muhammad Ali
American professional boxer*

BMX workshop

In the second week of our healthy living theme we will welcome Mike Mullern, a former BMX world champion, to host a day of BMX fun for the Year 2 children. The day will start with a whole school assembly, where Mike will show us some of his best BMX tricks and will be followed by small workshops for all Year 2 children. The Year 2 children are invited to bring their own bikes and scooters, along with safety helmets into school that day, although not compulsory. Please can children bring bikes into school via the usual school playground entrance where they can be stored in a secure area at the end of the playground.

A quote, from Mike Mullern,

“I believe sport has the power to motivate young people in a very positive way. As well as coaching BMX I spend much of my time working as an athlete mentor helping young people to achieve their goals and become the best they can be.”



Karate workshop and Mr Miller PE coaching

We will also welcome Mr Keegan into school to teach Reception and KS1 children some karate moves and to talk about self discipline and strength.

Mr Miller will be coming into school to provide the Nursery and Reception children with some engaging and challenging PE activities based on stamina and agility.

FoSG Sponsored Skip and Bounce

Our annual Swing Gate School sponsored Skip and Bounce will also take place as part of the Healthy Living theme, on Monday 5th Feb. The children will be challenging themselves to see how many skips or bounces they can complete in a given time. All sponsorship money goes to FoSG to help support the school.

Speed Stacking Competition

To end the Healthy Living theme all children will take part in Speed Stacking workshops where they will learn the skill of stacking cups to make pyramids and how to position them for best stability. Speed Stacking is a wonderful way for the children to improve their hand-eye co-ordination while having fun and this in turn will support the further development of hand writing skills. There will be class competitions for the quickest speed stacker!



The starting grid for lifelong learning



Swing Gate Facebook

We now have a Facebook page where we shall be uploading photos and exciting information to share with you. Find us as Swing Gate School and follow our page.

The School and Eco Council

Our School and Eco Council have been busy working together and thinking of ways to improve the school community. They have already planned how to make recycling more efficient within the classrooms and last week they were out cleaning up the outdoor environment using litter pickers.



Year 2 Choir

Some of the Year 2 children are already practicing new songs as part of the Year 2 choir with Ms Keough. The choir meetings take place every Friday lunchtime, and the Year 2 children are invited to join in.



School Office

The school believes strongly in good communication. Unfortunately, it is not always possible for staff to be in the office when you phone into the school. Please can I ask that you leave a message, which will be picked up and responded to.

Nursery admissions

From this year all community schools must administer Nursery places. Swing Gate school has been working with other schools in Berkhamsted in order to have a common procedure with common dates across the town. Key dates are:

5th Feb – applications open – there is a link on the school website for the application form which will go live on this date

16th Mar – closing date for on-time applications

25th Apr – Nursery places are offered to families by email

4th May – deadline for accepting Nursery places.

From 4th May onwards we can continue to accept applications and allocate Nursery places to children, based on availability.

We are holding open mornings for prospective parents to meet me, tour the school and gather information. These are on:

Weds 31st Jan at 2pm

Thurs 22nd Feb at 9:30am and

Tues 6th Mar at 9:30am.

If you are interested in joining please contact the school office to book your place.

*Francesca Gallagher (Mrs)
Headteacher*