



## DIARY DATES

### March 2024

Fri 29<sup>th</sup> March -

Tues 16<sup>th</sup> April

Easter holidays

### April 2024

Tues 16<sup>th</sup>

08:30 First day of summer term 1

14:00 SATS Parent Workshop

Wed 17<sup>th</sup>

Balancebike course - YN

Parent talk - YN

Fri 19<sup>th</sup>

Class Photo Day (& pre-booked individual photos)

Nursery Admission allocation day

Wk beg Mon 22<sup>nd</sup>

External After School Clubs begin

Wed 24<sup>th</sup>

Balancebike course - YN

Thurs 25<sup>th</sup>

Balancebike course - YR

Shared Reading - YN & Y1

Parent talk - YN

Fri 26<sup>th</sup>

Deadline for accepting Nursery 2024/25 places

09:00 Parent Workshop

Mon 29<sup>th</sup>

Reception Screening School Nursing Team

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

## 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024

As the weather begins to improve and more of spring starts to appear we can celebrate the end of a wonderful spring term.



A huge thank you and well done to our green heroes for their recent epic efforts clearing litter from around the local area!

## Deadline for Nursery 2024/25 Admissions

Today is the deadline to apply for a place in our Nursery for September 2024. To make an application you will need to complete the online form on our website [here](#). Applications after today will be considered 'in-year' but you may still be able to get a place.

## Staff update

Congratulations to Mrs Marshall who will be taking up an appointment as Deputy Headteacher at a local Dacorum school. Her new role is effective from the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2024. Although we will miss her very much, we wish her well in her new venture.

## Reminders

### 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. **We have had a number of children arriving at the club that have not been booked in, from Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April, we will be implementing a no entry system for unexpected arrivals.** This is to ensure that we have the correct staffing ratios to keep your children safe.

## 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 as meal orders go to the kitchen at 09:00. An email was sent out earlier this term.

## Uniform

Your child's PE kit and plimsolls will come home today. Please also check everything still fits as there are a lot of plimsolls that are ill fitting or broken. The children wear these for indoor PE and around school so they present a huge trip or slip hazard.

## Legoland School Trip

Following a wonderfully positive response to the proposed whole school trip to Legoland this summer, we confirm it will be going ahead on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June. The final details are being arranged and we will send further information at the start of next term.



### Pause for thought

*"Spring: A lovely reminder of how beautiful change can truly be."*

Unknown

### New date for Spring Fair

The Spring Fair has moved to Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June. FoSG still need all the support and help that you can offer so to find out more about how to help, donate a prize for the raffle, run a stall, please email [friendsofswinggate@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofswinggate@gmail.com).

### Parent Workshop

On Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April at 09:00, Suzanne Stace will be delivering a parent workshop. She will share a variety of practical strategies, which you can incorporate into your daily routine to support your child's mental health and wellbeing. Suzanne left her role as a local Headteacher to fully focus on her passion for supporting children's health and wellbeing through her business 'Unlocking Children's Potential'. We would highly recommend that you attend this workshop as she is truly inspiring and we guarantee you will leave with many simple ideas with which you can try at home. Thanks to FoSG for funding this workshop.

### FoSG 2024 Challenge Champions

Well done to all the children who have taken part completing sponsored challenges to raise essential funds for FoSG. This week we want to give a shout out to:

- Nyla-Rae who held a bake sale
- Charlotte, Poppy and George who completed a litter pick (Poppy & George also held a toy and cake sale making a fantastic £80.16!)



- Joseph held a plant sale with plants he'd propagated

- Arabella ran 10k, or as she prefers 10,000 metres, in one week without stopping
- Clara and Connie, Catherine, Sammy, Tilly and Harry all completed 24 laps of the school one weekend. They endured four seasons in one day and still managed to raise over £500 so far.



### The Big Plastic Count

Thank you to everyone who took part in our Big Plastic Count. We will be revealing the results after Easter.

### School Learning

Voles have been busy making Supertato characters and visiting the Eco garden area.



In maths this week Squirrels class have been learning about doubling. Following on from their prior learning about the composition of numbers, doubling is a 'special case' of when two equal parts combine to make a 'whole'.



The children used their skills of comparison to identify when two sets were equal or NOT equal. Then thinking about doubling, they saw a range of familiar representations



including dice and fingers to explore the idea of '2 equal parts', and then found the whole by combining these parts.

Year 1 had a fabulous Easter breakfast this morning. They made overnight porridge yesterday that they added fruit and honey to today. The children worked really hard to prepare, cut and create their perfect porridge.

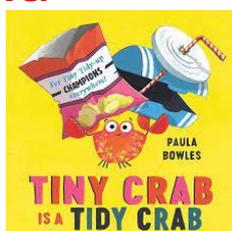


We have had such an exciting time in Year 2 with a variety of learning experiences connected to our book *The Odd Fish*. We were even able to take part in a brilliant Virtual Reality experience, exploring a variety of creatures that live in our oceans. Thank you FoSG.



## Book review by Miss Oliver

'Tiny crab is a tidy crab' by Paula Bowles. Taking part in The Big Plastic count inspired me to share this book in Squirrels and at home with my children. It is about a tiny crab who lives on an idyllic beach. He is happy living alone on his beautiful beach but sometimes gets a bit lonely. One day he invites the local animals to come and play on the beach, they all enjoy a fun day together, but at the end of the day everyone leaves and the tiny crab's beach is covered in rubbish. He spends all night cleaning it up and recycling the plastic. Only to find that the next day all the



animals come back, bringing more stuff and leaving more rubbish! An upset tiny crab then teaches his friends all about caring for our environment and why it is important to tidy up after ourselves.

## 'Turn on the Subtitles' campaign

Turning on quality subtitles means your child will read a staggering number of words. Put them on and your child will read the equivalent number of words that are in all the Harry Potter books, all of the Lord of the Rings, all of the Chronicles of Narnia and everything Roald Dahl wrote, combined!



Research has shown that it can double the chance of your child leaving school as a proficient reader. You can turn them on for the whole family or most streaming services will now allow you to do it just for children's profiles. Perhaps, after all, there *is* a magic button.... Find out more [here](#).

## Parenting Courses and Support in Dacorum – Summer 2024

The [Summer 2024 Parenting Courses and Support Brochure](#) for Dacorum is now available to be viewed or download from their website.

## Library event for KS2 children

Berkhamsted Library is running a Page One Graphic Novel course for KS2 children. If you have an older child that might be interested the attached flyer has all the information.

## New 'Mum's guide' to Berkhamsted

A '[Mum's Guide](#)' recently launched and is hoping to be the one-stop site for everything you need to know about Berkhamsted, whether you are a parent, parent-to-be, carer or grandparent. On the site you can find information including clubs and classes for all ages, pregnancy services and support, days out, local events and family health.



## Wellbeing in Action

### Healthy Eating

Tofu scramble

#### Ingredients

- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 1 small onion, finely sliced
- 1 large garlic clove, crushed
- ½ tsp turmeric
- 1 tsp ground cumin
- ½ tsp sweet smoked paprika
- 280g extra firm tofu
- 100g cherry tomatoes, halved
- ½ small bunch parsley, chopped
- rye bread, to serve, (optional)



#### Method

1. Heat the oil in a frying pan over a medium heat and gently fry the onion for 8 -10 mins or until golden brown and sticky. Stir in the garlic, turmeric, cumin and paprika and cook for 1 min.
2. Roughly mash the tofu in a bowl using a fork, keeping some pieces chunky. Add to

the pan and fry for 3 mins. Raise the heat, then tip in the tomatoes, cooking for 5 mins more or until they begin to soften. Fold the parsley through the mixture. Serve on its own or with toasted rye bread (not gluten-free), if you like.

### Mindfulness

Have a look at the ['50 things to do before you are 5'](#) website - you can also download the app. A great mindfulness activity is Number 21- Gigglebox. We hope you enjoy it.



### And finally...

What a busy spring term we have had! The children have been inspired by a wealth of activities the teachers have planned and are growing in confidence and ability.

Have a lovely Easter break.

*Francesca Gallagher (Mrs)  
Headteacher*