



# SAUNCEY WOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL



**Interim Head Teacher: Miss Eileen Anderson**

**Address:** Pickford Hill, Harpenden, Herts AL5 5HL

**Tel:** 01582-621514 **Fax:** 01582-621485

**Email:** [admin@saunceywood.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@saunceywood.herts.sch.uk)

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I want to start this week's newsletter with a well done to our Y6 children. SATs week is not the easiest of weeks for Y6 but I have been very impressed with the calm and measured approach they have taken throughout the week. They listened carefully to instructions and they used their time well to do their best in each test. Well done Y6. I also want to say well done and thank you to Y5 because they have had to spend much of the week working very quietly so as not to distract the Y6 children when they were doing their tests – they did this brilliantly, so well done Y5.

You received a letter from the school governors on Tuesday informing you that Mr Brewis has been appointed as Sauncey Wood's new headteacher from September. Mr Brewis and I have been in contact this week so we can start putting dates in the diary for him to visit the school next half term so everyone can start getting to know him and for me to give him a detailed handover of the information he will need to know in September. I explained this to the children during today's assembly and I also told them that Mr Brewis will be in school on Monday to be part of the interview panel to select a new Deputy Headteacher. If he has the time between interviews and other activities taking place as part of the selection process, I will take him on a quick tour of the school so he can say hello to each class.

I mentioned in last week's newsletter that developing a whole school strategy for behaviour management will be a focus over the coming half term. This is something else I explained to the children during today's assembly as they will be involved in some activities next week that will help me to write the new Behaviour Policy. As well as activities the children will be doing in class, the School Council reps will be meeting with me and Mrs Gardener next week to have further discussions about behaviour and I will also be meeting with the House Captains to make decisions on a consistent approach to house points and giving a higher profile to the house system. As I said in last week's newsletter, I will keep you updated on the work we are doing. We all know that there are aspects of behaviour management that need to improve at Sauncey Wood but everyone also needs to understand that improvements cannot be made overnight – they take time so that everyone (children, staff and parents) understands the changes and so that the changes can become routine.

Linked to behaviour, I feel I need to mention social media and the way it has been used by some parents in recent weeks. When there are difficulties between groups of children in school, it is not helpful when parents use WhatsApp to communicate their dissatisfaction to each other. A far better approach is to listen to your individual children and then raise your individual concerns with the school. I do understand that some of you feel your concerns have not always been acted upon in the past. None of us can change the past, but we can change how things are dealt with in the future. We need to build trust and confidence in each other so that parents can approach the school knowing they will be listened to and their concerns dealt with in a fair and consistent manner. This will form part of the new Behaviour Policy.

## **Fabulous Learning**

This week's fabulous learning comes from Y2 and Reception.

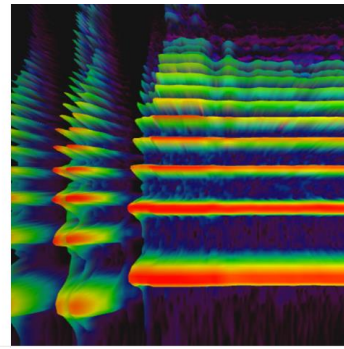
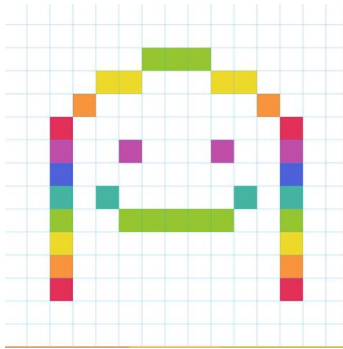
This half term, Year 2 have been exploring how computers can be used to generate music. The children started by listening to The Planets by Gustav Holst and considering how music makes us feel. The children had some wonderful ideas after listening to Mars and Venus and comparing what the two different pieces reminded them of:

Mars: 'it sounds like marching steps,' 'it sounds dramatic' 'strong' 'moving' 'I think of the colour red.'

Jupiter: 'it is smoother and quiet,' 'calm,' 'peaceful,' 'funny.'

When they found they were comparing The Bringer of War and the Bringer of Jollity, their ideas made sense!

As part of their learning, the children have enjoyed exploring Chrome Music Lab, a great (and free!) online resource for creating music. So far, they have explored Spectrogram, Rhythm and Song Maker.



However, their favourite so far has been Kandinsky. This program looks at how different shapes can create sounds - varying the size and type of shape creates different music. With Kandinsky, you can even build your own choir! <https://musiclab.chromeexperiments.com/>



Our reception children have been working hard in curious learning time this week. We have introduced a 'Model Gallery' where the children can display their construction models and latest creations! This has provided a motivating and meaningful reason to write. The children have risen to this challenge, and many have been making signs to explain what their model is and who it was made by. It has been lovely to see the children apply their phonic knowledge to their writing and also show pride in their achievements. Other notable learning this week has been the high levels of co-operation and teamwork between the children who joined forces to build flower gardens. The adults also noticed that the children have been interested in hospitals and doctors this week, so have created a doctors surgery role-play to the



classroom. The children have shown real care in looking after each other and have also been writing doctors records. Fantastic learning Ash Class!



Note from Miss Anderson: one of the highlights of my week was a visit four of the reception children made to my office to show me their models and the labels they had written. Lovely learning Ash Class – thank you for sharing it with me.



**The 3 Rights of Sauncey Wood:** This week we have been thinking about inclusion as this forms part of our 3<sup>rd</sup> right: The Right to be Safe and Feel Included. Here are the children's ideas

### What can people do to help you feel included?

Ask you if you want to play with them

Talk to you

Smile at you

Help you if you have a problem

Share toys and equipment with you

Say hello

Read with you

Sit beside you at lunchtime

### Why do you want to feel included?

Being included helps us feel happy

We should learn to get along with everyone

So we have someone to play with if our best isn't in school

It helps to make us feel safer

The work we have done this term on the 3 Rights of Sauncey Wood, will form part of our new Behaviour Policy

I hope you all have a lovely weekend

Eileen Anderson

Interim Headteacher