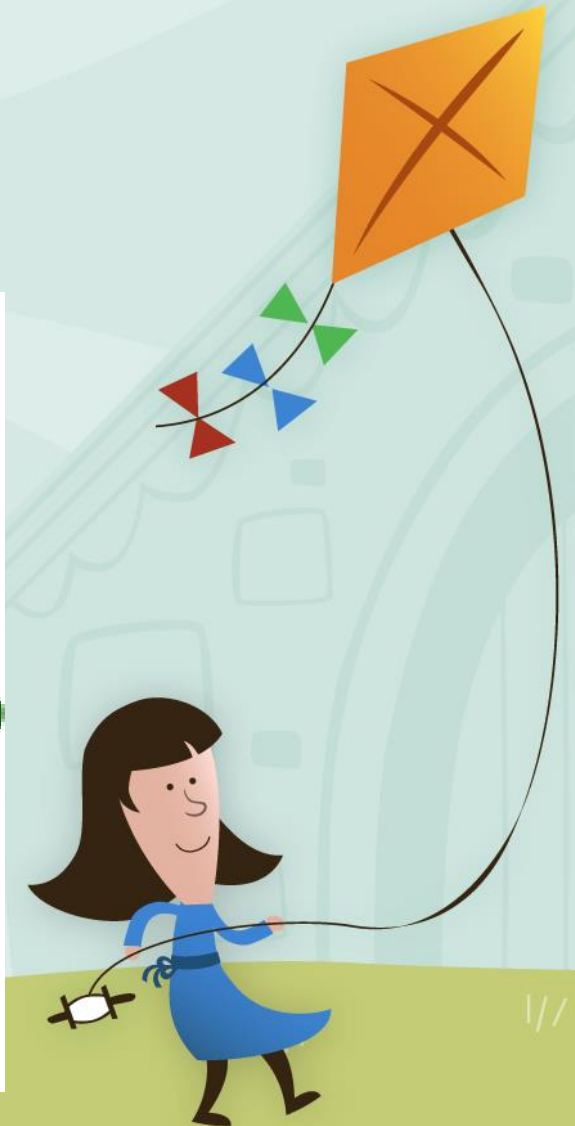


Welcome to Sauncey Wood Primary School

September 2023



Aims of this this evening...



- ✧ To explain what will happen when your child starts school with us.
- ✧ To meet the team.
- ✧ To explain a little more about the EYFS and how we work- The Curiosity Approach.
- ✧ To discover more about Tapestry.
- ✧ To find out about Forest School.
- ✧ To explain more about School Uniform.
- ✧ To understand the importance of working in partnership.
- ✧ To explain the daily routine in the EYFS.
- ✧ To discuss what will happen next including transition and home visits.
- ✧ To explain snack and lunchtime arrangements.



Meet The Team...

I am Miss Harkness and will teach Ash class for 1 day a week as well as being Head teacher. I will also be teaching Forest school. I love helping the children settle into school and enjoy supporting them to develop a love of learning.



I am Miss Atkinson and I work closely with Miss Harkness to help with your child's learning. I love playing and having fun! My favourite things to do is cook with the children and to have lots of fun.

I am Miss Hamit and I am looking forward to teaching you. I am a new teacher so will be Learning with you. I love music and being creative.



I am Miss Fox and I am looking forward to being in Reception this year. I love being a bit crazy and having lots of fun! I also enjoy role play and building.



What is the Early Years Foundation Stage?

In the foundation stage, we follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Guidance which sets out the learning and care that your child will receive. This document contains all the ages and stages and early learning goals from birth to 5 that children experience and should achieve by the end of the Foundation Stage. This document was updated a few years ago. The focus shifted to staff spending more time with the children rather than completing lots of paperwork which is fantastic news and means we get to play and explore alongside your children. This fits perfectly with our holistic approach to ensuring your child has the best school experiences.

As a team, we work together to meet all our children's individual needs as we know all children are at different stages in their development and progress is unique to every child.

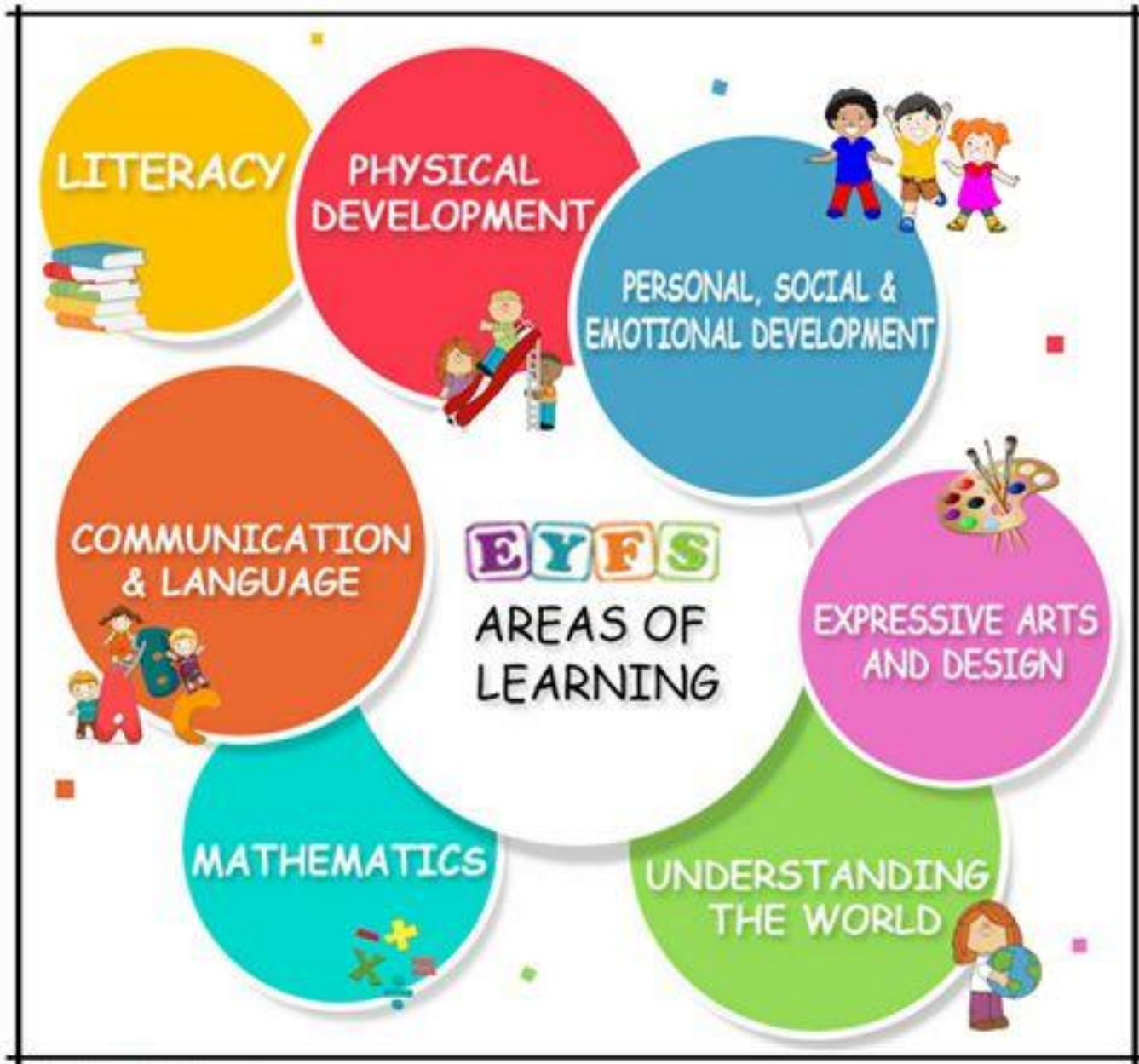
The Reception class is run in a flexible, well resourced and well managed way to ensure your children receive the best possible start to their school careers- we plan for and match teaching and learning experiences to the children's interests developing core skills and through an holistic approach (the whole child). We encourage our children to learn by being curious, asking questions and developing independence.

It is essential we have lots of fun, learn together and memorable experiences to further our learning and ensure children make progress.



RBA- Initial Assessment





At the end of the school year you will receive an EYFS profile/report for your child, detailing whether they have met the early learning goals for each area of learning.

You will be told whether your child's development is emerging or expected in relation to the 17 goals across the 7 areas of learning.

More details about the EYFS Profile are available from www.foundationyears.org.uk.

Your feedback and contributions from home on where your child is achieving on the Profile is really important to us to help us to inform our assessments e.g. Tapestry- you know your child best.



How do we embed the Curiosity Approach at SWP?

We set up the environment daily for children to explore the joy of being curious as they have access to real natural resources to spark awe and wonder in everyday play and learning. Children have access to a wide range of loose parts and upcycled materials to allow them to use their imaginations to create and explore the process rather than the product.



Children learn and explore by using their senses to explore the world through natural resources and messy play, technology play and a collection of enchanting resources whilst leading their own learning in the direction they wish. The classroom is set up to reflect the home environment, with all natural tones- it is calm and tranquil even with 30 pupils in it. Play and exploration is always at the centre of our setting without the distraction of bright coloured decorations and one use or predictable resources. Children's mindfulness and wellbeing is at the forefront of all learning and children enjoy the calm home-like environment because they can relate it to home.



Supporting learning at home- Curiosity style

Families are able to follow the Curiosity Approach at home by involving children in the everyday running of the household. Children can be encouraged to help;

- prepare meals and set the table
- supporting with home maintenance such as sweeping a floor or recycling empty packaging
- keeping the garden tidy
- hanging out the washing
- keeping their room tidy

All of the above allows children the skills they needs to practically succeed in life. Life-skills are key. Provide children with a range of loose parts to explore and upcycled materials to allow children to explore using their senses and imagination at home too.

Children can build and create enchanting story lines without a toy being just one thing. Give children real resources rather than play resources to allow them to explore the weight and texture of objects. Allow children to explore with awe and wonder and recognise these as moments of deep rooted exploration. Allow children to explore the outdoor natural world as much as possible. Take regular walks, collect natural items and have family time outside exploring all weathers. Every experience can be a learning one.



We are always on the hunt for authentic and natural resources! Please keep an eye out and donate any of the following to us please...



We are keen to allow our children the opportunity to use loose parts. Loose Parts are items that can be used in multiple ways with no pre-designed outcome.

Developing opportunities for creativity, critical thinking, problem-solving. Opportunities for counting, sorting, mathematical concepts and so many more learning outcomes. Teaching children how to think not what to think.

**Do you have any of these items at home?
Please bring them in when you can. Thank you!**

Bowls, Spoons, Trays, Dishes, Serving salad bowls, Salad spoons

Boxes, Massage rollers, Carvings, African animals, Wooden masks

Trinket boxes, Chopping boards, Plaques, Wooden carved balls

Curtain rings, Coasters, Woven mats, Wicker baskets, Mug trees

Bread bin, Pots, Jewellery pots, Old unwanted jewellery, Wooden

Animals, Serving trays, Spoons, Spatulas, Material, junk modelling,

Baskets, Traditional outfits, real clothes for dressing up...

There really isn't much that we can not use or recycle and we would be

more than happy to pass on if we can't use something.

'One man's junk is another's treasure!'



Starting School

Change over morning- Thursday 13th July- You and your child are invited to come to change over morning. This will be split into 2 groups- please sign up for a time slot. You are welcome to stay with your child or if you think they will be comfortable and confident enough, you are welcome to leave them with us. The session is 45 minutes long.

Settling in Sessions- you and your child are invited to attend some settling in sessions during August. You can come to as many or as few as you like but please do try and come to some. (1 adult only per child please) These will run on the following dates:

Monday 21st- Friday 25th- 9.00-10.00 a.m.

These sessions really helped the children settle last year- we have had no tears on their first day since doing these sessions!

School starts on **Monday 4th of September** for all children. On that first morning- we ask you to be prepared to say your goodbyes at the door and allow your children to come in with us- we know this is hard. If you are worried- call us.

Monday 4th September- 8.45-11.30

Tuesday 5th September- 8.45-11.30

Wednesday 6th September- 8.45-11.30

Thursday 7th September- 8.45- 11.30

Friday 8th September- 8.45- 1.15 (stay for lunch) no parents.

Monday 11th- full time from today- 8.45-3.15

Please speak to the class teacher if you have any concerns about these arrangements. **Please also bear in mind that we are a mainstream school. We appreciate that some children may need extra support. As we are a mainstream school and not a special school, we can and will make reasonable adjustments for children who have SEND or require extra help but as needs change and time moves on, we might not always be able to meet the needs of all individuals. Meetings with our SENDCO and the class teacher where honest and open dialogue happens will ensure we are working together for the best for your child- that might not always be our setting in the future.**

Home Visits will take place during the first week in the afternoons- please sign up for a home visit before you leave this evening.

Timings:

Doors open at 8:45am (drop off at Reception Class door) Please be on time every day- we start learning straight away!

Lunch 12-1pm

End of day 3.15pm (pick up at Reception Class door)



Preparing for School

- All children require a book bag to carry Reading Records, School Letters and work etc. to and from school and home- please make sure this bag is a suitable size and not too big- we don't have the space! Please name the book bag. Some parents like to attach a key-ring or decoration so that their child can immediately identify their own book bag.
- Book bags must be brought to school every day along with their reading record (orange book) and school reading book- children do not need any other bag than their book bag and drawstring PE kit bag. PE kits will stay in school for a half term and then be sent home to be washed. This stops the worry and stress of remembering it each week. The children will have 2 sessions of PE each week and PE will start in the first week.
- Please check bags at home daily for any school letters or messages and to check Reading Records. Most communication will be sent out electronically or via Tapestry.
- The school has water fountains but all children must bring in a NAMED water bottle which can be left in school and refilled daily. They will need a sun hat to keep at school and on cold days a coat must be sent in.
- PE Kits can be kept in school on your child's peg and will be sent home every half term to be washed.
- All children will need a pair of welly boots in school too. These will be used for outdoor learning and Forest school.



Our Uniform consists of:

Day to day

Grey skirt, trousers or shorts

School white polo shirt

Green school jumper or cardigan with logo

Grey/ white/ black socks or tights

Black school shoes (boots may be worn in the winter)- no trainers, heels or open-toed shoes please even in the summer

Green and white checked summer dress

Hair bands- school colours- no elaborate hair pieces as they will fall out or get lost and are not part of school uniform.

PE kit

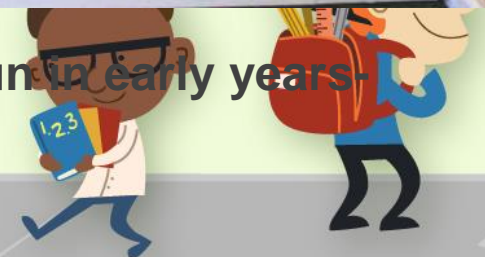
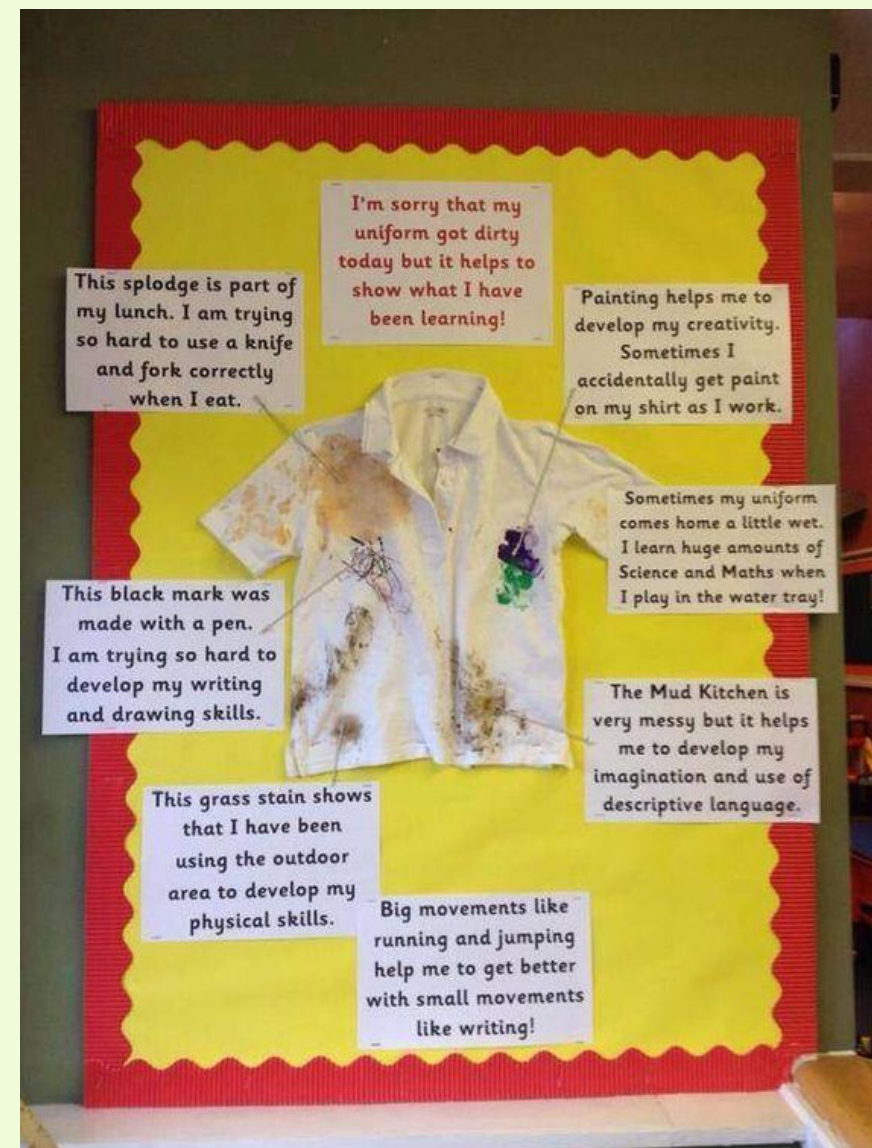
Black shorts

White T. shirt with school logo

Trainers for outside/ plimsolls for inside

Please do not spend lots of money on shoes- they will grow out of them
And they will get scuffed.

Children will get messy and mucky- their uniform will be stained- this is part of the fun in early years- we don't always wear aprons so please do not be alarmed if they come home messy!



Welcome Pack

In your pack you will find:

All about me scrap book
Image consent form- please sign and return
Transition pack from Herts County Council
Welcome book from the FOSW
Mini book all about us

Please ensure all documents that need signing are completed and returned to the school Office.
Please make us aware of any medications (Epi-pens, inhalers etc.) as these will need to be in school on the first day of the Autumn Term.

'All about me' book

You will also find an empty book. We would like you to fill this book with information all about you, your family and your life. We would like to share this with you when we come to your home for our home visit at the start of the Autumn term. There is a page in the front of the book that will tell you more information.



Working in partnership with parents and carers

This has already started- thank you to everyone who returned their forms and sent back paperwork.

For us to be successful in supporting your child to achieve their full potential, we must learn from the experts which is...YOU. You as parents/ carers know your children better than anyone so it is essential that we work together as a team to ensure the best possible care and education is provided. You will receive a home school agreement early in the Autumn term with more guidance of what is expected of you as parents, the children and the school.

At Sauncey Wood, we strive to build strong, solid, professional relationships with you and your family in the following ways;

Open door policy- if there is an urgent matter that you need to discuss with us, please do so as your drop your child to

2 formal parents evenings and a third optional each year

Social events- Larks in the Park, Colour Run, Christmas Fair, Sports days, Discos- Active Friends of Sauncey Wood- you are all members

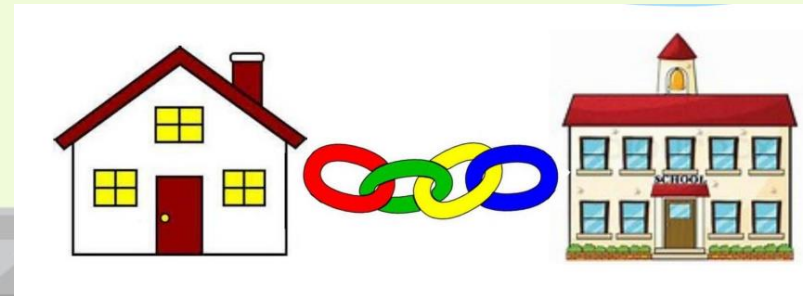
Phone calls- we will always call you back

Meetings at times to suit us both

Website/ Facebook/ Twitter- please do follow us

Newsletters

Tapestry



Daily Teaching and Learning

Each day there will be a mixture of:

Exploration and Play (Curious Learning)

Snack/lunch

PE (twice a week)

Phonics and early reading

Daily Mile

School learning powers- Perseverance, Curiosity, Cooperation, Resourcefulness and

Reflectiveness

Busy Fingers

Show and tell

Sharing stories

Whole Class Work (carpet session-number rhymes and songs, counting, games, listening to stories, learning and talking about number facts, shared writing)

Taught Group Work (working with other children and a teacher)

Independent Group Work (working with other children alone)

Independent work (working by themselves)



Snack and Lunch Times

Reception children have daily snack where they can have a carton of milk and a piece of fruit or veg throughout the morning. Milk is free for your child up until they are 5 but you can register for them to continue having milk after this but you will need to pay. (see separate letters). The snack is always a piece of fruit or vegetable, usually either an apple, banana, carrot, tomato, orange or raisins. We never know what will arrive – it is a surprise and the children are encouraged to try!

Lunch Times

All children eat their meals in the dining room and sit with their peers when eating. Children can choose to bring a packed lunch from home or have a hot school meal. There is a meat, vegetarian and jacket potato choice daily. All Key Stage 1 children are eligible to receive a free school meal. Children can choose daily whether they want to have a packed lunch or school dinner. Lunch choices will need to be made via the gateway app and you can make a selection until 8.00 on the day or select for many days in advance. Packed lunches must not contain any products with nuts in please.

Children will collect their lunch, cutlery and water from the hatch and take to their table. They will also clear down their tray when they are finished.



Phonics, Early Reading and Writing

The pace of learning the phonetic sounds that enable a child to read is fast. In the Autumn Term the children will be learning four letters of the alphabet a week; the name of the letter, the sound it makes and how to write it. We teach phonics using Twinkl. Sounds and action information can be found in your packs. This is for your reference and to support your children at home. During the first week of term, you will also be given a reading book and record for your child. At first reading books will not have words- please focus on telling stories using the pictures- this builds language and a love of stories- you and the children are the authors. Once the children have the knowledge and skills, books with words will be sent home.

They will also be practising how to read and write words using those sounds. They will be taught to segment (break the word down) and and blend words (put the sounds together to read the word). Children will also learn a new 'tricky word' each week. Tricky words are words that cannot be segmented and blended and children have to learn these by site.

Reading at home daily is of **paramount importance**- not just sharing and reading their school reading book but also reading for pleasure. The children will bring home a library book each week so please make sure you read for pleasure to- visiting the library is a great way to do this. Sharing books is one of most important ways to help your child make progress as reading really does help them access everything else in life. Be a good role model and let the children see you read too. Get into good habits of setting aside 10 minutes or more each evening to read together- find a comfy spot and dive right in to as many books as you can. In the beginning, books will have no words- this is to encourage the children to become story tellers. Children will get the same books more than once to develop their fluency.

We are keen to share with you how we teach this and how you can help support your child with this at home. Therefore, we will invite you to a phonics meeting in September where you will learn more.

We model to the children how to write in cursive handwriting but children are not expected to write in cursive script. Encourage children to mark make- draw, chalk, paint, make pictures in the sand or mud with a stick etc.



Forest School

The children will take part in weekly forest school sessions (day of the week to be confirmed). We will go outside in all weathers so they will need spare clothes that are appropriate to the weather. E.g. waterproof jacket and welly boots on rainy, winter days when we have Forest School.

Forest School is a fundamental part of our learning and will help to develop core skills and our school learning powers. It will help your children understand the world around them and help them gain confidence and self belief, develop their risk taking skills and learn a variety of other life skills which they will then transfer to every day life. Forest School is very much about the process and not the outcome- these sessions will take place in our woodland walk and around the school site.



Tapestry

We recognise that you, the parents, are the main educators of your child. As a result, we can use information about your child's learning at home that you tell us, to inform our judgement of your child's development.

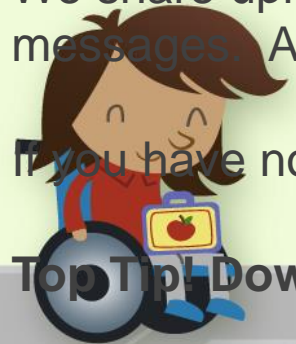
We will use Tapestry (online platform) to inform you of your child's learning at school so that you can also support them at home. (wow moments, whole class learning) We really value it when parents and carers upload photos and messages of the wonderful things your child does at home. Tapestry really is invaluable and we make your child's learning journal as personal as we can. It will be a way for you to see what they are up to and to further support their learning at home. We post lots of ideas and messages via memos to keep you informed of what we are learning in class each week so you can follow this up at home too. There may be some summer challenges so keep an eye on Tapestry.

You can use Tapestry to complete Home Learning Tasks too! Home Learning is a Take Your Pick menu- you can choose which challenge you tackle each week- we just ask you to try and achieve 30 points over the term.

We share uploads from home with the class and the children absolutely love showing the class their photos and messages. At the end of the year- you will receive an electronic file of your child's journal to keep and cherish.

If you have not given your permission for a Tapestry account, please do so ASAP so I can set you up an account.

Top Tip! Download the app on your phone or tablet!



Safeguarding at Sauncey Wood

Children will learn best when they feel safe and secure. It is everyone's responsibility to ensure children and parents feel safe and happy both at school and home.

We support this by helping the children to...

- Know and trust people- relationships are key
- Know their way around the school and grounds
- Set clear boundaries and expectations
- Have fair working agreements
- Dealing with any bullying quickly
- Understanding and celebrating all faiths, cultures and languages
- Dealing with any racism quickly
- Being part of the community both school and wider
- Working in partnership with you- if any issues or concerns arise please tell us

Miss Harkness- Designated Safeguarding Lead
Mrs Webb/ Mrs Byford- Deputy Safeguarding leads.



Our Top Tips

Name EVERYTHING in permanent marker with your child's name and class. Biro washes off very quickly. Coats, hats, gloves, PE bag, PE kits, plimsolls, JUMPERS, school shirts, trousers. Alternatively you can buy iron-on or even better stick-on name labels online.

Check that your child's winter coat has a zip that is easy to do up. Some zips are impossible for the child to do themselves! Practise putting on and doing up coats, it is really helpful as it develops children's sense of independence.

When choosing school shoes, ones with Velcro instead of shoelaces are helpful for younger children. Shoes need to be sensible, flat, black shoes or boots – no sandals or open-toed shoes please.

Help your child feel comfortable and able to go to the toilet themselves. Encourage them to be independent and able to look after themselves including hand washing.

Talk to your children about starting school, ask them about their day, share Tapestry with them so they can see they we are all working together.



How can I help my child at home?

Reading/ sharing books: **THIS IS A NON-NEGOTIABLE**- 10 minutes minimum daily including weekends and holidays please. Join and complete the Library Summer challenge- this is a great way to get into good reading habits and it is free.

Developing a life long love of reading is paramount to helping children achieve well in their learning. Reading allows children to access the whole world around them including their learning.

Lots of fine and gross motor development- swimming and going to the park are key.

Play Numbots/ card games/ dice games/ board games –developing number sense

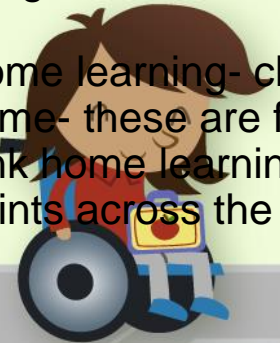
Having down time and time to relax- they will be exhausted! They will need time to relax and a good routine. You may notice a change in behaviour at home as they adjust to the expectations and routines of school- this is normal- do not panic.

Talking with your children- tell me about school today... tell me something new that you learnt...

Organise play dates to build relationships (for yourselves and your child)

Take learning into real life- every interaction with your child is a learning experience- cooking, matching socks as they help you hang out the washing, setting the table, reading road signs, looking for door numbers on your walk to school etc.

Home learning- children will get a home learning book- this will have a take your pick menu of challenges for you to complete at home- these are fun, hands on and engaging- we ask you to complete 1 challenge each week- you can record this in your child's pink home learning book or on Tapestry. The challenges with a star must be completed. We ask children to try and achieve 30 points across the term- you can do more if you wish too.



Are you ready for School? Some skills to develop over the holidays...

- Blow nose, cover sneezes
- Wash own hands
- Take off and put on coat
- Recognise own possessions
- Will put toys away when asked
- Follow simple instructions
- Sit for short periods of time
- Show an interest in and enjoy books
- Talk about experiences
- Is willing to try new activities
- Eats healthily at regularly times in the day
- Do a jigsaw
- Have had experience with using a computer
- Begin to know letter sounds and letter names
- Start to be aware of their learning
- Get eight or more hours sleep a night (they will be exhausted when starting school)

- Use the toilet independently
- Snap, button, zipper their own clothing
- Tie/ Velcro their shoes
- Use a knife and fork and spoon
- Be curious- Ask questions
- Share with others
- Know and write their name
- Sing simple songs from memory
- Make up stories
- Make music
- Run, climb, swing and jump
- Draw, paint, use scissors, hold a pencil or pen
- Use manners- please, thank you, excuse me
- Count everything!
- Draw and develop pencil grip

This list is the ideal- all children are at different stages in their development. Please do not worry if your child can not do all of the above.



Have you?

- Completed, signed and returned all forms
- Started to talk to your child about coming to school- involve them – make it exciting- they will be nervous (as will you be)
- Put the 13th of July in your diaries to come and play for your 45 minute slot- please come to the main entrance of the school to be let in
- Signed up for a home visit
- Made plans to attend a few of the settling in sessions in August
- Made a start of purchasing uniform
- Labelled everything!
- Organised a play date with someone from their new class- building relationships
- Planned to spend quality time together making memories over the summer
- Got good routines in place at home- bedtimes etc. Your child will be exhausted!
- Asked about anything you are unsure of



Finally...
Get Excited!

Look forward to starting school and all the fun times ahead!

Thank you for taking the time to join us this evening.

Any questions?- email me
jharkness@saunceywood.herts.sch.uk or ask away!

