

Sauncey Wood Primary Newsletter

Friday 16th September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back, families old and families new. It is wonderful to be able to write to you all at the start of my either year as Head teacher of Sauncey Wood Primary school.

We have had a positive start to the new school year and it has been delightful to see the children back at school, so smartly dressed and ready to learn.

We have been working hard on embedding high expectations and clear routines to the children's school day, and each class has spoken about the year ahead and how we can all have high aspirations to behave positively and achieve positively.

New routines at break and lunch are helping children return from playtime in the right frame of mind and eager to crack on with their learning. We have been so pleased with the first two weeks and the high standards the children have set.

We are looking forward to welcoming back year 6 next week as they have had a full week at PGL Bawdsey Manor and I know that they will be looking forward to telling us all about upon their return and a future sharing assembly. We have been so impressed by the children's behaviour and the levels of perseverance and determination they have all shown.

I hope that Monday, with school being closed, you can spend time with your families and love ones as the Country mourns together as we say our final goodbyes to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Warmest regards,

Mr Lloyd

Letters gone out this fortnight:

School news

Herts Catering Limited – School Lunches

We have noticed an increasing trend over the last term when meals are being pre-ordered on the meal ordering system and then are not being taken. This has resulted in meals being thrown away at the end of the meal service as the school cook prepares meals according to the number ordered.

This is creating significant amounts of food waste, which goes against the companies targets to be more environmentally sustainable. It also increases the cost of their food production which ultimately reflects into higher prices for our meals.

We understand that on occasions meals will be ordered and then the child is sick and the you may forget to cancel the meal order. However, the problem increased significantly over the end of last term, so from September 2022 we will be charging for all meals ordered but not taken.

Therefore, I need to remind all parents that they must cancel any pre-ordered meals for that day before your ordering cut-off time if their child will not be eating a meal on that day. ***If the order is not cancelled, Herts Catering Limited will still be charging for the meal as we are incurring the costs of producing it.***

Parking outside of school

As another year passes, still do the issues with parking around the school site. There are clear instructions as to where and when you can park your cars during drop off and collection.

There have already been reports from our neighbours about driveways being parked over, the island on Milford hill being dangerous with the number of cars that are stopping. We have had numerous parents stop on the single and double yellow lines, where it clearly says that you should not. We also have had several bus drivers stop school staff and ask what we are going to do about it.

The answer is quite simply this; we cannot do anything about it. It is really down to you as parents and carers to be aware of your actions and the possible consequences of parking dangerously at or school. In my eighth year as Head teacher, I still have to write about this issue, as it has not gone away. Please can I ask all of you to be kind and considerate to the school and the local community? **PLEASE!**

Governor Corner

Hi everyone, we just wanted to use this first Newsletter to introduce the Governing Body and welcome you back to school with a special welcome to those families who are just starting at Sauncey Wood.

The Governing Body is made up of 11 volunteers and 3 school staff and between us there is a varied mixture of skills and knowledge which is all focussed on the Governing Bodies three main tasks:

- planning the strategic direction of the school;
- making sure public money is well spent; and
- holding school leadership to account for the educational performance of its pupils.

We do this through a range of methods: regular meetings, reviewing reports, visiting the school, talking to the children and staff, and surveys to gather opinions from parents and carers. We are not all education experts, and neither are we involved in the operational, day-to-day running of the school so we concentrate on making sure pupils educational progress and wellbeing is as good as it possibly can be.

The Governing Body always seems to have a major challenge in September, for the last couple of years it has been Covid but, and I am sure it will come as no surprise, it is budget this year and Sauncey Wood, like all other schools, is trying to work out how we can deal with escalating costs.

We currently have vacancies on the Governing Body so if you are interested in helping the school to flourish please contact us. There is lots of training and guidance available so you do not need to be a specialist; you just need some spare time and enthusiasm.

We hope you all have a happy and successful school year

Bridgett Pymm and Colin Noakes

Governing Body Co-Chairs

FRIEND'S NEWS

Welcome back to another exciting year of fundraising and a special welcome to all our new families across the school!

Please do sign up to Classlist!! And for existing parents - please make sure all your children are listed in your profile.

Classlist offers you a place to buy tickets to fundraisers organised by the "Friends of Sauncey Wood School".

The FoSW is a registered charity that work together to put on fundraisers with two goals in mind. 1. To raise much needed vital money for our children's school. 2. To have fun!!

Please look out for invitations, these will be for activities to participate in and unite our school community in a joint goal of raising money and having fun together. Tickets for events such as discos, fun runs, local trails etc will be bought through the school Stripe account,(there is also the option to buy in cash). Stripe is much easier to use for those who have used the PayPal account before, or cash using FoSW post box.

Our first event is our disco - on the theme of glow! Friday 14th October. Tickets available via Classlist or cash in FoSW post box at the office. There are no tickets on the door so make sure you book in advance. If you are interested in volunteering to help please speak to your class reps or either of us.

FoSW also have a Facebook page "Friends of Sauncey Wood". Please join it to keep up to date on any event information. The school has it's own Facebook page that can be found if you look for "Sauncey Wood Primary School". Please join for school updates. We also have "Sauncey Wood Parents" Facebook page, please join to make sure you don't miss out on any reminders, school info or local info from parents. If you have any ideas on fundraisers please contact your class rep or feel free to contact Clare or myself.

Best wishes!

Clare and Gemma
Co-Chairs of FoSW

School News

Sensory Garden work – the before and after!



Over the Summer break we have had further work undertaken on our new sensory garden. This is nearly complete and the school wanted to say a huge thank you to Susan Dean, one of our brilliant governors, for making this happen!

