

Sauncey Wood Primary Newsletter

Friday, 29th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

It is great to be back! I am so very fortunate to return to school this week and have got straight back in to the swing of things with a huge thank you needed for Miss Harkness! She has run the school so beautifully in my absence. There has been clear progress made in the school in regard to the learning taking place online and the amount of learning all our children seem to be doing from a far.

I am currently in the process of developing our Remote Learning Policy and hope to have this out to you in the next week or so. I felt it was appropriate to update our expectations around the behaviour of children within the Zoom sessions.

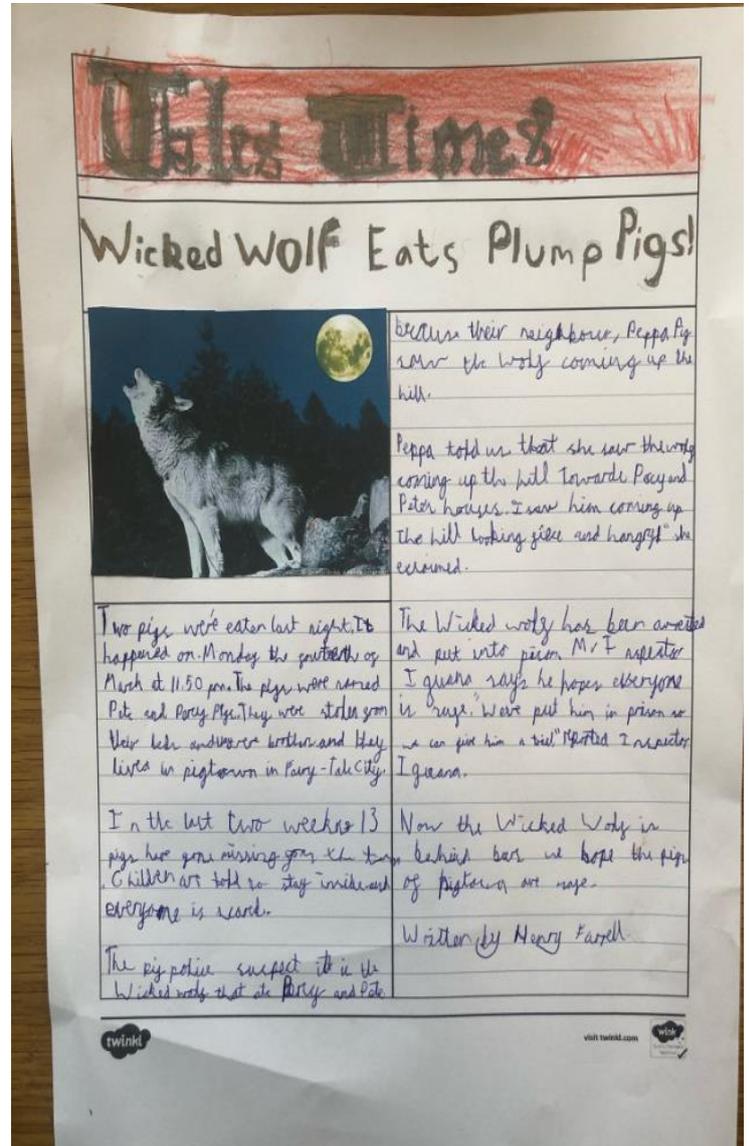
There is not one right approach to Remote Learning. Our school and staff team are working as hard as they can to try and get this right for all of our children. We also appreciate that this is challenging for you, our parents too. Please do not panic or worry if you do not complete every single piece of learning.

Spending time with your children, reading, playing and having fun are also just as important. We have to make sure that we are doing all we can for the emotional wellbeing of our children and you will always have the schools full support when you put this and your family first.

Stay safe

Mr Lloyd

School News – Home Learning



Since coming back to school last week, it has been wonderful to be sent so many brilliant pieces of learning that the children are doing at home. Therefore, I felt it would be nice to showcase this to the school community each time we share a school Newsletter. Sadly, I will not be able to share all pieces of work but I will do my best to select a couple each week that highlight the brilliant things that the children are doing at home with their learning.

This week sees Henry F from Year 3 having produced a wonderful newspaper article that was hilarious to read! Well done Henry!

Did you find your happy this week?

FIND
your happy
place.

Governor Corner

We said in the last Newsletter that we were planning our Governance activities for this term given the Covid-19 limitations. You may not be aware, but in this Pandemic, the Government has decided that Headteachers have sole responsibility for how schools operate in areas such as class configurations/numbers, teaching methods such as remote learning, and for the implementation of Covid-19 protection arrangements for pupils and staff in school. As a Governing Body we have supported Mr Lloyd whenever we can and we have particularly focussed on reviewing Covid-19 plans and risk assessments for Health & Safety and Safeguarding.

The Governing Body consists of two main committees; the Resources Committee (RC) which looks at how the school operates in areas such as Finance and which in large part has continued as usual, and the School Improvement Committee (SIC) which looks at the academic side of the school, and has had to adapt its way of working during the pandemic to ensure it can be effective.

The SIC uses several sources of information in order to build an accurate picture of the school's academic provision, for example; data around progress and attainment, case studies of specific groups of children, classroom visits, discussions with staff, pupil voice. During the pandemic, it has been much more challenging to obtain comprehensive information to give us that rounded picture, however for the last meeting (in December), Mr Lloyd was able to provide progress data broken into various groups as well as the latest report from our external advisor. This helped Governors to ask questions around remote teaching and learning in particular, and to formulate a monitoring plan for the year.

Like the school we will have to adapt to constantly changing circumstances and we will always make sure the education and safeguarding of pupils takes priority in all that we do.

Stay Safe

Colin and Bridgett

Joint Governing Body Chairs

Friends of Sauncey Wood News

Hi,

We would like to introduce ourselves as the new Chairs of the Friends of Sauncey Wood. Clare Barnes is Mum to William in Year 4, Lauren in Year 2 and Joseph who will start in Reception in September. Gemma is Mum to Hannah and Emmy in Year 3. We're really looking forward to working together and with all parents to raise funds that go back into the school and directly benefit our children.

Our current fundraising goal is to kit out the brand new teaching kitchen that's been set up. We have the Valentine's trail up and running as our first fundraising event! Trails are available to buy via classlist or cash direct from Clare. See social media for details. We'd also like to say a big thank you to Tabitha Mackness (Year 1 & Year 3 Mum) for organising the lovely tea towel fundraiser. It is such a great idea at this gloomy time and we can't wait to see the final results! Don't forget to get your child/rens portraits in by the deadline!

We'd love to hear all your ideas for fundraising of events you are interested in running, or want us to run so please let us know of any ideas. We can be contacted via social media, messenger or on the Friends of Sauncey Wood email: friends@saunceywood.herts.sch.uk

Stay safe everyone!

Clare and Gemma

*I hope you enjoy this little bit of fun that was shared with me back at the start of this current lockdown. Stay safe and stay strong. Parents you are all doing an amazing job and we are so grateful for you helping us do our jobs the best we can. Mr Lloyd. *Political viewpoints in this are part of the story and not my own.*

Biff and Chips Home Learning...

This is Biff. This is Chip. This is Biff and Chip's homework.

Biff and Chip are required to write down ten examples of fronted adverbials.

Biff and Chip have no clue as to what a fronted adverbial is.

This is Mum. Mum has no clue as to what a fronted adverbial is either.

"We don't know what a fronted adverbial is," whinge Biff and Chip. "This homework is impossible. You will have to help us."

"It's not my homework, it's your homework," says Mum, thanking her lucky stars that she did not have to engage in any of this fronted adverbial nonsense when she was at school.

This is Dad. Dad still struggles to distinguish between a noun and a verb, and would not know a fronted adverbial if one came up and punched him in the face.

Biff and Chip think for a moment about asking Dad for help.

They decide to Google instead.

This is Mrs May. When Mrs May went into teaching she honestly believed she would be able to spend her time helping children to love learning. And putting on plays. Mrs May loves a play. She did not realise that a love of learning would not feature on the National Curriculum at all, and that she would instead be forced to meet a series of impossible and continuously moving goalposts which successive governments would put in place, and have to teach her classes about ridiculous concepts such as fronted adverbials which, in all honesty, are only ever likely to be of use if they end up becoming professors of linguistics. Or primary school teachers.

If truth be told, Mrs May has no clue whatsoever what a fronted adverbial is either.

This is Floppy the dog. Floppy holds no truck with fronted adverbials.

Floppy eats the fronted adverbial homework sheet.

Floppy knows that he is an absolute liability, and waits to be told so.

No one is more surprised than Floppy when the entire family gather around and tell him "Oh **GOOD** dog Floppy."

Floppy feels this is proof positive that some good can come from fronted adverbials after all.

Later at school, Biff and Chip are, for the first time, able to legitimately use the excuse: "My dog ate my homework."

Mrs May breathes a secret sigh of relief that that is one less set of incomprehensible and entirely incorrect homework that she has to plough through, and suggests to the class that they will all put on a play instead to celebrate.

Hang in there homeschoolers - you are doing a wonderful job!

