



# SAUNCEY WOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL



**Interim Headteacher: Ms J Harkness**

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

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Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023

## Welcome Back

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to the new academic year for 2023 - 2024. I hope you are returning well rested after the summer break. It was so lovely to see so many of our children return to school and some new faces too, ready for the start of the new academic year. I was impressed by their presentation and positive attitudes which was evident in my first Headteacher's assembly.

It was great to all be in the school hall together talking about the year ahead and setting out early, the expectations for the year, enabling all of the children to achieve their best. We shared a story called 'Maybe' which is about endless potential - please ask your child about this.

I would like to welcome Ms Webb to the team in the role of Deputy Head, Miss Hamit as Reception Teacher and Miss Cobb, a new Teaching Assistant. The staff team have worked incredibly hard over the summer to prepare engaging, calm learning environments and have been planning the year ahead for their class. We also all took part in an INSET day linked to behaviour. We ask for your patience over the coming days as we all settle back into school life; as you all know, the start of the school year is the busiest and there maybe a few challenges to overcome - please bear with us.

Getting back into the school routine can be challenging after 6 weeks off so here are a few reminders:- both school gates will open at 8.30 a.m. Children are parents/carers responsibility until 8.45 a.m. when staff will come out to collect their classes. A bell will signal that it is time to line up. The school gates will close promptly at 8.55 a.m. Please do be here on time as learning starts straight away and coming into school late can be disruptive. Mobile phones may only be brought into school if a child is walking to or from school on their own. Phones must be switched off at the gate and not used on the playground or in school at all. If a phone is being used on the playground or in school at any point, Teachers will take care of them and they will need to be collected by the child's parent/carer at the end of the day from the front office - please talk to you child about this expectation if they are bringing their phone into school. Children will need the following in school daily:- a pencil case with equipment, a water bottle, a coat as we will be going out in all weathers, a sun hat (it is meant to be a scorcher this week) and their PE kits as PE will start this week. Please support your child to ensure they have everything they need for the day - this will greatly help them to develop their independence.

We have the highest expectations of all children at Sauncey Wood and over the coming weeks, you will begin to hear your child talking about going above and beyond in their learning and attitudes to school.





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We are really focusing on the Three Rights of Sauncey Wood; the right to learn, the right to respect and the right to feel safe and included. This will be supported by encouraging kindness and good manners which cost nothing but make the world of difference. A new Home School Agreement will be sent out this week for you to discuss with your child so that we are all working towards the same shared goal of providing your child with the best possible school experience.

You may notice a few changes over the next few weeks including the School website which is slowly being updated and the newsletter will look a little different. I would appreciate any feedback or suggestions about any of the changes that we make.

We have so much lost property left over from last year - about 10 bags full! This will be put out for you to check through in the KS2 playground at the end of each day this week. After Friday, items will be sent to the local charity shop. It is vital that you label all uniform and belongings so children can find them when hunting for lost items.

We also have a large amount of second hand uniform - this will be for sale before and after each Celebration Assembly and there will be an honesty box where a donation can be made for items you wish to purchase.

The office team are always here to help so please do email [admin@saunceywood.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@saunceywood.herts.sch.uk) or pop into the office with any questions or worries; these will then be passed on to Class Teachers if needed. My door is also always open so please do get in touch if you need to.

Thank you for your continued support in creating a positive start to the school term. I am looking forward to a great year.

Yours sincerely

Ms Harkness  
Interim Headteacher

