

Sauncey Wood Primary Newsletter

Friday, 14th October 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

We are just one week away from the first half term of the year and as ever, we remain focused on ensuring that every child has the best possible learning experiences each day at Sauncey Wood.

It has been lovely to see class trips coming back with a bang and a number of our classes have trips booked for later in the term too. This week Year 1 headed over to Hornbeam Hedgehog Sanctuary where they learnt more about the animals and got some lovely opportunities to ask curious questions about the intriguing creatures.

We have also seen inter-school sports back with a number of our children taking part in various team games such as football and rugby. The girls' football team played recently over at Crabtree School and lost each of their three games narrowly. They are proving to be a tough bunch who really show great teamwork and co-operation in every match. They have more games tonight and I know we have another victory in us!

Thank you to all of those who attended our Harvest Assembly earlier this week. It was without doubt, one of the best attended Assemblies we have ever had and all of the children did us, and themselves, proud with their beautiful singing. It was lovely to see some parents getting involved too. A huge thank you to Reverend James Brown for joining us too

Have a restful weekend and we will see some of you later at the Glow Disco

Mr Lloyd

Letters gone out this fortnight:-

03.10.22 - River Study Trip (Year 5)

04.10.22 - Harvest Assembly

05.10.22 - Year 1 Hornbeam Hedgehog Sanctuary

06.01.22 - Welwyn Garden City Synagogue
(Years 2 & 5)

06.01.22 - Awareness Rocks

12.01.22 - Virtual Parents' Consultations

School News

Harvest Assembly

We were totally overwhelmed by the support that was shown to our Harvest Assembly this week. The attendance was just phenomenal and the donations received were amazing. We were sent a thank you email from The Kings Pantry, which we wanted to share below.

Dear Sauncey Wood Primary School,

Would you please pass on to the pupils, parents and staff, our heartfelt thanks for the generous donations of food etc. from your Harvest Assembly.

The King's Pantry food bank seeks to help households through times when money is tight and for some it may be the choice between eating and paying the rent.

Over the last year, 86 different households have been supported by The King's Pantry. Currently there are 46 households being helped, which means that 40 either no longer need support or have moved out of the area.

Here are just a couple of quotes from the very many we regularly get at The King's Pantry:-

Mum -

"We honestly do not know how best to put this into words. You guys are our guardian angels. To what would have been the most hopeless time of our lives, you have tirelessly come through to us in more ways than you could imagine. There is no single day we have gone hungry. Every week come rain or sunshine, you have shown up. Thank you, thank you once again. We will forever be indebted to you all. May God bless you and keep you all safe."

A couple -

The King's Pantry has been a massive help to me and my family. We take so much for granted in life but it's only when times get hard you realise the importance of not being able to afford the food and toiletries you've been used to getting. Getting our food parcel has been like the feeling you get when it's your birthday. Food to eat, things to wash yourself with and extra goodies of body sprays and creams. Even getting washing tablets and toilet rolls are a massive luxury when you don't have them. We would like to say a massive thank you to everyone who donates and all the lovely people who take the time to sort it out and deliver to us. We really appreciate it, many thanks.

Please thank everyone for their generous donations and let them know that their contribution is helping to have a massive impact for good on the lives of over 220 people in Harpenden.

Many thanks

Kind regards

John Swain

(Elder and safeguarding officer)

Bethany Community Church, Harpenden

Governor Corner

A couple of weeks ago, we held our annual Governor Day when all governors come into school to spend time reviewing the previous academic year and planning for this one. The highlight as ever was having lunch with the children and taking a tour of the school including the new pond area and the amazing Reception classroom where children were having so much fun exploring the outside areas. Further up the school, it was great to see a variety of classroom layouts to suit each year group, as well as well-stocked class libraries and the newly hessian-backed display boards which make for a calmer environment and allow the children's work to really stand out.

During the day we held our first Full Governing Body Meeting of the year where we heard about the highlights of last year (in particular the Curiosity Award), reviewed the School Development Plan, examined safeguarding activities, explored the new process for academic assessment and last but not least, we had our first indication of how increased costs are impacting the budget.

Shortly after Governor Day, we had a visit by Hertfordshire County Council to explore the effectiveness of strategic governance within the school and we are delighted to report the conclusion was that we have a "strong Governing Body with a defined organisation and process".

It has been a busy start to the year, and after half term, we will be looking to recruit a new parent governor. If you are interested in helping the school to thrive and to continue to provide the very best education for the children, please do get in touch to find out more – our details are on the school website.

Bridgett Pymm & Colin Noakes

Joint Chairs of Governors

FRIEND'S NEWS

Discos are kicking off the fundraising this year! Hope everyone is ready to "glow" this evening!! We are really pleased with the uptake for our first event of the year and hope to build on this over the year.

Everyone should have received a letter about Club 100 - please make sure all forms are returned by Friday, 21st October to be part of our school lottery!

After half term we will have a non-uniform day on Friday 4th November for bonfire night! Children are invited to dress in bright colours and a cake sale after school! All cakes and bakes welcome, donation dropped in the morning! (Please remember nothing containing nuts as we are a nut free school). Sparklers will also be on sale as they were such a big hit last year!

We have set a date for the Christmas fair!! **Saturday 3rd December. 2.30-5pm.** Let us know if you would like a stall or any family or friends are interested. Come and join the fun with Santa, a full festive bar and lots of Christmas stalls and games for everyone.

Have a great half term when it comes!

Clare and Gemma

