

Sauncey Wood Primary Newsletter

Friday, 21st January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I cannot believe that I am saying welcome back to the Spring Term here at Sauncey Wood. My start was slightly delayed due to falling quite ill with COVID but I am delighted to be back and in work every day supporting the children to be the very best that they can be and achieve as much as possible.

The start to the term did not falter in my absence. The wonderful team of adults we have in school, led by Miss Harkness, ensured that the Term was started with running shoes on and all in 1st gear to get the best start possible.

It has been great to see the attendance already at its highest this year, even with COVID cases still relatively high in the local area. For the first 11 days of the Term we are at **96.5% attendance** across the school!

I feel that our continued use of bubbles and the safety measures that we still have in place, along with the support you, the parent body have shown us, have put us in a strong position to carry on our teaching and learning face to face for the foreseeable future.

Many of the things are out of our control but it is great to see the school team, the parent body and children all working together to ensure that we can keep our school, clean, healthy, safe and well. Let us keep our fingers crossed that this continues long into the Term.

I hope that you all have a very safe and enjoyable weekend with your families.

Stay safe and well

Mr Lloyd

Letters gone out this fortnight:-

- 05.01.21 January 2022 Arrangements: Update
- 07.01.22 Mobile Farm Visit - Reception, Yrs 1 & 2
- 07.01.22 Canadian Pen Pals - Year 6
- 13.01.22 SATs Breakfast - Year 6
- 19.01.22 Swimming Lessons - Year 3
- 19.01.22 Learning Behaviour - Year 6

School News

COVID

We remain committed to keep you as up to date as we can in regards to the ever-changing guidance when it comes to the pandemic. We are in a position in school at the moment that feels safe and is working well. We will be reviewing our approach with bubbles and staggered starts etc...after the Spring half term. For now, we will move forward as safely as we can and keep you posted on any new information we receive.

Uniform

With two terms left of this school year and the hope that we will be in school for the majority of that time, I would like to request that reference is made to the school uniform policy which can be found on the school website here <https://www.saunceywood.herts.sch.uk/uniform>. Towards the Christmas break and even now in to the Spring Term we have seen a dip in the amount of actual school uniform that is being worn and this tends to be with the older children who are supposed to be the ones who set the example to the younger children. Please can you ensure that your child/ren is wearing the correct uniform to school every day - including school shoes!

Drop Off and Collection of Children - Road Safety

Sadly, we continue to receive numerous complaints from the local community about parent drop off and pick up at school.

There seems to be a number of repeat offenders who feel it is ok to risk the safety of our children. I am sorry but this remains totally unacceptable and I know that the majority of our school community are superb in following the guidance and signage that is up around school.

We have seen an increase in the number of traffic wardens that are around the school site at these crucial times and this is sadly because of a number of complaints that have gone through to Hertfordshire County Council from local residents.

PLEASE ABIDE BY THE PARKING RULES AND AIM TO KEEP EVERY CHILD SAFE AROUND OUR SCHOOL.

Governor Corner

Happy New Year Everyone! Although it seems a while ago now, we hope you had an enjoyable and relaxing break over Christmas.

We were delighted to welcome two new Governors in December, one Co-opted (elected by the Board) and one Parent Governor. Clare Bellwood joined us as a Co-opted Governor - having worked at Sauncey Wood last year covering Mrs Byford's maternity leave. Clare enjoyed being a part of the community so much that she decided to apply for a Governor role to continue to support the school. Clare has a wealth of experience in Primary education as a Teacher, School Leader and Governor.

Lola Kufeji was elected unopposed as our new Parent Governor - Lola is new to Sauncey Wood, but is already a Governor at another Primary school. She has a background in Engineering and Project Management, with experience in financial management, process improvement and data analysis. We're very fortunate to have two experienced Governors join us, both on the Resources Committee, and we're excited to have such a great variety of skills and experience on the Board as a whole.

Looking forward to this Term, we have a range of meetings, training and school visits planned, through which we will strive to play our part in supporting the school, ensuring the children have access to the best learning experiences possible whilst maintaining high levels of well-being and safety in relation to Covid in particular.

Bridgett Pymm & Colin Noakes - Governing Body Co-Chairs

Mrs Eaglestone

Many of you will know of Mrs Eaglestone who has been with us for just under 2 years and has the role of Phonics and Reading Intervention Teacher here at Sauncey Wood. Mrs Eaglestone has now gone on maternity leave with the wonderful news that she is expecting a baby girl very soon. We are delighted to share this news with you and cannot wait to share more information once we have it. We wanted to thank Mrs Eaglestone for all she has done supporting so many of our children with their Reading and Phonics learning throughout the pandemic and wish her and her family the best for the coming days.

FRIEND'S NEWS

There are many fundraising opportunities again this term starting with our Bag 2 School collection. You should all have a bag to fill with things you no longer need. Please return these to school on the morning of **Monday, 24th January** either to the bike/scooter storage at the Reception and Key Stage 1 entrance or there will be tables at Key Stage 2 entrance. Please don't take them into class or the main office.

We have a **Valentine's Cake Sale** planned just before half term and also looking ahead to 1st March, wear yellow for St David's Day. This will be £1 to the Teacher on the day.

As always, please follow us on Facebook (Friends of Sauncey Wood) and Instagram (friendsofsaunceywood). We'd love to hear fundraising suggestions as well and feedback at friends@saunceywood.herts.sch.uk.

Many thanks

Clare and Gemma