

Sauncey Wood Primary Newsletter

Friday, 26th November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Another two weeks has yet again, disappeared into the past. Last week we spent a significant amount of our time helping children learn more around bullying, as it was Anti-Bullying week.

The theme for Anti-Bullying Week this year was 'One Kind Word'. I introduced an Assembly at the start of the week and spoke about being kind, compassionate and respectful. We celebrated everything that is so unique about each and every one of us. It was a great way to learn about what makes us all different.

Based on the theme of 'One Kind Word', all of the children completed different activities throughout the week. Well done everyone! The Kindness Bingo was a real hit and many of our children completed it in record speed.

I am sorry that I have had to make the decision to cancel the Christmas Fair this year. It was not an easy decision to have to make but my aim through the course of this pandemic is to do what I can to keep our community as safe as I can and navigate it with an aim of reducing the risk.

We will be updating you this coming week with the Christmas Run-in and the dates that we will be doing various festive things through December. Our aim is still to make this time of the year as special as we can for all of our children and families.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr Lloyd

Letters gone out this fortnight:-

- 22.11.21 Parent/Carer Covid Flowchart
- 22.11.21 Christmas Fair Update
- 22.11.21 Positive Covid Case – Year 4
- 23.11.21 World War II Workshop and Tea Dance - Yr 6
- 23.11.21 Christmas Hampers Raffle
- 25.11.21 Parent Governor Election

School News

Children in Need

Last Friday the children took part in a fundraising activity to raise money for Children In Need. This was organised by the school. We decided that we would run a Crazy hair day and we were blown away by the creativity of some of the children and parents. The total amount raised was £152.80.

The children were fantastic! Please do take a look at the school Facebook page to see just a few photographs of the children enjoying the event.

Covid-19

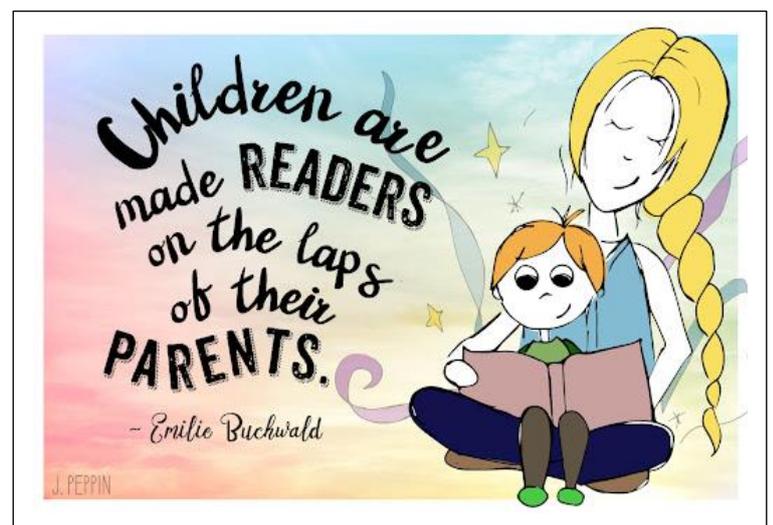
Please continue to follow our school guidance and that from Public Health by maintaining social distancing around school and wearing face coverings if you can during pick up and drop off, especially if visiting the school office.

Thank you for your support in keeping everyone safe and in school.

Reading

Reading continues to be a key priority for our school and as parents you have an absolutely vital role to play in the development of your child's reading skills. Reading with your child for 10 minutes, 4 times a week will have a significant impact on your child's improvement in this area and will ensure that they can access the whole curriculum because they can read.

So please, please, please share and enjoy books with your child because it really does make a massive difference.



Governor Corner

We held our Autumn Full Governing Body meeting last week and it was great to have full attendance, including our three newest Governors who bring valuable insight to the GB through their own roles in schools. As always, it was a packed Agenda that included receiving reports on Safeguarding, the impact of our Pupil Premium Grant money and the SEND information report. We also approved the School Development Plan for this year, and discussed how we will monitor the priority areas on the plan. The highlight of the meeting was hearing about the wonderful work that is going on every day at school - staff and pupils are enjoying being in school and are working so hard to get back on track after all the recent disruption; this was also noted by our Herts Improvement Partner during her visit this term.

As Governors it is our role to review the strategic direction of the school periodically, which includes looking at many factors, educational, financial and government direction for example, and deciding whether a change to our structure, either through academisation or a more informal agreement with other schools, would be beneficial for the school and most importantly the outcomes of its pupils. As you may be aware, for a variety of reasons, many schools have converted to academy status over the years either by choice or through government direction. We discussed academisation at last week's meeting, and decided that it would not be beneficial for the school at this time, and so we will remain a maintained school. This is a discussion that we will re-visit annually, so we can consider any changing circumstances either locally or nationally in education policy, and make sure that Sauncey Wood continues to best meet the needs of the local community.

Bridgett & Colin (Co-Chairs of Governors)

FRIEND'S NEWS

We can't believe it's nearly December! We were sad to hear the Christmas fair had to be cancelled but we've got some lovely Christmas things planned. Santa will be dropping in to Batford to see Sauncey Wood children. Tickets available on Classlist – please don't forget to leave names and ages of children visiting Santa. There will also be a stall selling reindeer food. We have our Christmas window competition. Please do consider dressing your window for Christmas if you live in Batford. We'd love to have a lovely trail for people to follow and vote for their favourite window. All details on Classlist. We also have the rainbow raffle, which is going to be drawn during Carols Around the Tree. Lots of lovely hampers to be won and a star prize of £250!! It may not be the celebrations we wanted to be having but lots of fun to be had.

We'd like to take this opportunity to remind people of the events we've had so far this year and where your money goes. This year FoSW have had the very successful £20.21 fundraiser, the Halloween non uniform day and Halloween Trail. These were followed by the fireworks, non uniform and cake sale at the start of November. Don't forget next week we have blue tops for St Andrew's Day. Normal school uniform bottom half and £1 to Teacher on the door.

All the money FoSW raises goes back to support our childrens' education. FoSW have kitted out and supported the brand new kitchen for children to learn in. We've paid towards the cost of coaches for the Year 6 PGL trip and current fundraising is going towards buying new laptops for the school and there are plans for an outdoor classroom. Fundraising during a pandemic is hard. We're trying to offer fun fundraising ideas for the children but would love to hear ideas from others. Please feel free to contact us with your suggestions via friends@saunceywood.herts.sch.uk or speak to your class reps.

Best wishes

Clare and Gemma

SAFETY BEFORE SCHOOL

As you all know we have been working hard at school to ensure that every child and family are safe on their way to and from school in regards to cars and traffic. We have done and continue to do what we can to reduce the risk.

Sadly, this week, I have been sent several pictures of poor and unsafe behaviour before school time. This seems to be our older children who have been trusted to walk to school on their own. Several children have been seen climbing the tree in the middle of the island on Milford Hill. This type of behaviour is unsafe and completely unacceptable.

I have spoken to those involved and should this type of behaviour happen again I will be contacting parents to inform them that they will have to drop their children at school and have to wait with them until school starts.