



SAUNCEY WOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL



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Friday, 13th September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

I would like to thank those of you that were able to join us for our first Celebration Assembly this morning. We celebrated the achievements of the children and spoke about being proud of ourselves for achieving something that we once found difficult. Whilst we all enjoy receiving praise, stickers, certificates or even trophies for our achievements, it is important that our children realise that the best reward for their efforts is the feeling of accomplishment that comes from within. I believe that self-esteem and confidence is built through accomplishment so I will always challenge (another of our Learning Behaviours) children to push themselves and try things they might not yet believe they can do.

This week, Mrs Bloomfield gave an assembly about the learning behaviour of Pride; she shared her experience of running with the Paralympic Torch in 2012 in London and how proud she was on that very special day. We talked about how the mission values of the Paralympics can easily be linked to Sauncey Wood's Mission Statement and how the medals link to our new house point system. After the assembly, every child had a chance to hold the torch, although there were a few comments about it being a giant cheese grater.



I have felt very proud as I walked around our school, our children are responding brilliantly to our new initiatives and I have been inundated with children eager to share their good work with me. I am keen to find out parents'/carers' views on how we can improve our school and become ever prouder! I will soon let parents/carers know a date for our first Parent Forum where we can discuss whole school improvement. Please do not worry if you cannot attend in person, I will ensure that there are avenues for all parents to share their views with me directly.

I am excited to say we will be having the Sauncey Wood Colour Run next Friday. It will start at 2.15 p.m. on the field. If children are taking part, they will need to bring their change of clothes (I'd suggest old summer clothes they are just about growing out of) to change into. If a child does not have a change of clothes they will not be able to take part and children do not have to take part if they do not wish to. Those that are not taking part will be cheering the others on (from a safe distance) and parents and carers are welcome to join us from 2.00 p.m to either take part or cheer on the runners. Children will be able to go home with their parents at the end of the race, when dismissed from their class by their teacher, but will not be able to go back into the school to get changed.

Parking

We have had some complaints from residents regarding parking which I fully appreciate is difficult around school at the moment. I do urge those families that can walk to school to do so and ask that those that do drive, to park in a thoughtful and considerate manner.

Yours sincerely

Jamie Brewis
Headteacher

Homework

- Reading every night (to an adult, sibling or even a cuddly toy)
- Practising spellings (and handwriting with them) sent home
- Learning number bonds or timetables facts.

We will soon send out some guides on fun ways for children to practise these things - as we spoke about in assembly this week, we don't get better by not doing things so it is so important that they practise these things regularly at home - especially if they are things they struggle with.

Book online at facefamilyadvice.co.uk

FREE SESSIONS Supporting Kids with School Anxiety Introduction to Facing Defiance	26 SEP 24 OCT
Understanding Anger	23 SEP
Supporting a Child with ADHD	24 SEP
Understanding the Teenage Brain	7 OCT
Raising Self-Esteem	8 OCT
Decreasing Depression	15 OCT
Anxiety Explained	17 OCT
Understanding Anger	21 OCT
Drug Awareness for Parents	22 OCT
Autism: Improving Communication	28 OCT
Introduction to OCD	29 OCT
Understanding Addictive Behaviour	31 OCT
Improving Family Communication	4 NOV
Raising Self-Esteem	5 NOV

facefamilyadvice.co.uk info@facefamilyadvice.co.uk

Supporting a Child with ADHD



Challenge the stereotypes and get practical help
Tuesday 24th Sept (7pm to 9pm) £24
 Available to book now
facefamilyadvice.co.uk



Free School Meals

Please do sign up if you are eligible as it provides additional income to the school which can be used to support you financially too.

There are two types of Free School Meals:-

1. Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM): this is the free meal that all children in Reception, Y1 and Y2 are entitled to receive, no matter how much income their parents earn.
2. Free School Meals (FSM) linked to state benefits parents receive. Children in receipt of FSM, are also eligible for the Pupil Premium Grant (PPG). This is government money that is given to the school to help support FSM children. This could include extra support with their learning but also includes school paying for things like swimming and school trips - you will not be asked to make a voluntary contribution for these.

To ensure that the funding is released to the school, you must register on the Herts Direct Free School Meals page or phone the number listed below. This includes if your child is in Reception, Y1 or Y2. Although these children are entitled to UIFSM, the Pupil Premium Grant is not released to the school unless parents register online or by phone:-

Online: At www.hertsdirect.org/freeschoolmeals

Phone: 0300 123 4048.

Your child is likely to be eligible for Free School Meals and Pupil Premium Grant, if you are in receipt of any of the following:

- **Income Support**
- **Income-based Jobseekers Allowance**
- **Income-related Employment and Support Allowance**
- **Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999**
- **The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit**
- **Child Tax Credit** (as long as you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and you don't get more than **£16,190** a year)
- **Working Tax Credit run-on** (paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- **Universal Credit** (with annual earned income of no more than **£7,400** after tax and not including any benefits you get).

Please do register if you think your child is eligible as this provides much needed funding to the school and will provide financial support for you too by way of free swimming and school trips.