

Sauncey Wood Primary Newsletter

Friday, 12th November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Two weeks in already!

What a flying start it has been for the second half of the Autumn term. It was really nice to end the month of October with so much great learning done around the Month of Black History.

We had children from all year groups producing some lovely learning. Year 5 learned about a British Artist by the name of Chris Ofili and who at the age of just 30 won the Turner Prize for Art. It was truly amazing to see some of the great pictures they created in the same style as Chris.

So many of the children also took on the extra challenge that I set them to find out about inspirational black people who are making a difference now. So many great suggestions came in for the people from Marcus Rashford to Barack Obama.

We are doing all we can to ensure that the high quality learning experiences still take place, even with the current restrictions that have been brought back into schools. We do ask, again, that if your child has any symptoms of COVID that you err on the side of caution.

There are a number of schools locally that are currently being supported by PHE because of the rise in cases.

I want to do all I can to ensure that we all get through to the end of this half term safely and, as best as possible, all in school.

Stay safe.

Mr Lloyd

Letters gone out this fortnight:-

02.11.21 Safeguarding Concern - Squid Game

03.11.21 HCC New Guidance -
Early Years Settings and Schools

9.11.21 Harpenden Plus Partnership -
"4 My Family & Me" parenting course flyer

10.11.21 Children in Need (19 November) "Crazy Hair"

School News

Children Being Collected Late from School

There have been a number of times where children have been collected from school very late after our finishing time of 3:15 p.m. Having observed this for a number of weeks and the fact that we do not always have the capacity to monitor children after school, we now have no choice but to set out a consequence, should children be consistently picked up late.

From the beginning of this coming week, if a child/children are not collected on time from the normal pick up points and then taken to the office, if their wait is longer than 15 minutes, we will have no choice but to move them to the care of APEX After School Club. APEX have the ability to support the children where the school team does not for various reasons. As a result of the child being put with APEX there will be a charge incurred by the parent who is collecting their children late. This will be a fixed fee for the first hour of care.

Safety of Cyclists and Children on Scooters

Please can I ask that all children who are still bringing their scooters and bikes to school, in particular the older children who have permission to walk/cycle/scoot their way home, are very careful when coming into school and going home.

We had a report yesterday from a member of staff who was entering the school's lower car park - that one of our older children on a scooter was not aware of a car turning into the car park. The staff member was extremely concerned, as the child did not stop. If the car had been going any faster there could have been a serious accident.

We do like to encourage all of our children to walk, cycle or scoot to school, but this has to be done safely at all times.

Please can I ask that you speak to your children and remind them of the road safety rules around school. We have done as much as we can to ensure that cars are travelling slower and more safely around the school site, but the children also have a major part to play in their own safety.

Governor Corner

From time to time we have to recruit new people to the Governing Body and at the moment we have a vacancy for a Parent Governor which we need to fill quickly.

The Governing Body is made up of two main groups of people; Community Governors who are not parents of the school and are often specialists in areas such as Finance and Parent Governors whose primary role is to ensure the views of parents, carers and children is heard in all that the Governing Body does.

Having a strong parental view on the Governing Body is absolutely essential as only parents and children really know what it is actually like to be part of the school community. Without this knowledge, it would be very difficult, if not impossible, for the Governing Body to make the right decisions about the current operation and future direction of Sauncey Wood.

There are of course meetings to attend, two per term, usually held in the evening and which last for two hours, there are various documents to read throughout the year and training to take. At the moment, all of the meetings and training is being carried out remotely to reduce COVID risks to individuals and the school.

You do not have to be an expert in anything to become a Parent Governor, you just need to have an interest in the school and in the education of your children. No more than that and, as a bonus, it is almost certain you will learn an enormous amount about a varied range of subjects, which could be very helpful outside of school.

We are a friendly group of people so as they say in the adverts, please contact us to arrange a no obligation chat where we can answer any questions you may have and provide any information that would help you make a decision to join us. Our contact details are BPymm@saunceywood.herts.sch.uk and cnoakes@saunceywood.herts.sch.uk

Bridgett and Colin

Governing Body Co-Chairs

FRIEND'S NEWS

What a great few weeks we've had. The Halloween non-uniform day and the trail made nearly £200 and the fireworks non-uniform and cake sale was over £400 in total! Thank you all for supporting these events and raising money for the school.

We are lucky now to be able to take card payments at events such as the cake sale as we have two card readers. This should make life easier for those of us who never seem to have any cash on us!!

Our next big event is the Christmas Fair, which is being held on Saturday, 11th December. We'd love to make this a huge success but can't do it alone. We'd love to hear from you to join a team of helpers, whether it be half an hour, the whole afternoon, baking cakes etc, we'd love to hear from you. Please do consider what help you could offer.

Before the Christmas Fair we have a different take on non-uniform - recognising the Saints that make up the UK. Tuesday, 30th November is St Andrew's Day and to mark the day children will be able to wear blue tops, with usual school uniform trousers/skirts. This will be £1 to their teacher on the day.

Once again, thank you for supporting the FoSW events.

Clare and Gemma

SUNDAY
28 NOVEMBER 2021

HARPENDEN
Christmas
CARNIVAL

with



FARMERS MARKET

12 NOON - 6.00PM

CHARITY STALLS

12 NOON - 6.00PM

**YOUNG
ENTERPRISE
STALLS**

12 NOON - 6.00PM

SANTA'S GROTTTO

12 NOON - 5.30PM

**MAIN STAGE
ENTERTAINMENT**

FROM 1.00PM

**MINI STAGE
ENTERTAINMENT**

12 NOON - 5.00PM

PROCESSION

3.00PM

**LIGHTS
SWITCH ON**

5.00PM

Free car parking at station car parks and
Rothamsted Research car park from 12 noon.



Organised by
**HARPENDEN
TOWN COUNCIL**

CLOSER TO THE COMMUNITY

www.harpenden.gov.uk