

Sauncey Wood Primary Newsletter

Friday, 12th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

It was the highlight of the year so far, welcoming back all 190 children to Sauncey Wood on 8th March. We only had two children away from school that day for legitimate reasons and to see everyone smiling meant the world to the Sauncey Wood Team.

I would like to thank you for your support regarding the opening of the school. I know that things are not quite back to how we would really like them, but the fact that you are following the guidelines so carefully and supporting our drop off and collection guidance, makes the whole process so much easier for everyone involved. THANK YOU!

The week has been full of wellbeing focused activities, supporting children on their return to the classroom. We have encouraged Teachers to use open ended activities and to develop talk in the classroom about the childrens' experiences with lockdown. We want to ensure that we are doing all we can to support them in coming back to school. Even the routine of being in a room with 29 other children is very different to being sat at a desk on your own at home.

It has been great to welcome everyone back and we look forward to some fun-filled days of engaging learning and new experiences that our children can be part of.

It is great to be back!

Mr Lloyd

School News

Dates for Next Year

Attached to this Newsletter are the provisional dates that are in place for next academic year. We do not foresee any large changes coming into play to affect these and these are produced in line with the other schools in the Harpenden area.

Home Learning

Please do not panic - this is not remote learning! As a team, we have discussed the need for children to be focused on their return to school and have already hit the ground running in regard to supporting their academic and emotional progress. We feel at this time, children are working at maximum capacity and that adding more pressures at home with home learning is not needed. We will focus the next three weeks on encouraging the children to read at home and then begin to introduce more structured home learning after the Easter break. Please do ensure that children are reading as much as they possibly can.

Sweet treats!

We would like to remind you at this time that we are still happy to accept individual bags of sweets for childrens' birthdays. We ask that no cakes, that are all packaged together, are sent in. We are still following the protocol to quarantine these items and do not want to have to go through multi-packaged items so they can be sent out.

Letters gone out this fortnight:-

01.03.2021 - Full Return to School (8th March)

04.03.2021 - Remote Learning Questionnaire

11.03.2021 - Virtual Parents' Consultations

Dates for the Diary

18.03.2021	Close of appointments for Parents' Consultations - midnight
23.03.2021	Parents' Consultations - 3.30 - 6.30 p.m.
24.03.2021	Parents' Consultations - 3.30 - 6.30 p.m.
26.03.2021	End of Term 1.30 p.m.
12.04.2021	INSET Day
13.04.2021	Children Back to School

Governor Corner

We hope the children are settling back into school well - we've heard great reports from Mr Lloyd about how pleased the school team are to be back in, doing what they do best.

Last week, the school had a remote visit from our Hertfordshire Improvement Partner (HIP), who scrutinises specific aspects of the school each term. This term they were looking at our remote learning provision, which included joining some of the class zoom calls and talking to some pupils about their experiences. We were pleased to receive a positive report after the visit, commenting on the wide range of subjects that were taught remotely and the high level of engagement by pupils. We are always looking for ways to improve, and the implementation of Google Classroom is underway which will help enhance the remote learning provision should there be any bubble closures or further lockdowns.

In other news from the Governing Body, we recently held a Resources Committee Meeting, in which we approved the budget for the rest of the financial year, and we have a School Improvement Committee Meeting next week where we will be looking at the return to school of all pupils, the focus on well-being, and how the school will make sure that all pupils continue to make great progress in their learning.

Bridgett & Colin - Co-Chairs of Governors

FRIEND'S NEWS

Welcome back to school everyone. 2 more weeks and it will be the Easter holidays!

There are some fundraising events coming up to remind you of and draw your attention to.

Tonight is the Friends Quiz. See you there ready at 8.15pm!! Speak to myself or Gemma if you need a last minute ticket.

Also, keep your eyes peeled for information about our upcoming Easter fundraiser. I'm sure this will involve chocolate somewhere in the planning! And finally, the plant sale which is organised for the end of April. Please do plant and donate things to sell at this lovely Spring time fundraiser. We're also hoping to organise a sunflower growing competition so get your green fingers ready!!

We'd like to say a big thank you to Tabitha Mackness for organising the tea towels. They look amazing and we sold over 100. Thank you!

Finally, Covid-19 has made fundraising difficult over the past year, but we're hopefully going to organise something in the Summer to include everyone - watch this space!!

Take care

Clare and Gemma
Co-Chairs

Join the Harpenden Lion Trail Easter Challenge!



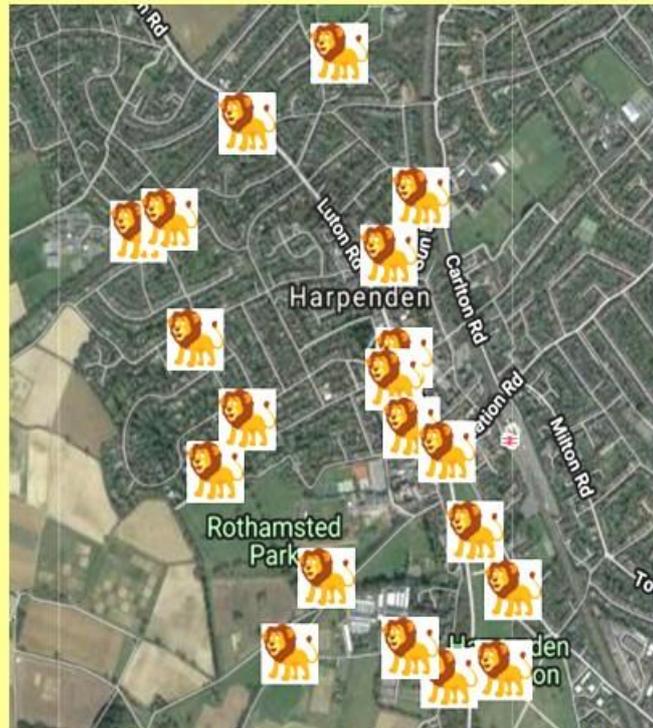
Find the answers to the clues



Send us your answers



Win an Easter Egg!



Follow the trail on your phone



Sign up (entry fee £5) to receive a GoogleMaps link and clue sheet

Families - here's something a little different as we head towards Easter - sign up to the Lion Trail Easter Challenge and with the aid of your phone's location tracking find answers to the 20 clues at the locations marked by a lion (clicking on a Lion icon shows the clue number and the clue). The route is approximately 6.5 km and you can start and finish at any point. Allow 2 - 2 ½ hours, but you do not have to complete the trail in a single session.

Sign up at www.harpenden-lions.co.uk between 8th and 30th March to receive the GoogleMaps link and clue sheet. Follow the trail in your own time and send us your answers by Monday 5th April to win an egg (one egg per entry). Entries cost £5.

By participating you will also be supporting the Harpenden Lions Life Skills Programme that helps to fund the delivery of PSHE education to 10,000 children in 29 local schools. Since 1991 Harpenden Lions, through our Charitable Trust, have raised and donated over £250,000 to our local schools to help them purchase the resources and services they need.



Harpenden Lions Club