

Sauncey Wood Primary Newsletter

Friday, 20th January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a busy start to the new school term and we are delighted to welcome back the children to an action-packed calendar of events, including many sporting events and some exciting school learning experiences, including trips.

The weather has seen us hit with some icy cold temperatures but the heat has not been turned down when it comes to learning across the school.

We have been really impressed with the amount of reading that went on over the festive break with many of our children now moving on to be free readers. Parents, you played a key part in this, so thank you for ensuring that your child read lots during their time away from school.

Over the coming weeks, we are looking to further develop the Pavilion building, which is a space that we want to be able to put to better use. We have two large learning spaces that need a creative parent or two to come in and transform for us. The building can be accessed during the school day and work can commence at any time. We have a few bits that we need to move out but we would be delighted if any parents feel they could take this on for us. The space is basically a blank canvass and I know that Mrs Byford has some ideas as she already runs her Calm Club in there. Please do contact the school office through the admin@saunceywood.herts.sch.uk email address if you feel you can help.

Have a lovely weekend

Mr Lloyd

Letters gone out this fortnight:-

06.01.2023 - Visit to Stevenage Mosque - Years 1 & 3

09.01.2023 - Extra Curricular Clubs (Spring Term)

13.01.2023 - Spring Term Dates

16.01.2023 - Florence Nightingale Day - Year 2

18.01.2023 - Year 6 SATs Free Breakfast Club

School News

P.E. Kit Reminder

At the start of the new term, we hope that children will return to school with a high standard of school uniform. This is also relevant for P.E. kit. Over the past couple of weeks, we have seen a poor turn out of children wearing correct kit and appropriate kit for school for their P.E. session and some have no P.E. kit in school at all! We ask that only plain dark coloured shorts and a white t-shirt are worn for indoor sessions. There is no need for Jean shorts or full football kits. This is not part of the correct uniform.

School Uniform and Hair

As mentioned above, the start of a new term normally means that school uniform is of a high standard, sadly, this has not been the case for a large number of pupils. School shoes do need to be worn to school and trainers are not an acceptable form of school shoe, in particular bright white trainers. I am also seeing more and more children coming to school with inappropriate hair 'decorations' which are, again, not part of our School Uniform Policy and are also not safe. We ask that long hair is tied back with a single hairband or in a ponytail. Please do refer to our policy which can be found here <https://www.saunceywood.herts.sch.uk/uniform>

Attendance

Currently our school total attendance sits at just above 93%. The target for any school across England is 96%. Sauncey Wood has performed well when it comes to improving attendance of all pupils and over the past 4 years we have never seen any cause for concern in our whole school attendance. It is quite sad, that after 7 years of continued improvement, our school attendance has dropped significantly and we are now in an area of concern regarding our whole school total.

Attendance is key for every child and the difference it can make being in school seriously impacts positively upon the levels of progress, attainment and even life chances that children have if they attend school as much as they can.

I know that there are illnesses and things that cannot be avoided, but as parents you have the responsibility to get your child to school and on time. Please do study the graphic below to see what impact poor attendance has on your child.

Governor Corner

Happy New Year, we hope you enjoyed a relaxing Christmas break with friends and family. Having thoroughly enjoyed our four years as Joint Chairs of Governors, it's time for a change and we're stepping down in July. We're also very sadly losing Kam Johal as a Parent Governor in July, having benefitted from her enthusiasm and determination to drive school improvement for six years now - thank you Kam!

This means that we now need to recruit three new Parent Governors to start as soon as possible.

Sauncey Wood is lucky to be really well supported by the families of the school, in many different ways, and now we're asking you to please consider using your voice on the Governing Body. Parent Governors play a vital role in the Governing Body; they know what is actually going on in school, they speak to other parents, children and staff members, and make really valuable contributions in meetings based on this. It isn't all about having specific skills, training is provided and no prior experience is required. There are also personal benefits to becoming a Governor as running a school will expose you to a broad range of knowledge and experience that will be valuable in whatever you do.

If there are areas of the school that you feel need improving, becoming a Governor really is the best way to explore that further and have your say in the future of the school. If you would like any more information, please do speak to Mr Lloyd, Dan Dures, Kam Johal or Kristine Jamoula (our Parent Governors) at school, or email one of us bpymm@saunceywood.herts.sch.uk / cnoakes@saunceywood.herts.sch.uk and we would be delighted to explain the role further. Thank you!

Bridgett & Colin - Joint Chairs of Governors

FRIEND'S NEWS

HAPPY NEW YEAR from the FoSW!

Welcome back to the Spring Term! FoSW have 2 lovely events planned for this Spring term.

The first one will be a lovely Valentine's Day afternoon tea and craft on Friday, 10th February, after school. The second will be an Easter egg hunt on Friday, 31st March at 1.30 p.m. when we break up for the Easter holidays. More details to follow on both soon!

Don't forget you can also raise money for FoSW each time you buy from Amazon by signing up for Amazon Smile and selecting Sauncey Wood as your chosen charity.

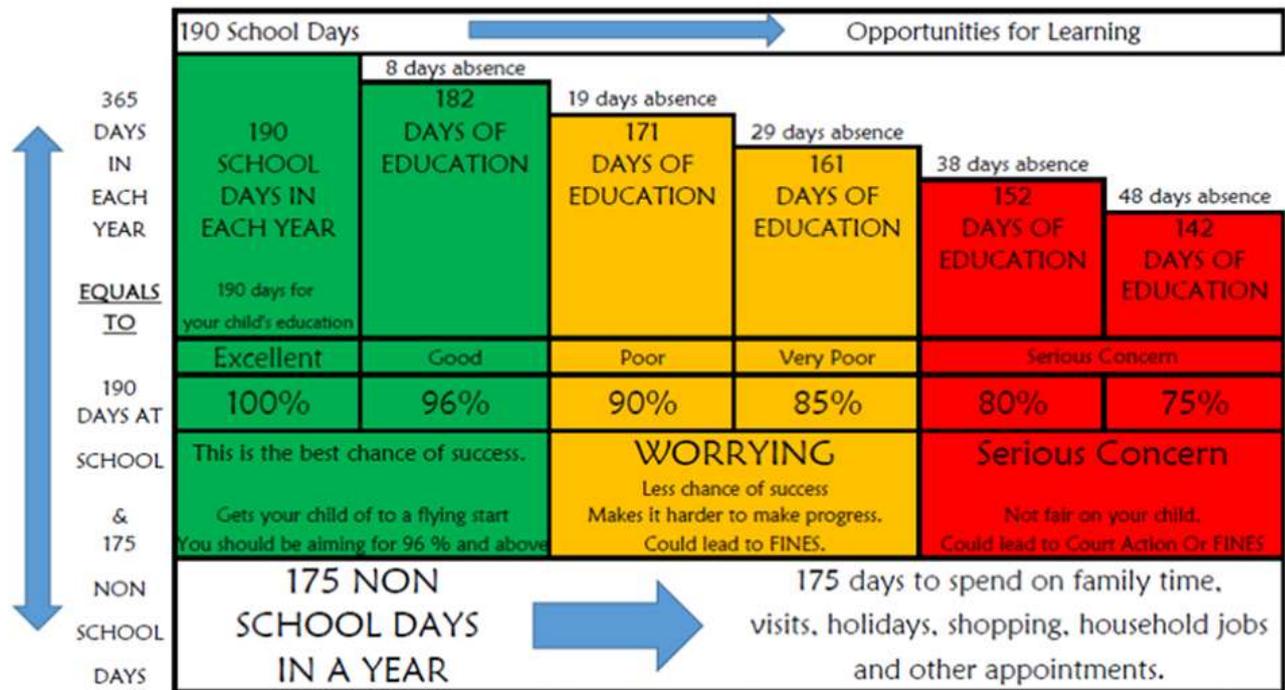
We can also take your old printer ink cartridges for recycling. Any cartridges can be dropped into the ink bin at the office.

Please do let us know of any ideas for future fundraising or if anyone is interested in joining the committee then please let either myself or Gemma know.

Clare and Gemma

Co-chairs FoSW

Attendance



Please help us to help you. If you are worried about your child's school attendance, then staff are available at school and within the local authority who can help and support you. Gaps in education can mean your child will not reach their full potential.

CH.1
The Return

The calendar read Monday the first of September. To average folk who roam the streets of London nothing out of the ordinary has supposed to happen. Dudley Dursley, was now the mirror image of his father, he scratched his golden brown moustache which squatted on his upper lip.

"Get up!" he bellowed shaking his wife Annabelle. Annabelle was a pot-bellied brunette who loathed witches and wizards. "What!" she moaned "It's Potters daughter's first day at Hognarts!" he said. And right he was, on the other side of town Harry Jimmy and their child Lola crashed through the jagged brick wall of Platform 9 $\frac{3}{4}$. Lola was a little girl small for her age she had blue eyes as deep and as vast as the ocean. She had long chocolate brown hair that was tied perfectly into a bun. Harry bent down "You'll be fine." he said softly Lola bit her lip and jumped into the packed Hognarts express just in time, the train began to cough and splutter out the station.

Excellent Learning

Opposite you can see a piece of writing completed by Simar, a Year 6 pupil, who took her own time at home to start to draft the opening chapter to her new sequel to the Harry Potter Books. Both Miss Tedford and I were in awe of the writing she has produced and I thought it was right to share with you her writing.

You can see the quality of the work she has produced - off her own back - is truly inspiring.

Well, done Simar; we are all excited to read the next instalment!