

Sauncey Wood Primary Newsletter

Friday, 11th February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

I cannot believe that I am already saying good-bye to the first half of the Spring term. It has been a very busy period of time and many things have shifted around, here at school, in the COVID landscape.

Recently, we saw our largest number of children away over the past 2 weeks because of having the Virus and also ensuring that it did not spread further. Numbers dropped from 195 children attending to, at one point there only being 140 children here at school.

However, not for one minute did we see a dip in energy from the adults and children alike. Remote learning kicked into play quickly and each child was still able to join class meets in Year 6, Zoom sessions and assemblies in Year 5 and Teachers also managed to arrange paper copies of learning to be sent home to enable all children to still engage in their learning.

I wanted to say a huge thank you to the whole school community for coming together at a very tricky time and showing great support to us, Sauncey Wood Primary School. It makes a significant difference having you there to help.

Finally, we are delighted to welcome back Miss Donnelly after her maternity leave and welcome her back into a teaching role supporting certain year groups and helping roll out our Rapid Readers scheme in those year groups. We know that Teddy has been keeping Miss Donnelly busy but we are delighted to have her back teaching at Sauncey Wood.

Wishing you all a lovely half term.

Mr Lloyd

Letters gone out this fortnight:-

- 21.01.22 Spring Term Dates
- 24.01.22 Year 5 Swimming Lessons
- 24.01.22 Parent:Child Cooking Sessions led by HCL
- 25.01.22 Covid Outbreak
- 07.02.22 Free School Meals Supermarket Voucher Scheme
- 11.02.22 Half Term Challenge

School News

National Story Telling week

Thank you to all those who tuned in to our YouTube channel to watch the first instalment of our school Teachers telling you their favourite story, whether this be a poem, a picture book or even their favourite chapter from a story book.

We have tried to continue to inspire children that they can all be great storytellers after a great week of learning all around story telling. Please do check out the first one below - there are going to be many more to follow!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=48bw6qCh3xE>

School Sport

Rugby - We saw our brilliant Year 5s represent the school at the Inter-school Rugby Tournament hosted at Harpenden Rugby Club the other week. The children, who were replacements at the very last minute for our Year 6 children, were truly **AMAZING!** They not only went and held their own, but they very much excelled as a team and Mr Holmes was so very proud of all they achieved. Some brilliant individual performances but what was evident was the ability these children had as a team. We are so very proud of all of you who took part! **Sauncey Wood finished 9th out of 14 teams!**

Football - Over the last week we saw our school football team play two matches, and it was great to see schools out and playing against each other - it has been a long time coming. Our first match was against Manland Primary School and this saw us end the match in a one all draw. A tight game that was very nearly won by Sauncey Wood at the very end.

Our second game was played just this week at school against Markyate Primary School. Again it was a close match but it ended with Sauncey Wood losing by just a single goal. We did out play Markyate in the second half but did not take our many chances. The boys did amazingly well and we are so proud of how they competed with children a year older than most of our boys.

Huge well done to the team; John, Charlie, Lealand, Marcus, Morten, Ethan R, Ethan B, and William.

Governor Corner

The School Improvement Committee met this week; this was a chance for Governors to analyse progress and attainment data from the end of last term, and to review how the school is implementing the "Covid Recovery Curriculum" from both an academic and well-being perspective. We were really pleased to hear that overall the children are happy, they are making great progress and are producing some really impressive work. We use academic data as a starting point in these meetings, which leads to discussions around how the school can deliver improvements in all that it does and, as Covid subsides and the school gets back to something like normal, we should see improvements in performance data as a result of the high quality teaching and support. Governors visited some subject leaders to explore more deeply how various subjects are taught, and what our strengths and areas for development are. In the background, remote teaching has continued for children who have been isolating and feedback from parents and children has been extremely positive, so grateful thanks to Teachers who have had the very difficult task of delivering classroom and remote teaching at the same time. We look forward to meeting as a committee again next term, as well as carrying out more monitoring activities in school, and updating you on progress.

Wishing the whole school community an enjoyable and restful half term.

Bridgett and Colin

FRIEND'S NEWS

We want to start with a big thank you for all your charity bags in the bag2school collection. We managed to raise £200 from this, so thank you. This collection helps promote REUSE of clothes & shoes to benefit those who rely on 2nd hand clothes as their sole option for good quality items. It really does make a difference!

We recently met with Mr Lloyd and Miss Harkness to discuss our upcoming ideas for fundraising for the school and below are just a few of the fundraisers happening soon:-

Dates for your diary:

- **Tuesday, 1st March - wear yellow tops for St. David's Day**
£1 to teacher - Mr Lloyd will be in his brightest yellow T-shirt - or rugby top!
- **Thursday, 17th March - wear green tops for St. Patrick's Day**
£1 to teacher - We are super keen to turn the school green - another way to brighten up the day!
- **Saturday, 19th March - car wash and bouncy castle** - more details to follow
This is going to be a great family, fun-filled event for our school community and we are looking forward to being able to hold our first large event in a long while!

As ever, we are super keen to hear more from you, our parents, as the Autumn Term was really hard in terms of putting things on for the children. If you have any ideas, or would like to share your thoughts, please do feel free to contact us through the school office or direct through our email address - friends@saunceywood.herts.sch.uk

Have a great half term!

Clare and Gemma



CREATING HEALTHIER. HAPPIER FAMILIES IN HARPENDEN

Our free after-school groups are coming to Harpenden this February!

Our team of family wellbeing experts and nutritionists make learning about healthy eating fun, and have plenty of tricks to help you and your kids turn what you learn into healthy habits for life!

Kids will cook healthy meals, take part in fun games and sports, and make loads of friends!

Parents are supported by our team to handle conflict resolution, and benefit from the support network of likeminded families.

IT'S
FREE!

WHERE AND WHEN?

MONDAYS 17:30 – 19:30

Starting February 21st for 12 weeks

KATHERINE WARINGTON SCHOOL

Lower Luton Rd, Harpenden, AL5 5FH



[CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP FOR YOUR FAMILY'S FREE PLACE](#)

*To be eligible for this awesome free service, your family must live/go to school in Hertfordshire and include one child who is above their ideal healthy weight.

