

Sauncey Wood Primary Newsletter

Friday, 11th November 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

It is hard to believe that we have already had two weeks back after half term and we are now nearly half way through November. This half term has already picked up the pace when it comes to learning. Core subjects have shown some brilliant examples of learning and our foundation subjects, such as Art, has enabled children to show their natural flair and passion for drawing and painting.

We have seen some really exciting things taking place across the school, from Year 6 designing and making their own pizzas in our kitchen to the youngest children in YR using the wind to their advantage and making kites.

This week also saw every year group have the opportunity to take part in an Exotic Animal Workshop - pictures below. We were visited by various animals including snakes, spiders, lizards and even two skunks! Each year group had a workshop relating specifically to their learning in their science topics. A huge thank you to Mrs Thompson for organising this for every year group!

Over the coming weeks you will see things begin to ramp up towards Christmas and the festive period. Our aim is to ensure that the focus on learning remains but we also allow children to embrace the Christmas spirit and our families too. Please do save the date for our first Christmas Fair in over 3 years. We would love all of our school community to be involved. Please do speak to the FoSW - Gemma and Clare - if you want to help and be involved.

December 3rd is going to be Christmassy!

Mr Lloyd

Letters gone out recently:-

- 18.10.22 Polite Reminders
- 18.10.22 Whole School Exotic Explorer Workshops
- 20.10.22 Sauncey Wood Open Afternoon
- 20.10.22 Behaviour for Achievement Policy and Home School Agreement
- 21.10.22 Parent/Carer English Survey 2022
- 31.10.22 Pizza Making - Year 6
- 03.11.22 Teeth & Digestion (Science) - Year 4
- 09.11.22 Young Voices Year 4, 5 & 6

School News

Children in Need

Friday, 18th November is Children in Need. We will be holding a cake sale after school in the hall to raise money for this great charity. We are asking families to bake (or buy) and donate cakes to be sold at the sale. Please remember that we are a NUT FREE SCHOOL so no nuts should be used when baking.

Christmas Concert

Sauncey Wood will proudly be taking part in the Christmas Concert at Harpenden High Street Methodist Church on Saturday, 3rd December at 7.00 p.m.

We are selling discounted tickets through the school office, so please do get in touch to get them cheaper than on the door or elsewhere. The Choir will be there representing our community and it would be wonderful to see as many parents there as possible.



**HERTFORDSHIRE
PHILHARMONIA**

Saturday 3rd December 7.00 pm
High Street Methodist Church
Harpenden AL5 2RL

Edward Longstaff conductor

Christmas Concert
with Sauncey Wood
Primary School Choir

Including
Corelli Christmas Concerto
Jenkins Palladio
Handel Water Music
Marriage of Figaro overture
Carols ...and more

Discounted tickets available to parents/guardians and friends and relatives of children at Sauncey Wood School
Tickets available in advance from the school office at the price of adults £10 and children £1
(Normal price on the door £15 & £1)

Charity No 1116085
www.hertsphil.org.uk

making music

Governor Corner

Over the last few years we been very successful in setting and sticking to our budgets and this has meant we had the right resources available to teach and look after our children. However, our budgets are now seriously stretched, the first shock was the energy price increase and more recently and more significantly, the impact of pay awards to staff which were thoroughly deserved, but not funded by Government. All schools are under the same budget stress and Sauncey Wood along with other Harpenden schools, have joined forces to add to the mounting pressure on the Government to increase school funding.

The Governing Body does not normally comment on Government activity but we have had five Education Ministers in as many months and the severe problems caused by the unfunded staff salary increases seem to have been lost in the political turmoil. As a Governing Body we are doing all we can to minimise the impact of what are in effect budget cuts, but realistically our actions alone will not solve all the problems we face and we need the Government to understand the repercussions of their policies. If you want to help us put pressure on Government to increase funding, you could email our MP Bim Afolami at bim.afolami.mp@parliament.uk or the new Education Minister Gillian Keegan at gillian.keegan.mp@parliament.uk. As they say 'every little helps'.

On a more positive note, this week we had a visit from our Hertfordshire Improvement Partner (HIP). The HIP comes to school once each term to review certain aspects of school life; they act as a "critical friend" to ensure that we are providing the best possible learning environment and curriculum for our children. This time three of our Curriculum Leaders (Teachers who oversee a particular subject and how it is taught throughout the school), were tasked with demonstrating to the HIP how they make sure that children are fully engaged in learning each subject, that they retain the knowledge they are taught, and that the curriculum is structured so that each year's teaching builds on prior learning. The Teachers impressed the HIP with their passion and in-depth knowledge of the relevant subjects, how to make them come alive for the children, and how to really make sure that the children retain the knowledge they learn. The HIP then spoke to some children to ask their views, and as always the children were both exemplary in their behaviour and entertaining in their responses! Feedback from the HIP was very strong, and we'd like to say a huge thank you and congratulations to the Teachers involved - you know who you are!

Bridgett Pymm & Colin Noakes

Joint Chairs of Governors

FRIEND'S NEWS

Thank you for all the cake donations and for coming down to the sale after school last week. We made a huge £374 that day!

The next fundraiser is our Christmas Fair - the first one since 2019!! This is going to be on **Saturday, 3rd December from 2.30 p.m. – 5.00 p.m.** A jolly red man is also making an appearance! Thank you already for the amazing hamper donations to go in our rainbow hamper raffle. We will also be asking you to save an empty jam jar in the next couple of weeks so keep an eye out for that!

On the day we will need lots of volunteers to do shifts to help make everything run smoothly. Please do let us or your class rep know if you can help at all. **We can only run these events with your support and please do remember that all profits go towards helping the school and most importantly your children.**

Our new noticeboards are up at each entrance. All our fundraising dates for the year are in there as well as posters for upcoming events.

And finally - the 100 Club is up and running. Thank you to those who've already got their numbers and our first draw was today! Well done to the lucky winner! You can still join the 100 club if you'd like - just let Clare know and she'll sort out numbers for you!

Clare and Gemma, Co-chairs FoSW

Exotic Animals



Genius Geographer - Stanley (Year 5)

We loved this excellent piece of Geography by Stanley about The River Lea, we felt we had to share!

FIELD STUDY TRIP TO THE RIVER LEA AT BATFORD SPRINGS

Introduction

The name of the River is the River Lea. It starts at Houghton Regis (Source). The river ends in the River Thames (Mouth). The nearest confluence is in ~~the~~ Hatfield. The nearest town to this part is ~~the~~ Hemel Hempstead.

Physical Features

Some parts are in the other. The bottom river bed is stony and has chalk on it. It also winds away part of the river. It meanders from time to time.

Human Features

There are lots of bridges and boardwalks. Also there are some paths and stepping stones. There are also a reedbed which attracts animals and a play area. There are also a sluice and a weir to slow down and control

The map shows the River Lea flowing through Batford Springs Nature Reserve. Key features include the Lower Luton Road B653, Station Road, and Marguis Lane. The river has a weir, a sluice, a pool, and stepping stones. There are also reedbeds, a meadow, and a recreation area. Landmarks like The Gibraltar Castle and The Ambles Inn are marked. A Common Blue Butterfly is shown near the river.

Vegetation

We saw lots of plants like willow, Hawthorn, aspen and elm trees. We also saw nettles, holly in the reedbed. There was also an ~~one~~ you before.

Animals

Saw lots of animals like foxes and dragonflies. Also we saw different types of birds and fish like minnow and the River Lea. There were also animals that we saw there like herons.

atford spring and the river general general wonderful place for everyone to like but are ~~polluting~~ the area and something about it to save Batford Springs and the River Lea. Detailed description - done (HP)