

Sauncey Wood Primary Newsletter

Friday, 26th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well, here we are, at the end of another term that really wasn't what we had planned! It has certainly been a time when we have had to adapt, learn new skills and dig deep to get through. I really do appreciate the challenges you have faced as families.

Pupils have had a lovely time being reunited with their friends and the staff. We have really enjoyed getting back in to routines and as always our children have blown us away with their resilience.

We have been instructed by the Government to assist the track and trace program for the first 6 days of the Easter break (26th - 31st March 2021).

Please see the information below regarding steps to take if your child shows symptoms of Covid-19.

If a child develops symptoms within 48 hours of leaving school for the Easter break, and a positive test subsequently comes back, parents/carers should report this to school. This is because they will have been in close contact with pupils and staff in term time. Please report this to school via the school email address keepingussafe@saunceywood.herts.sch.uk.

If the symptoms develop after 48 hours of being in school, and a positive test subsequently comes back, the school should not be contacted. Parents/carers should follow the contact tracing instructions provided by [NHS Test and Trace](#).

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy Easter and hope that you have a relaxing two-week break. I look forward to seeing you all back in school on Tuesday, 13th April.

Stay safe and well

Mr Lloyd

Payments over Easter holiday

HCC Schools are in the process of changing their Bank and you may have difficulty paying for school meals using the School Gateway. This may be because the changeover has taken place and the new banking details are not up to date on the School Gateway. These will be updated on the first day back after Easter.

School News

Learning over Easter

We have decided to buy every child a set of playing cards and a pair of dice. We know of the benefits of helping with Maths learning when it comes to playing card games and working with dice so we wanted to give every child the opportunity to learn and play a few games over the Easter Break. Below are a few pointers for you:-

- The cards and dice belong to the children.
- They will come home today in an A5 plastic wallet ready for playing with. Ms Tedford has provided a game card with some information on about games.
- Can children come up with a game and record this to share back at school?
- Parents please do join in and let us know how this was for you and your child/ren.
- We ask that the cards and dice come back into school after Easter so they can be used for learning - and playing - at school!
- Mostly - have fun and enjoy!

Clubs

We are busy planning for our Extra-curricular clubs to start again after Easter but we are still waiting on the guidance as to whether we can mix bubbles.

We know that Youth Sport is starting so our aim is to wait until we have the guidance stating that we can mix bubbles in school. For that reason, we will not be putting clubs in place for the first two weeks of the Summer Term but will send out a letter as soon as possible with the relevant information and also the guidance on booking on to clubs using our online booking system. We will aim to focus the majority of clubs on sport and physical activity.

Red Nose day

We raised £225.20 for Comic Relief on Friday, 19th March.

Governor Corner

Firstly, many thanks to Mr Lloyd and his team for managing to find time in the last few weeks to both attend our sub-committee and Full Governing Body meetings, and to provide plenty of information to enable us to carry out our functions of holding the school to account for academic standards, ensuring the budget is money well spent, and ensuring clarity of vision and strategic direction. The amount of work that went into carefully and sensitively assessing children on their return, and planning for this short block of school time, was phenomenal and ensured a smooth return with a focus on well-being and re-establishing positive learning behaviours. There is always room for reflection and continuous improvement, but we feel confident that Sauncey Wood is in a great place to help all our children get the very best out of the remainder of this school year.

Further to the school communications regarding Lateral Flow Testing, all school staff and secondary school pupils are being encouraged to continue testing and reporting results throughout the Easter holidays. With that in mind and knowing that many of you are already testing for work or other reasons, we encourage parents and carers in our school community to continue testing too. It is explicitly not recommended to use Lateral Flow Tests for children of primary age and below. Our staff will do their last test of the holidays on Sunday, 11th April, so that would be a particularly good time for parents and carers too - it would be great to know that we are in the safest possible position to avoid bubble closures after Easter.

Wishing you all a happy and safe Easter holiday.

Bridgett & Colin (Co-Chairs of Governors)

FRIEND'S NEWS

Hi everyone,

It's the end of term - with lots of fundraising done despite restrictions! We had the Valentine's Trail, the World Book Day goodies and the Quiz. The Quiz was a great success raising over £100 and we have new champions! Congratulations Steven and Renata! And thank you to Gemma for organising.

Don't forget we have our lovely Easter Trail and stall selling lovely treats this weekend on the green at the top of Porters Hill. Do pop along if you can. Thank you to Susie and Geraldine for organising it. Another date to note down is Tuesday, 27th April when we have a plant sale happening after school selling plants and vegetables etc. Please do come along and support the sale.

Hope you all have a lovely and relaxing Easter!

Clare and Gemma
Co-Chairs

Hertfordshire County Council has asked us to share this important update with you ahead of the Easter holidays:

As we go into the Easter holidays, and some Government guidance changes around socialising outside and outdoor sport, it's so important that we don't let our guard down and increase the risk of Covid-19 outbreaks when schools return.

From Monday, 29 March, you can:-

- Meet up outside (including in private gardens) with six other people, or as two households.
- Take part in formally organised outdoor sports with any number of people (outdoor sports venues and facilities will be able to reopen).
- Childcare and supervised activities will be allowed outdoors for all children.

You and your family can continue to keep yourselves and others safe by:-

- Washing your hands regularly, for at least 20 seconds with soap and warm water or using an antibacterial hand sanitiser if soap and water isn't available.
- Keeping socially distanced, staying at least 2 metres away from those not in your immediate household.
- Wearing a face-covering where required and when it is difficult to socially distance.
- Self-isolating and getting tested if you develop symptoms or receive a positive lateral flow test (LFT) result.
- Not socialising indoors with anyone who isn't in your immediate household. You're not allowed to have sleepovers or playdates, even if your child is in a school bubble.
- Not sending children back to school ill or with symptoms of Covid-19 after the Easter break – if your child is sick, please keep them at home.

If your child is in Year 7 or above and taking regular LFT, you should encourage them to continue to take these and report results as normal during the Easter holidays. If they receive a positive test at home, everyone in your household must begin self-isolating immediately and you need to book a PCR test to confirm the positive result. Any positive tests received up until 1 April, should be reported to your school so that they can complete the track and trace process with the Public Health team.

Babies and children in early years settings, nurseries, infant and primary schools should not be taking LFT, please do not do home tests on younger children. If you are worried about small children or they develop symptoms, please seek advice from your GP or call 111.

Thank you again for playing your part and helping to keep our schools safe and open for face to face learning.

We wish you all a safe and happy Easter.

Hertfordshire County Council