



SAUNCEY WOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL



Head Teacher: Mr Jamie Brewis

Address: Pickford Hill, Harpenden, Herts AL5 5HL

Tel: 01582-621514 **Fax:** 01582-621485

Email: admin@saunceywood.herts.sch.uk

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Dear Parents and Carers

It is with a very full and proud heart that I write my first Newsletter to you. I have been blown away by the enthusiastic and warm welcome that I have received from the whole Sauncey Wood community and feel very privileged to be leading such a wonderful school with so much potential. I would like to thank you all, on behalf of all staff, for the warm welcome and support we have already received.

The children have settled well into the school and have risen to the challenges set for them in class. They have their own views on what we can do here at Sauncey Wood to improve the school and I will be asking for their input, alongside the views of parents and carers, staff and governors as we put plans into action.



After feedback from staff, children and parents, there are some changes we have already implemented; they are listed below:-

Homework

We will be focussing on three aspects of home learning for all children rather than setting discrete homework each week. We hope that this will make home learning more manageable for families and ensure that families can really focus on essential skills that will make the largest impact on their children's learning.

- Reading every night (to an adult, sibling or even a cuddly toy)
- Practising spellings (and handwriting with them) sent home
- Learning number bonds or timetables facts.



We will soon send out some guides on fun ways for children to practise these things – as we spoke about in assembly this week, we don't get better by not doing things so it is so important that they practise these things regularly at home - especially if they are things they struggle with.

Informing you of what your child is learning

Each class will be sending home a curriculum newsletter for the half term giving a brief outline of the topics your child will be learning about in lessons and any events taking place.

P.E.

Children in Y1 to Y6 (Reception need to learn to change and dress themselves as part of their curriculum) can wear their P.E. kit to school on the days that they have P.E. They do not need to bring their full school uniform into school on these days but we will ask parents to bring in correct P.E. kit if children come in wearing other clothes.

Our P.E. kit consists of:-

White Sauncey Wood T-shirt (with school logo)

Plain black shorts

Trainers for outside use

Black tracksuit for colder days

Children may also wear a Sauncey Wood school fleece that can be purchased from Beats.

The curriculum newsletter will have details on when P.E. days are for the class.

Celebration Assemblies

I will be introducing our Learning Behaviours to the children this term; we will focus on one each half term and each will teach the children how to be better learners both inside and outside of the classroom. Each week in Celebration Assembly, we will be celebrating our Star of the Week who has demonstrated that behaviour at school.

When the children show good learning behaviour, they receive a house point. The point will continue to be added to their House total but children will also be awarded with their Bronze Learner badge when they have achieved 100 house points, Silver Learner at 200 and they become a Gold Learner at 300 house points. I hope our winners are very proud to wear their special learner badges on their uniform all year long.

All parents and carers are welcome to join our Celebration Assembly on Friday mornings at 9.00 a.m. and we will alert you if your child is due to get an award prior to the assembly so you can join us if you are able to.



Free School Meals

Please do sign up if you are eligible as it provides additional income to the school which can be used to support you financially too.

There are two types of Free School Meals:-

1. Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM): this is the free meal that all children in Reception, Y1 and Y2 are entitled to receive, no matter how much income their parents earn.
2. Free School Meals (FSM) linked to state benefits parents receive. Children in receipt of FSM, are also eligible for the Pupil Premium Grant (PPG). This is government money that is given to the school to help support FSM children. This could include extra support with their learning but also includes school paying for things like swimming and school trips - you will not be asked to make a voluntary contribution for these.

To ensure that the funding is released to the school, you must register on the Herts Direct Free School Meals page or phone the number listed below. This includes if your child is in Reception, Y1 or Y2. Although these children are entitled to UIFSM, the Pupil Premium Grant is not released to the school unless parents register online or by phone:

Online: At www.hertsdirect.org/freeschoolmeals

Phone: 0300 123 4048.

Your child is likely to be eligible for Free School Meals and Pupil Premium Grant, if you are in receipt of any of the following:-

- **Income Support**
- **Income-based Jobseekers Allowance**
- **Income-related Employment and Support Allowance**
- **Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999**
- **The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit**
- **Child Tax Credit** (as long as you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and you don't get more than **£16,190** a year)
- **Working Tax Credit run-on** (paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- **Universal Credit** (with annual earned income of no more than **£7,400** after tax and not including any benefits you get).

Please do register if you think your child is eligible as this provides much needed funding to the school and will provide financial support for you too by way of free swimming and school trips.

Inset/Occasional dates for the following year:-

Monday, 4th November

Friday 6th December

Monday, 6th January

Monday, 24th February

Friday, 27th June.

Once again, I would like to thank all of you that have introduced yourselves to me on the playground. If you have not said hello yet, please do. It is so important that I know what you think our school does brilliantly as well as how you think we could improve as we look at putting our school improvement plans into action.

Yours sincerely

Mr Jamie Brewis
Headteacher