



Saxon Wood School

Weekly Newsletter – 21st July 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all well.

It is such a shame we had to cancel our Sports' day, but with our unpredictable weather and the forecast of rain, I wanted to give you as much notice as possible to allow you time to arrange transport, etc.

A BIG thank you to all who helped out at our Summer Fete and another BIG thank you to parents who came along to support us on that day. Despite it being a trimmed down summer fete due to the weather, we raised just under £900. In the current economic crisis, every penny really does matter to us. Thank you once again!!

I hope you all enjoyed reading your child's report. I have had lots of positive feedback about them. They really do capture the very best of everything your child does. From Physiotherapy to PE, or science to sensory play, a photo does speak a thousand words!

I have been so impressed with everything our wonderful children have achieved this year. They are an inspiration to each and every one of us, and because of them, I do believe I have one of the best jobs. To watch them grow, develop and show great resilience is an honour and a privilege. But that cannot be achieved without the input and dedication from our excellent staff: it was a momentous occasion when Ofsted publicly acknowledged the positive changes we have implemented and the hard work and dedication of staff.

Even though we are into the last few days of school, the school is still a hive of activity with children busy learning.



Squirrel Class, what a year we have had! It has been an absolute pleasure to teach all of the children this year and I have enjoyed getting to know them and watching them blossom this year! We have covered so many fun topics from space to under the sea and dinosaurs and it has been wonderful seeing all of the children immerse themselves in these topics in their own way.

This week some of the children enjoyed their transitions to their new classes and those who are staying with me next year were able to meet some of our new friends and we enjoyed a 'Dear Zoo' Sensory Story, lots of sensory play and exploring the classroom!

The children have also been getting really creative and messy this week as we have been doing lots of artwork with paint and glitter using both tools and our hands to create some wonderful masterpieces. We have also enjoyed lots of time in our garden, playing in the sandpit, and exploring a variety of containers to make different sized sandcastles and using natural resources to decorate them.



Rabbit class have had an amazing year and term. We have made some great progress and have enjoyed learning through our sensory stories, exploring different textures, sounds and smells. During our PE sessions we have learnt to play ball games and work together to play catch. Have had some lovely dance session using ribbons and scarfs, and have really enjoyed the outside area. In our creative art sessions, we have made art work to link with our topic and story and enjoyed decorating our own kites and flying them. We have created some lovely art work and have enjoyed getting messy. Our phonics session we have looked at the sounds in the environment and musical instruments. We have been making good friendships within our class and have enjoyed playing games like chase and catch. We have also worked really hard on sharing the trampoline and seesaw and have enjoyed playing on these with our friends.

We would like to wish our friend Rohan the best of luck in his new school and we will miss him.

Well done Rabbit class, it has been a good summer term and a fantastic year. Have a lovely summer and we will see you in the autumn term.



Yesterday Hedgehog class had an amazing trip to the zoo. The children had a wonderful time and made the school very proud. It has been a busy week but we have still managed to recap on all of the phonics we have learnt this year and continued with measuring in maths. In PE we performed our rainforest dance and played goalball.

This year has been a phenomenal year and the children have tried so hard. They should all be so proud of their achievements. Have an awesome summer!



This term we have had a wonderful time exploring key aspects of all of Roald Dahl's stories. We have floated balloons around like Matilda, felt bumpy witch (twiglet) fingers, popped bubbles with the BFG and tasted James' giant peach! The children did fantastic work using their eyes and hands to let us know what they thought of different resources and stories through labelling items and asking for more and stop! The light up balloons and bubbles were a definite favourite. Children showed they could pop bubbles using their hands or eyes on an eyegaze!

Cause and effect skills has been another favourite this term with children developing confidence and awareness when working with switches, touch screens, instruments and eyegaze. A favourite has been kinetic sand - helping create then squash sandcastles. Everyone was fascinated by the texture and some children even added jewels for additional detail! We have also loved using the touch screen to create our own stories, puzzles and fireworks!

Number songs has shown children looking at each of a small set of objects in turn or feeling individual items within objects, demonstrating awareness that a set is made of individual, separate items. Some children have even shown they are transferring this skill to choosing from symbols, looking at each option in turn before dwelling on one!

We have done this and so much more this term and are so proud of everything the children have achieved. Team Dormouse wishes everyone a fantastic Summer and are so looking forward to seeing you all in September!



In phonics the children have continued to learn through our monster phonics scheme. They have used the skills they have learnt to help them with recognising sounds and reading words and even sentences. I have been so proud of the progress the children have made this term in phonics. They seem to think the characters are members of our class. Please use your parent login to access the reading materials and games over the summer to keep the children engaged.

In maths we have looked at weights and measure. The children have measured and weighed nearly everything in the classroom and around the school. They have really enjoyed using the maths language such as heavier and lighter, longer and shorter, to describe and compare objects and people.

The children are experts at goal ball now and they have really embraced learning a new sport. We were so lucky to have children from another school come in to show us the game. The children have learnt some excellent listen and reaction skills from goal ball. Move momentum has got the children jiggling and wiggling to a variety of music from the seaside or pirate songs.

We have made regular trips to the school pond so the children could watch their tadpoles grow and change into frogs. I was so surprised at how all the children got stuck in and they were able to see the difference in the tadpoles as they slowly changed to frogs. I am sure the frogs will be pleased of some peace and quiet over the summer holidays!

Started in our topic last term we have grown a variety of different plants and vegetables from seed. The children have enjoyed caring for and nurturing their plants and they should all come home with something that they have grown to plant at home.

Thank you to all parents and carers for your support with the children's learning this year, as most things it works best when we are a team. Your support with communication, reading and visits has ensured the children have had great experiences this year.





Next week we say goodbye to some of our children who take the next chapter of their learning journey to new schools. I am so proud of what they have achieved at Saxon Wood. Saying goodbye is always a sad time, but they are now ready for their future ventures. We wish them all the very best and I know their new schools' staff will be as proud of them as we are.

I would also like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to Wendy Morgan, our current Chair of Governors. Wendy is now stepping down after seven years of governance. Wendy has been a tremendous support for me through challenging times and I wish her well for the future. Thank you, Wendy. I look forward to working with our new Chair of Governors, Alan Rowden, who has written a separate article in this newsletter.

As we draw to the end of another academic year and our last newsletter until September, I would like to offer a heartfelt thanks to the children, staff, governors and parents of our wonderful Saxon Wood school community.

It has been a successful year, where many important changes have been made and implemented to ensure each and every child at Saxon Wood receives a personalised, child-centred curriculum. We have integrated important life skills into our curriculum and we have enhanced the fun and joy of learning, through enrichment.

I am looking forward to the next year ahead, where we will still drive forward in our school improvement journey, as well as enjoy the successes acknowledged by Ofsted.

I wish you all a very safe and happy summer break when it arrives.

Thank you once again for your continued support.

Take care

Jakki

Happy
Summer
Holidays

School Dinners for week commencing Monday 24th July

Monday 24th July

Sausages

Quesadilla

Tuesday 25th July

Chicken Nuggets

Tomato Pasta

Wednesday 26th July

Sausage Roll

Nacho Bites

Thursday 27th July

Funday – Pizza lunch supplied

Friday 28th July

Fish Fingers

Macaroni

Soft option also available

Welcome to an addition to the weekly newsletter which will introduce you to one of our team of school governors and offer you the opportunity to meet with a governor to discuss anything at all that you might want to raise.



Hi, my name is Alan Rowden and with effect from the end of the current term I am the new Chair of the school governors. I am taking over from Wendy Morgan who joined the governors in 2016 serving for 4 years until 2020 when she was appointed Chair. Wendy has been an excellent Chair supporting Jakki and her team throughout some massive changes culminating in the recent success with the Ofsted inspection. Wendy has decided to step down due to other commitments and on behalf of all the schools' governors I would like to thank Wendy for the past 7 years and wish her every success for the future. I can only hope to be as half as successful as Wendy, but I am totally committed to providing as much support as I can to Jakki and the school with immediate effect.

I am married with two children and live in Old Basing having moved here in 2016, my interests include anything to do with horses having ridden from the age of 8 for the next 40 years or so, motorsports and music. I am fortunate to have twin girls who are eight years old, Kym who attends St Mary's C of E Junior school in Old Basing and Hope who attends Saxon Wood and is currently in Dormouse class.

Having joined the governors in 2020 I have had direct responsibility along with other governors for helping with the schools' finances, the school curriculum and the teachers' pay. We have a fantastic team of governors who with effect from the Autumn term will be providing what we are going to call 'Governors Surgeries'. Each half term one of the team will be available at a date and time to be notified to you all next term in school ready to sit with you and listen to anything you might want to raise with us. Everything you discuss will remain confidential and anonymous unless you agree otherwise, and we will endeavor to address any issues you raise; I hope you will all consider this opportunity and take advantage of it.

All governors have agreed to keep these sessions private and as already mentioned everything you discuss will remain confidential and anonymous unless you wish otherwise, the first session will be 'hosted' by myself – I look forward to meeting you.

Have a great summer break,

Alan



ATTENTION PARENTS

**All email correspondence, not just absences,
must be sent directly to the office at:**

parentcomms@saxonwood.hants.sch.uk

(Please only use this email address)

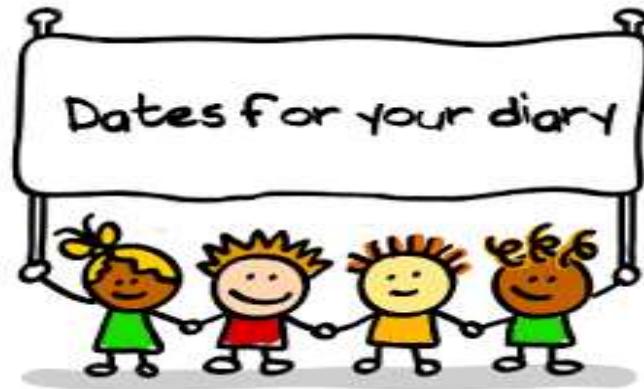
Emails will be monitored between 8:00am – 3:45pm, Monday – Friday
during term time only by admin staff

Your email will then be forwarded to the relevant member of staff and you
will receive a response either by phone call, or email via the office

If you send an email in the evening, please be reassured that this will be
read the following school day and you will then receive a response

If you do not wish to divulge information to the admin staff, then please
email to request a telephone call from the relevant member staff. If the
member of staff is in class, they will contact you at the earliest convenient
time

**Teachers and support staff will not respond to
direct emails from parents**



- Monday 24th July – Sports Day and picnic lunch from 12 noon
- Tuesday 25th July – Leavers Assembly 2pm (Year 6 parents only)
- Wednesday 26th July – Parents coffee morning 9.30-11.30am
- Thursday 27th July - Funday
- Friday 28th July – Last day of term (1.30 finish)
- Friday 1st September/Tuesday 4th and Wednesday 5th September - Inset days (school closed to students)
- Wednesday 6th September – Children return to school