



# Saxon Wood School

## Weekly Newsletter – 31st January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you are well.

You will have received further information about two coffee mornings taking place over the next couple of weeks, keep an eye out in your emails. It would be lovely to see many of you there, please do let us know if you are able to attend.

This week the children have thoroughly enjoyed our multi-cultural week. On Tuesday we had African drumming. Many had the opportunity to play some drums, whilst others enjoyed listening to the not so quiet sounds!! On Thursday, our children who have school dinners had a Chinese food themed lunch. I visited the hall whilst they were eating this. It was so quiet. A sure sign they were all enjoying it! Today, we had a company in to lead each class with a Chinese dragon dance workshop. Again, another activity that was enjoyed.

Just before Christmas, headteachers received a letter from Julian Radcliffe, County Education Manager for the Local Authorities, Hampshire regarding Speech and Language Provision. He has provided information below for headteachers to share with parents.

*The Communication and Interaction Team, now known as the Education and Inclusion Therapy Service, have been supporting Special Schools at a whole school and class level. For the time being, the Local Authority has made the decision to prioritise speech & language therapy for those children in special schools, who have this provision specified in their EHCP. This is due to a sustained increase in demand for speech & language therapy across Hampshire County Council, a direct result of the increase in the number of children with special educational needs (SEN) and the number of Education, Health & Care Plans (EHCPs) issued.*

*The Local Authority are currently reviewing the Therapy Service, including its offer to all schools and settings across Hampshire. As part of this, there is a clear understanding of the need to increase the service to respond to the level of need across Hampshire, and the service are actively recruiting therapists at this time. The service will continue to keep parents and carers informed of future service developments.*

I will keep you updated regarding the above statement.



**Fox Class** have explored Lunar Chinese New Year that started this Wednesday. We watched a video about the origin, traditions and the story behind the Chinese New Year. During our snack we tried Chinese veggie rolls and traditional Chinese crackers that were very tasty. We made Chinese red lanterns and coloured dragons for our scrapbooks. We also watched a very short video about traditional Chinese dragon dance which we tried to replicate in our class. Some of us enjoyed looking at our school Chinese dragon and some enjoyed trying the mask on. This helped us to prepare for a Dragon Dance today. It was fun! The Children had great fun in an African drumming workshop earlier this week as well as participating in our class music session. Apart from extra celebrations and activities, we enjoyed our daily activities that are part of our routine.



**Badger Class** have had a great week learning about different cultures and trying new things. On Tuesday, they enjoyed an African drumming workshop where they learnt how to make different sounds with the drums by putting their hands on different parts of the drum skin and varying how soft/hard they bang it. Children also enjoyed learning about Chinese New Year and especially found it interesting to find out which animal represents the year that they were born. Children learnt that this year is the year of the snake and have been working on making their own snake sock puppets which are looking super so far! Badger Class also learnt about how some people celebrate Chinese New Year and enjoyed breaking open a fortune cookie in an assembly all about the festival earlier in the week.



**Dormouse Class** have been exploring Chinese New Year! We enjoyed a sensory session on the year of the snake and explored a 'What's in the box' all about China. Children got to smell and explore sweet and sour, try on and investigate a dragon dance head and more. We also explored rhythms; starting and stopping, loud and quiet, fast and slow using chimes.



**Hedgehog Class** this week have been helping Nim, from the story 'Nim's Island', to count treasure which helped us to practise counting in 2s. Some of us have worked hard on reading and spelling CVCC words and some have worked on the diagraph 'er'. We have enjoyed being Vikings and using a real rowing oar to imagine what it would be like to row a boat. Multi-cultural week has been so much fun, we have been playing African drums, taken part in a Chinese dragon dance and danced and sung Mexican songs and music.



**Squirrel Class** have enjoyed our multi-cultural week. The children were given the opportunity to take part in an African drumming workshop on Tuesday and a Chinese Dragon Dance workshop today to celebrate Chinese New Year. The class have been productive in art as well where the children made a very effective Chinese Dragon painting piece. Throughout the week we have been listening to Chinese and some African music for children to further expand our young people's exposure to different cultures. In maths the children were very engaged in our shadow game with the Gruffalo characters to represent big and small in a different way. In phonics we continued with our Monster Phonics programme and the early phonics sessions with the help of some nursery rhymes and communication switches. Squirrel class very much enjoyed their music session on Thursday where they continued to explore the xylophones, different shakers and drums.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend. It is hard to believe tomorrow will be February, where has the time gone!

Take care

**Jakki**



**Please be considerate with your parking  
Do not park outside the school near the exit gate and on the estate  
We appreciate that there is a queue of buses and cars in the carpark  
but this is usually cleared quickly**



**Please bear with us during pick up and drop off times**

If you are driving to school then we ask that you please stay with your vehicle and a member of staff will come out to collect your child. This will enable us to keep the carpark flowing as efficiently as possible and allows the parents to leave in the order that they are parked

- Please utilise the whole carpark and use any of the three lanes
- The right and middle lanes we can only unload the front vehicle
- The left hand lane we can unload the front three vehicles

The school nurse team are available in school all day and can be contacted directly on 01256 262097 or by email

[SaxonwoodNursingTeam@hhft.nhs.uk](mailto:SaxonwoodNursingTeam@hhft.nhs.uk)



The following link has some helpful information if you are unsure whether your child should attend school

<https://www.what0-18.nhs.uk/parentscarers/worried-your-child-unwell/child-unwell-ok-go-nurseryschool>



# ATTENTION PARENTS

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

**[parentcomms@saxonwood.hants.sch.uk](mailto:parentcomms@saxonwood.hants.sch.uk)**

**(Please only use this email address)**

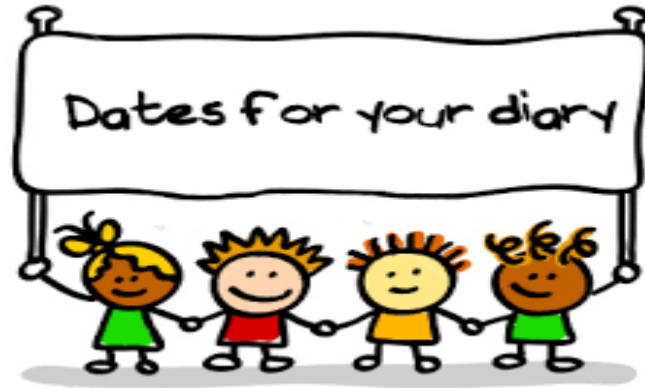
Emails will be monitored between 8:00am – 3:45pm, Monday – Friday  
during term time only by admin staff

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**



- Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February – Coffee Morning with Chantelle Hawke, Educational Psychologist focussing on Autism (10.00 – 11.30)
- Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February – Special Valentine Morning for parents  
(Last day of term – normal finish time)
- **Half Term Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February**
- Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March – Dress up for World Book Day

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> March – Science week

- Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> March – Silly Science workshop in school
- Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March – Forensic Science workshop in school (Badger and Hedgehog classes)  
Parents Evening – Letters to follow
- Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> March – Art gallery and craft morning for parents
- Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April – Last day of term (**early finish at 1.30pm**)  
**Children return to school on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April**

Remaining Inset days for 2024/2025:

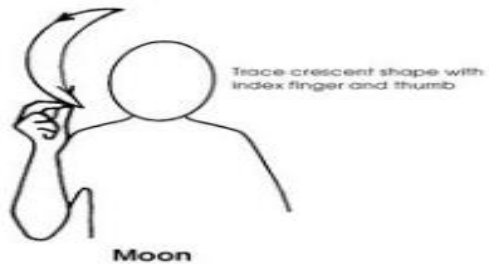
- Monday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2025
- Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2025

**Makaton Sign of the week has been:**

**Moon**



Moon



Moon



## **Absences from school**

If your child has a planned medical appointment during the school day can you please advise school in advance and send a copy of the appointment letter via

[parentcomms@saxonwood.hants.sch.uk](mailto:parentcomms@saxonwood.hants.sch.uk)