



# Saxon Wood School

Weekly Newsletter – 23rd January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you are well.

Last week we had our annual visit with the Leadership Learning Partner, who is an inspector from the Local Authorities. This is not an Ofsted inspection. All schools receive an annual visit. I always look forward to welcoming the inspector because we can really show case our school. Part of the visit included carrying out learning walks across the school. I joined him for these walks. We were very impressed with the children's learning and how the staff were purposefully engaging the children, using a range of communication aids and strategies to reduce barriers to learning. Well done everyone!!

## **School dinners**

You will be aware that from 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026, Hampshire County Council changed providers of school meals from Education Catering (HC3S) to Chartwells. The decision to do this was due to rising costs of supplies and staff, and therefore Education Catering now ceases to operate. Following this decision, HCC tendered out to other companies to take over from Education Catering.

HCC consulted with schools, and schools were given the option to either stay with the catering service that HCC put in place, or to source their own supplier.

Unfortunately, Saxon Wood was not in a position to choose to source our own supplier, as we do not have a working kitchen, only a servery is in place. This means that another school cooks our meals, and they are transported over daily from another school, and at the moment the school who is providing our meals is Castle Hill, Greenbank Campus.

We have attempted to reach out to other suppliers, and to investigate whether we would be able to convert our servery into a working kitchen, however as we are a small school, and due to low daily meal orders, suppliers will not take this opportunity as we would not provide the income that they require. We order between 23 and 28 meals a day, and the requirement that most suppliers need is anywhere between 75-90 meals ordered per day.

Currently, while we have no choice but to stay with Chartwells, we do continue to explore other options. I would like to reassure you that we have fully acknowledged that the meals provided are of poor quality and portion sizes are smaller than expected. Since the beginning of term when Chartwells took over, I have put in complaints to them regarding the issues that we are facing, and I have had meetings with the district manager and nutritionist for Chartwells. Since the meetings, we have seen a small improvement in the quality and quantity of meals provided, however we are still closely monitoring this issue.

I hope you all have a restful weekend.

Take care

**Jakki**





**Fox Class** - Another rainy week behind us, the weather hasn't been very kind to us but we still managed to carry on with our learning. Our weekly Cookery skills seem very popular amongst the children. This week we added chocolate spread, peanut butter, banana and melons to a wrap. Some children enjoyed the whole process of making banana sushi and others enjoyed exploring tastes and textures. They all got involved in some way, learning skills such as peeling, spreading, rolling and cutting. We also worked on our Communication and Language by looking and matching the symbols to objects. We have also enjoyed a very messy Write Dance session, a Sensory story, Story time, Phonics, Group music, Dancing in PE, Soft play and our very favourite Move Momentum.



**Dormouse Class** have all been working on using more and stop on the big macs, they all love watching and listening to tv songs on Ian Bean and letting me know if they want more or stop. They definitely have their favourites as their smiling faces says it all. During phonics we are working on identifying environmental sounds; the children have been working so hard at choosing the correct sound to match the correct symbol. I am so proud of them all.



**Hedgehog Class** have been working hard at segmenting to spell words containing sounds that they have been taught. They have reflected on these by engaging in some simple self-assessment to improve their work. They have engaged well with various tasks in maths involving money, including making amounts and matching sets of coins to a written amount. Hedgehog class enjoyed a great music session where they became part of a band, each having their own solo moment with an instrument. They have enjoyed listening to the story of 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe' and were very intrigued about what 'Turkish Delight' was!



**Badger Class** have been recognising and using 1p and 2p coins in maths this week. We have also started our new literacy book and went on a mission to find three parcels hidden around school which contained the materials that three pigs used to build houses...we soon figured out the story was The Three Little Pigs! In PE, we have been busy dancing by remembering repeated moves and finding different ways to move across the space. We had great fun at forest school making pizzas for birds. We also finished our ice cream truck in PSHE and made the ice cream cones using cardboard for the cone and tissue paper for the ice cream!



**Squirrel Class** have been enjoying our sensory story, "We're going on a bear hunt". They have been told the story multiple times during the week and began to show anticipation when using different sensory resources throughout. They particularly enjoy the water spray (cold river) and hiding under a blanket (dark cave). Their experience during story telling always seems a bit more magical when we are in the library, surrounded with books and calmness. The class will continue to listen to the We're going on a bear hunt story throughout the half term.



## Forest School



So that we can continue to enjoy our Forest School outside sessions now that the colder weather is here can you please send in a warm coat and wellie boots for your child

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



To Learn



To Learn

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>



# CAR PARK SAFETY

**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 allow parents to leave in the order that they are parked and ensure safety for all

Handovers should be kept to a minimum. If you need to speak with a member of staff, please email or call ahead and we will arrange this for you, or please use your child's home communication book to relay any messages

- 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



# 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**



**Full term dates are shown on our website**

- Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup>/Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February – Parents Evening (time slots to be allocated)
- Half Term Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2026 (Children return to school Monday 23<sup>rd</sup>)
- Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February - Educational Psychologist session for parents 10-11.30am (social, emotional and mental health issues in children)
- Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March – last day of term (1.30 finish)  
Easter Holidays 30<sup>th</sup> March – 10<sup>th</sup> April

Children return to school Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April