



Saxon Wood School

Weekly Newsletter – 21st April 2023

Dear Parents and Carers.

I hope you all had a good Easter break. It is hard to believe we are now in summer term!

It was wonderful to welcome the children back to school on Monday. I cannot believe how much some of them have grown! They have all settled in well to their learning.

Over the next few weeks, we will be starting our Lego Therapy with small groups of children. Key staff have been trained for this and are desperate to get started. This provides an opportunity for children to take on various roles and to work together as a team. Some staff will also be trained to deliver 'a Circle of friends' strategy. Further information to follow.

We have also had some children in two classes who have had Relax Kids Therapy. This has proved to be successful and we will continue to offer to other classes. Dormouse class is the next class on the list. Their sessions will commence on Monday 24th April for 6 x weekly sessions and will focus around story massage. I am liaising with Kath, our Relax Kids therapist for further dates for other children to participate too.

Today has been very exciting because Hedgehog and Badger classes ventured out on a trip to Milestones museum, where they will participate in two educational workshops. There was much excitement when they set off this morning!!

Just before Easter we had a visit from the Local Authorities' School Improvement Manager, Naomi Carter. She visited the school when I first took up post at Saxon Wood School. I have liaised with her during our school improvement journey. When she visited us a few weeks ago, she was overwhelmed by how much change had taken place. It was wonderful for everyone to get recognition for their hard work.

A big thank you to staff for welcoming and implementing my vision for the school - A vision that we all share. You are all amazing. Not forgetting our governors, who have been extremely supportive and instrumental in school improvement.

Please see one of Naomi's comments below:

"Today I visited Saxon Wood School in Basingstoke. A very special primary school. The work that Jakki Alexander and the team have done to transform the school is nothing short of phenomenal. Jakki has created an inspirational environment with learning opportunities at the heart of what they do."

A big thank you to Naomi for her kind words and for recognising all that we do for the children.

Now let's see what the classes have been learning this week.



Dormouse class have begun our unit on instrumental sounds and formed our own bands - choosing our favourite instruments and practising performing on our own and with others! As part of our unit on Water we have had a blast exploring scented, colourful bath bombs - the children chose their favourites by scent or/and colour and used fantastic visual and tactile skills to explore the change to the bath bomb when it entered the warm water.



Rabbit class have focussed on the story 'under the sea' and have had fun joining in with the story by tapping to find fish, shake to find the sting ray, and blow to help the pufferfish. In phonics some children are focussing on environmental sounds, listening to different animal sounds and finding these sounds. In maths we have been looking at number 1 to 5 singing under the sea songs, using the sensory tray and looking at time: first, next and last by looking at our day in school. In PE we have been working on ball skills, kicking, throwing and playing basketball.



Hedgehog class have started their new topic on the weather. They have begun this with a science experiment placing plants in different places such as a cupboard or in the freezer to see where they grow best and in class they have set up a weather forecast studio. In phonics they have learnt the 'ou' sound with words such as loud and proud and decorated the outdoor area with lots of word art. In Maths they have been using the column addition method to add up larger numbers. In PE they have been exploring rhythm through dance.



Badger class have had a great start to the new term, the children have come back relaxed and ready to get on with their learning and exploring. In maths we have been looking at addition and have found many different items around the classroom to count. We have been writing number sentences using the + and = symbol.

We have started to explore our new book the 'Animalphabet', the children have had a look at the front cover and made predictions about what it will be about.

In phonics we have been playing board games to recap our reading, sounding and blending skills. The children have all got new books and we will send home new flash cards next week.

In science we have started to name and sort animals into their different categories, the staff were blown away by the children's knowledge of different animals.

In PE the children asked for one final session of basketball and then they moved onto our new topic of weather dances. They have been very creative with their dancing and movement to different types of music.



This week Squirrel class have started exploring our new minibeast topic. We have been enjoying the story of 'The Cautious Caterpillar' and have been looking at the different characters in the story. We have met Cody the caterpillar, the ladybird, bee and grasshopper and we learnt how Cody eventually turns into a beautiful butterfly. We have incorporated the story into our Maths and have been using pompoms and leaves to practise our number recognition and our counting 1-5.

In phonics we have looked at different minibeast rhymes and explored sounds using a variety of instruments. Practising our turn taking as we explore each instrument one by one. We have made our class caterpillar sensory bottle, working on our fine motor and coordination skills as we carefully took it in turns to scoop green rice into the bottle.

The children have really enjoyed making caterpillars this week, using pompoms and tweezers and dipping them in paint to print the body of the caterpillar. We incorporated communication and literacy into this as we finished our pictures using symbols to write the describing sentence 'the caterpillar is green'

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support. If you have any concerns or suggestions, please do get in contact with us.

Have a lovely weekend.

Take care

Jakki



Coronation Tea Party



Friday 5th May

From 2pm onwards

We would like to invite parents to join us for a celebratory tea party to mark the coronation of King Charles III

Adults to wear red, white and blue and children party clothes



Saxon Wood Association



Friday 12th May 2023 at Saxon Wood School

Doors Open 7pm

First Game 7:30pm

**Please support the Association by coming along to
our 'Bingo Night'**

Bring your own drink and nibbles

Books will cost £10 per person for the evening with amazing prizes to be
won!

Please return your reply slips to the school office by 28th April



All email correspondence, not just absences, must be sent directly to the office at parentcomms@saxonwood.hants.sch.uk

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



IMPORTANT REMINDER



Please **do not** send your child into school if they have a high temperature
As is always the case we will ask you to collect your child if we feel they are
too unwell to be in school

Below is a link launched from the NHS through Healthier Together which
gives helpful advice on symptoms and also when children can attend
school

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

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



Accessible clothing and school uniform



We are pleased to see that some of the major clothing retailers have now launched a range of accessible clothing and sensory kind school uniform.

Here are some links we think you may find useful: (You may have to copy and paste these into your browser)

<https://direct.asda.com/george/collections/easy-on-easy-wear-school/D28M110G1C3,default,sc.html>

<https://corporate.asda.com/20230216/weve-launched-a-new-adapted-clothing-range-for-young-people-with-disabilities>

<https://direct.asda.com/george/collections/easy-on-easy-wear/D28M110G1,default,sc.html>

<https://www.marksandspencer.com/je/l/kids/school-uniform-shop/easy-dressing-school-uniform/>
www.marksandspencer.com/l/kids/easy-dressing

Dates for the Diary



- Monday 1st May – May day bank holiday (school closed)
- Tuesday 2nd May – Inset day (school closed to pupils)
- Thursday 4th May - Saxon Wood Association AGM
- Friday 5th May – Coronation Tea Party (from 2pm)
- Monday 8th May – Coronation bank holiday (school closed)
- Friday 12th May – Saxon Wood Association Bingo Night
- Friday 26th May – Last day of school (normal finish time)
- Monday 12th June – Children return to school