



SAUNCEY WOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL



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Friday 17th April 2026

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back for the start of the Summer Term. I hope that everyone had a restful and fun Easter break. Our learning behaviour this half-term is Reflection. Reflection is a powerful learning skill that helps children make sense of what they are learning, understand how they learn best, and build confidence in themselves. In simple terms, reflection means *thinking back* on an experience and asking questions such as: *What did I learn? What went well? What could I do differently next time?*

Children who practise reflection are more likely to become independent, resilient learners who can talk about their thinking and take pride in their progress. There are many reasons why reflection is such an important part of learning:

It helps learning “stick”

When children pause to think about what they have learned, they are more likely to remember it. Talking about or revisiting a lesson helps move learning from short-term to long-term memory.

It builds confidence and resilience

Reflection helps children recognise what they *can* do, not just what they find tricky. It also supports a healthy attitude toward mistakes by showing children that challenges and mistakes are part of learning, not something to fear.

It encourages independence

Children who reflect regularly begin to understand how they learn best. Over time, this helps them take more responsibility for their learning and develop problem solving skills.

It supports emotional development

Reflection gives children the language to talk about feelings such as pride, frustration, or disappointment. This supports their emotional wellbeing and self-awareness.

Parents play a key role in helping our children practise reflection in everyday life. Here are some simple, practical ways to support this important skill:

Ask open-ended questions

Instead of asking, *“What did you do at school today?”* (which often leads to “Nothing!”), try questions such as:

- *What is something you learned today?*
- *What was tricky, and how did you handle it?*
- *What are you proud of today?*

These questions encourage children to think and talk about their learning in more detail.

Celebrate effort, not just results

When children succeed, focus on *how* they succeeded:

- *You worked really hard on that.*
- *I like how you didn't give up.*
- *You tried a new strategy.*

This helps children reflect on the process of learning rather than just the outcome.

Talk about mistakes positively

Mistakes are an important part of learning. When something doesn't go as planned, you might say:

- *What did you learn from that?*
- *What could you try differently next time?*

This helps children see mistakes as opportunities to grow rather than failures.

Share your own reflections

Children learn a lot by watching adults. Try modelling reflection by talking about your day:

- *I found that meeting tricky, but I learned something new.*
- *Next time I'll try a different approach.*

This shows children that reflection is a normal and valuable habit for everyone.

Encourage reflection through everyday activities

Reflection doesn't have to be formal. It can happen naturally while:

- Reading together (*What did you think of that character's choice?*)
- Playing games (*What strategy worked best?*)
- Doing hobbies (*What did you enjoy about that?*)

Reflection is not about being critical or finding fault; it is about noticing progress, learning from experience, and growing in confidence. By encouraging our children to reflect, both at school and at home, we are helping them develop a lifelong skill that supports learning, wellbeing, and resilience.

This week, children in Years 2-6 visited All Saints' Church to take part in a workshop all about our local rivers and how these are under threat. They listened to poetry from a local poet and had a go at weaving! These poems were written by members of Year 6 – well done boys!

<u>I Am Kingfisher</u>	<u>I Am Fish</u>	<u>I Am Fish</u>
My meals are poisoned My breaths are painful I choke upon the water Help me Save me We are at the end. By Hugo	I splash here and there I see paper thrown in the river When I see people doing this, I despise them When I see people care, I jump high into the air.	I live in a damaged ecosystem I suffer slowly But I am resilient. By Ayden

The Wheathampstead School Challenge Fun Run is due to take place soon; the entries are now open. Please register at www.wheathampstead10k.co.uk



As well as running such fun competitions, the Friends of Sauncey Wood have been very busy raising funds for a new playground and outside learning renovation for our Reception and KS1 classrooms. The plan is below:



They have already been awarded £15,000 by the Harpenden Trust which will make a real difference for our children. They have a target of another £26,000! Please contact them if you think you could help in any way at all.

Our Ask

- We already have £15k thanks to the Harpenden Trust
- We need to raise another £26k!
- Can you help?
 - Give Money Directly.
 - Give your time to volunteer at FoSW events like the Christmas Fair, the Colour Run/Summer BBQ or the 75th Anniversary Celebrations.
 - Do a sponsored event to raise money for the project.
 - Do you work for a company with a grants scheme that might support us?

If you could help in any way, please contact one of the team using the details below:

Grant Applications & Fundraising Events for the Playground

Julian Day

Whatsapp: 07736 121083

friendsfundraising@saunceywood.herts.sch.uk

PTA Co-Chairs

Emma Day and Clare Barnes

friends@saunceywood.herts.sch.uk

Have a wonderful weekend.



Mr Brewis
Headteacher

Dates for the Diary	
Monday 20th April	Year 3 Visit to All Saints Church (am)
Monday 27th April	Year 3 Visit to Cambridge Botanic Gardens
Tuesday 5th May	Year 5 Visit to Knebworth House
Tuesday 5th May	Information Meeting for Parents/Carers Year 6 Isle of Wight Visit (3.30pm)
Wednesday 6th May	Year 4 Visit to The Higgins Bedford
Monday 11th – Thursday 14th May	SATS Week
Monday 18th May	Big Draw Event (all day)
Tuesday 19th May	Information Meeting for Parents/Carers Year 4 Phasels Wood Visit (time TBC)
Friday 22nd May	Proms in the Playground and Community Afternoon
Half Term	Monday 25th – Friday 29th May (School Closed)
Monday 1st June – Friday 5th June	Year 6 Residential Trip to Isle of Wight
Monday 8th June - Tuesday 9th June	Year 4 Overnight Residential at Phasels Wood
Tuesday 9th June	Year 2 Visit to the St Albans Islamic Centre
Friday 12th June	FoSW Summer Disco Reception/KS1 Disco (4.00-5.00pm) KS2 Disco (5.15-6.15 pm)
Monday 15th June – Friday 26th June	Year 2 Swimming at Hatfield Swim Centre
Tuesday 23rd June	Elm and Willow Visit to Whipsnade Zoo
Wednesday 24th June	NSPCC Workshops
Friday 26th June	INSET Day (School Closed)
Monday 29th June – Friday 3rd July	Year 6 Bikeability
Thursday 9th July	Secondary Transfer Day
Friday 10th July	Sports Day (pm) FoSW Colour Run (after school)
Thursday 16th July	Year 6 End of Year Celebration at Roller City, Campus West
Friday 17th July	End Summer Term Finish for the Easter break at 1.30pm

Message from Mrs Bloomfield, Senco:

This week we had a visit from Louisa and Cara representing the James Marshall Foundation; they have supported our families on low incomes for many years with grants to help with uniforms, residential trips and extra-curricular activities. If you feel this may be something your child may benefit from, then use this link to watch their new promotional video [James Marshall Foundation Video 2026](#)

The school office can help show you how to complete a simple application form.

If you want to discuss the options, then Mrs Bloomfield can give you more details.



We have a school Amazon wish list [Sauncey Wood Amazon Wishlist](#) and we would be most grateful if you are able to purchase something from the list for the school - this gift would be most appreciated.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO LET THE SCHOOL OFFICE KNOW IF THERE ARE ANY CHANGES TO YOUR PERSONAL DETAILS SO THAT WE HAVE THE CORRECT TELEPHONE NUMBERS FOR AN EMERGENCY. (INCLUDING YOUR SECOND CONTACTS)

