



SAUNCEY WOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL

Headteacher - Mr J Brewis



Address: Pickford Hill, Harpenden, Herts AL5 5HL

Tel: 01582 621514

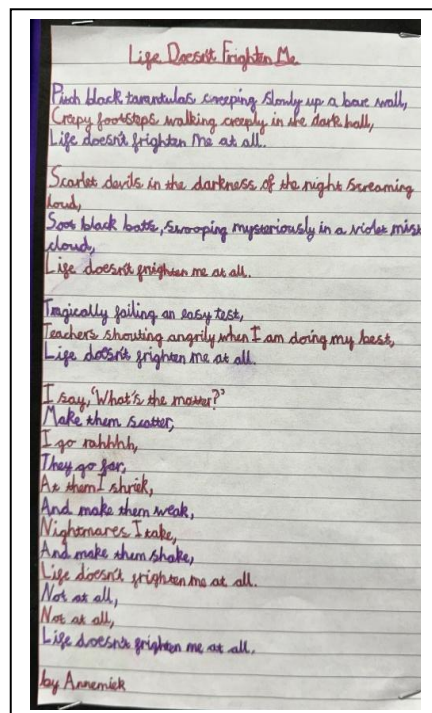
Email: admin@saunceywood.herts.sch.uk

Friday, 14th November 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

We have certainly seen lots of great co-operation from our children this week.

Year 3 have created some amazing art work inspired by Jean-Michel Basquiat and poems inspired by Maya Angelou, in honour of black history month.





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Willow class had a fantastic trip to Hazard Alley! They learnt all about road safety, safety in the home and safety in the community. They learnt how to make an emergency phone call and what to do if there was a fire in the house. The fire scenario was a firm favourite of the children. They also learnt that we need to get out, stay out and call 999. In the pretend kitchen and lounge, the class had to identify the possible dangers. Carter wowed the volunteer with his knowledge about what to do with damaged electrical items! The staff at Hazard Alley were really impressed with Willow class and how well they represented Sauncey Wood.





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What fantastic polymer clay models created in Art club this week. I love the cross sections of the Earth and the different layers you would see towards the core!



The ABA's also met this week as part of Anti-Bullying week. They discussed the role of an Anti-Bullying Ambassador and focused on what it means to have an 'inclusive school' in all areas. They looked at different parts of the school and how they could make these areas more inclusive; for example, adding worry boxes, ensuring displays are accessible for all, making sure the outside spaces and resources are inclusive and friendly for all. There were some great ideas from the ABA's, who will be set to work with putting some of these ideas into place!

This week our prefects have also been busy collecting the donations for the Friendship Boxes to support children affected by the war in Ukraine. We have managed to fill 12 boxes which the Harpenden Rotary Club will distribute to children who need them. A big thank you to all who supported - a perfect example of co-operation in action.





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Thank you to all that contributed to our bake sale, a total of £350.93 was raised for the school and a tasty time was had by all!



Finally, our cross country runners represented Sauncey Wood so well at the Harpenden Partnership Cross Country Races. They certainly demonstrated lots of perseverance and determination!

We are so proud of their efforts. Well done all of you!





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As parents will know, we do need to improve attendance across the school. Please, if your child is feeling under the weather, make the effort to bring them to school. Let us know how they are feeling and we will keep an eye on them and keep you informed. The vast majority of children perk up as soon as they come in and are around their friends and they don't fall behind with the learning sequence for the week. Please read the graphic below to see the impact of missing school for our children.

Some facts about school attendance... that you probably didn't know.

90% attendance is like having a day off every two weeks.

Keeping children away from school for no good reason is a criminal offence.

If you take a two weeks holiday in term time your child's attendance will *automatically be reduced to less than 95%*.

The school will not authorise absences without a good reason for your child being off. This can involve asking for medical evidence.

If your child misses any lessons, it is exceptionally challenging to catch up as learning is planned in a series of activities. Assessment can be a failure for your child if they miss key learning activities.

Most children should routinely have attendance rates of 97% or more. This is equivalent to 6 days absence a year. BUT 100% is achieved by many pupils every year in both primary and secondary schools.

The Government regard 95% as the minimum satisfactory attendance for a primary school pupil.

Government advice states the **only legally accepted reasons** for not being in school are illness or a day of religious observance. This is exactly the same for school staff.

It can make it harder for your child to get along with other children and make friends. Whilst your child is away, children form other groups.

A 2 week holiday each year in primary school means a total of 14 weeks teaching time missed — this could have a real impact on their basic literacy and maths skills. That gap can remain well into adulthood.

Prolonged absence from school can lead to loneliness.

If you take a 2 week holiday every year in secondary school your child will have missed 10 weeks worth of education by the time they sit their GCSEs (and that's assuming they haven't had **a single day off for illness**).



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Dates for the Diary	
Tuesday, 25th November (R, 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6) (3.30 - 7.00 p.m.) Wednesday, 26th November (R and 1) (3.30 - 4.30 p.m.) Wednesday, 26th November (Yr 5 only) (3.00 p.m. - 6.00 p.m.) Thursday, 27th November (Yrs 2, 3, 4 & 6) (3.30 - 5.00 p.m.) Yr 5 (3.30 p.m. - 6.00 p.m.)	Parents' Evenings
Tuesday 25th - Thursday 27th November	Scholastic Book Fair
Tuesday, 25th November	Christmas Wreath Making (FoSW event)
Friday, 28th November	Occasional Day (school closed)
Friday, 5th December	Christmas Fair 3.15 - 5.15 p.m. (FoSW event)
Wednesday, 10th December	Christmas Dinner Day
Thursday, 11th December	Whole School Pantomime Visit
Friday, 12th December	Christmas Jumper day for Save the Children
Friday, 12th December	Christmas Film Night (FoSW event)
Monday, 15th December	EYFS and KS1 Nativity afternoon performance
Tuesday, 16th December	EYFS and KS1 Nativity evening performance
Thursday, 18th December	Class Christmas afternoon
Friday, 19th December	Governor Awards Break up at 1.30 p.m.





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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.

Yours sincerely

Mr Brewis
Headteacher

