



Saxon Wood School

Weekly Newsletter – 28th January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all well.

I am really keen to incorporate mental health and wellbeing sessions into our curriculum because the last couple of years have been challenging, globally: a pandemic, rising energy bills, the cost of living... the list goes on. It can be easy to forget how this can affect children too.

This week I met with a company that carries out mental health and wellbeing sessions in thousands of schools. The company is prepared to adapt their sessions to suit the needs of our children at Saxon. They will include relaxation techniques.

When we arrange our next coffee morning, my aim is to invite one of their trainers to speak to parents. We will also provide each class with 6 weekly sessions. This will commence after February half term, to ensure each child at Saxon Wood has accessed the sessions by the end of summer term. For more information about Relax Kids, please follow the link: <https://relaxkids.com/training/>. If you have any questions, please do ask.

The children enjoyed their weekly dance session today, with the external company Move Momentum. They have made their sessions accessible to all classes. A big thank you to them.

During my time as head teacher at Saxon Wood School, I have implemented many changes. This week I carried out lesson observations across the school. I was so pleased to see the positive impact these changes have made. I observed high expectations for all children. I saw differentiated learning, as well as enthusiastic children wanting to learn. I witnessed some children writing and some sounding out letters to spell words. I saw children engaged in a lovely sensory story and feeling different objects and textures as the story unfolded. This wonderful learning can only happen when we have passionate staff who have high aspirations for all children and this was visible in every class I observed.

A big thank you to the children and staff.



In **Rabbit** class the children have been settling into a few new routines and have adapted well. Their story this week has been 'Farmer Duck' and the children have explored lots of different types of food in our sensory tuff tray. They have practised matching objects to pictures and sung number songs. They have very much enjoyed interactive music and bucket time sessions. All have done some really great listening and have adapted well to some of the school changes.



In **Hedgehog** class this week the children have learnt the phonic sounds of 'ai' and 'oi'. They have practised their high frequency words and in maths have finished off their focus on money by learning to add different amounts together. In Geography they have made maps of Basingstoke and in English have written sentences making sure to use capital letters and full stops. In PE they very much enjoyed joining together with Badger class to practise their tennis skills.



This week in **Squirrel** class we have continued to explore our Under the Sea topic. We have been covering a new book in literacy 'Steve, Terror of the Seas' and have been looking at the difference between Steve (the fish) and George (the shark) - Steve is small and George is big. We have enjoyed lots of sensory play alongside our book and have been doing some lovely work on communication this week using the eye gaze and talking buttons. We have also introduced the children to the world map and talked about how the land is represented as green and the seas and oceans represented as blue. The children then had a go at painting their own maps. We've enjoyed exploring lots of different media in our expressive arts this week. We collected various natural tools such as twigs and pine cones from our garden and brought them back into class where we made some clay fish using the twigs to decorate the fish where the scales should be. We also made 'Under the Sea' stained glass window pictures using sticky back plastic and tissue paper which look absolutely amazing stuck up on the windows in our classroom!



In **Badger** class we have enjoyed playing tennis with hedgehog class, we are working on our racket skills and hitting to a partner. Move momentum are back in school showing us a new dance linked into our RE topic of New Year. It was so much fun. We have been showing each other what we have learned about money this week. In DT we have drained and started to build our moving toys. We are looking forward to the parents help us finish them next week. We are writing nonfiction factsheets in English and making sure we include a heading, a picture and facts.



In **Dormouse** class we have been working especially hard on using our hands and eyes to explore, change and label sets of items! Children have practised taking items out of or putting them into containers, used their fingertips to merge paint and used etran frames to specify what they wanted from six core and fringe symbols! Some children have even done an amazing job working at transferring their gaze between a symbol card and the corresponding set of items to label the symbols!

Last week's children who received a head teacher's certificate were:



Reuben – For using his voice in music therapy
Verity – For super phonics
Owen – For super phonics
Fern – For exploring lots of tactile objects
Ezra – For good adult interactions this week
Jaycob – For adjusting well to lunchtimes in the hall



Very well done to all those children.

Thank you for all your continued support. If you have any concerns or suggestions, please let us know.

Take care

Jakki





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

Please **do not** send your child into school if they have a high temperature

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



Saxon Wood Association

We are looking for new members to join our Saxon Wood Association to help with organising events to raise money for the school

Please let us know if you are available to help



Please ensure that any communication regarding your child is emailed through to the school office at adminoffice@saxonwood.hants.sch.uk this mailbox is continually monitored so any urgent messages can be passed directly onto class. This also includes any copies of medical appointment letters.

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



Dates for the Diary



- Thursday 2nd February – Hedgehog/Badger class parent workshop (2-3pm)
- Friday 10th February – Dormouse class assembly (2pm for refreshments before start of assembly at 2.30pm)
- Friday 10th February - Last day of school
- Monday 13th – 17th February – Half Term
- Monday 20th February – Children return to school
- Friday 3rd March – World Book Day dress up
- Friday 31st March – Last day of school (1.30 finish)
- Monday 17th April – Children return to school