



# Saxon Wood School

Weekly Newsletter – 10th February 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is hard to believe we are at the end of another half term already. Time certainly does fly! What a half term it has been.

We are so pleased to be integrating trips to our learning, enabling children to practise their life skills. I set a shopping challenge for some classes this week and they proved to be amazing shoppers on a planned trip to the local shops. They had specific items to buy and they made good choices, as well as good value for money! They then enjoyed a drink in Costa, which was much deserved after all their hard work.

After half term our first sessions of Relax Kids will commence for some children. We aim to roll this out to all children. I have also arranged for some staff to be trained on Lego Therapy. The resource arrived in school this week, which look very exciting. More details to follow.

I had the pleasure of hearing all about one of our pre-braille sessions this week. The children were very pleased with what they had achieved and quite right too! These take place every week in school and are proving to be very successful.



This week as part of Children's Mental Health week, **Squirrel** class have been looking at their unique features in a mirror in order to create their self-portraits. They have picked out their own skin colour, hair colour and eye colour by looking in the mirror and then choosing appropriate paints and materials for their art work. This is one of the activities in their enrichment passports that we will be ticking off. We also enjoyed a Teddy Bear's Picnic with Dormouse class. The children came into school with their own clothes and teddy bears and we all went down the sensory garden together to enjoy some songs, a teddy bear hunt and a picnic - this is another tick for our passports.

We celebrated a birthday in class this week for one of the children and enjoyed some chocolate cake and everyone took part in making a very special birthday crown for their friend.



**Rabbit** class have been focusing their work on the story 'The Gruffalo'. They have been busy making Gruffalo crumble, building log pile houses, and making their very own Gruffalo. In maths some have been enjoying numbers, listening to number songs and going on a shape hunt. The children have also enjoyed taking part in their passport activities which were painting a self-portrait, leaf rubbing, making and flying a kite.



As part of their Geography topic **Badger** class planned a trip to the local shops to practice using money in a shop as well as our data gathering skills. The weather was extremely kind to us on Monday! We all headed out in the glorious sunshine through the woods, down past the park, over the road and down to the shops. We saw many exciting things on the way such as a JCB and a St Berdoodle, cars, buses and a postie. We had a record sheet to mark down the things we saw as we went. The children had a special hot chocolate from Costa to gather some energy for the journey back to school. Back in Badger class we recorded a recount of our journey and we also made a 3d map of the route we took. In maths we have started looking at 3d shapes and their properties. We have used feely bags to try and guess the shapes and compare the properties of cubes, cuboids, spheres, cylinder and cones. Please show the children if you find these shapes at home. They love to count the faces, edges and corners (vertices). In phonics we have been looking at 'ear' and 'ure' sounds. The children have enjoyed playing a fishing game to choose words from a 'pond' and then reading the word. We have been reading books and then answering questions about the characters and events in the story. We are making a class non-fiction book and the children have been to the library to choose a non-fiction book on a topic of their choice. With the help of an adult they have found out 2 or 3 facts and written a fact sheet. We are now experts on sharks, chicks, baby animals and dolphins. We will be putting a copy of our book in the library when it is published.



This week we have been having a great time celebrating Children's Mental Health Week. **Dormouse** Class have been choosing and dressing up in costumes, creating art using lots of colours and sounds and not forgetting our amazing local area walk on Monday. It was a beautiful day and we enjoyed all the sounds, sights, textures, smells and - of course - tastes we experienced on the way! We used symbol boards to let our grownups know what we could see and hear and paid careful attention to our adults labelling a range of environmental sounds. A snack in Costa was necessary of course and we all loved tasting whipped cream!! On Thursday we joined with Squirrel Class to take part in a bear themed treasure hunt. Some children wore amazing party clothes and even brought in their own bears to show friends. Once we had found our bears everyone enjoyed comparing the sizes and colours of their bears before all joining together for some bear themed songs and rhymes. We rounded the afternoon off with a teddy bears' picnic with all our bears.



We have been so busy in **Hedgehog** class this week. On Monday we very much enjoyed our learning walk in the local area together with Dormouse and Badger classes. We all headed out in the glorious sunshine through the woods, down past the park, over the road and down to the shops. The highlight of our trip was a visit to Costa! We have now finished our Basingstoke brochures. In phonics they have continued with 'a-e' and in maths have learnt 3D shape names. In PE they had lots of fun on the tennis obstacle course. The children have today made sandwiches and painted pebbles.



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



Elisia – For using her symbols to communicate  
Emily – For excellent phonics work  
Ezra – For independent walking  
Ryan - For Good listening skills  
Rohan – For completing his morning tasks everyday  
Joey – For Coming into school all week



Very well done to all those children.

I hope you all have a lovely half term break and look forward to welcoming the children back after a much -deserved break.

Take care and keep safe.

**Jakki**





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)

Emails will be monitored between 8:00am – 3:45pm, Monday – Friday during term time only by admin staff

This email address will be used for incoming emails only

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>



As you may know, as a school we are working towards The Wellbeing Award  
This is being led by Tara and Katie but we are building a team of Ambassadors to help  
with the changes that the school will be making as part of the award

We are looking for 1 or 2 parents who would like to be involved in this process

If you are interested, please speak to Tara or Katie or email

[parentcomms@saxonwood.hants.sch.uk](mailto:parentcomms@saxonwood.hants.sch.uk)

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)



## Dates for the Diary



- Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February - Last day of school
- Monday 13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> February – Half Term
- Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February – Children return to school
- Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March – World Book Day dress up
- Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March – Last day of school (1.30 finish)
- Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April – Children return to school
- Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May – May day bank holiday (school closed)
- Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May – Coronation bank holiday (school closed)

