



# WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Dedicated to fostering an inclusive culture that respects, values and celebrates the contributions of all our children.



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www.saxonprimary.co.uk

## Welcome Back!

Welcome back to the start of the new academic year to all of our families. This week we have had several new children join us so we send a particularly warm welcome to you. Starting a new school is always daunting but the children and staff have already been helping the new children to settle in; I'm sure parents will do the same as you spot new faces when dropping off and picking up. Our Home School Link Worker, Shelly Lumb, will be restarting our family coffee sessions so please look out for the dates as this is a good opportunity to meet other family members.

**The first newsletter of the year is always a busy one so please do read everything as there is lots of important for you.** A reminder that the layout of the newsletter includes whole school information to begin with which is relevant for everyone, and subsequent information specific to classes or year groups then comes in chronological order.

## Attendance

Good attendance in school is vital. Not only for children to make academic progress but for their mental health and well-being too; children need to interact with peers their age and be sociable. There are certain illnesses which do require time off school such as chicken pox or vomiting, however, with most mild illnesses, children are able to come to school if they are well enough. Please look at this link which breaks down the most common illnesses and how parents should manage absence:

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Holidays in term time will not be authorised. In exceptional circumstances, a few days leave may be

granted and an Exceptional Leave of Absence form must be completed at least 5 days in advance of the date the absence is due to begin. This form can be found here:

<https://www.saxonprimary.co.uk/form/?pid=140&form=23>

Exceptional leave includes religious ceremonies, weddings and funerals, amongst other key events that may happen. All requests will be considered on a case by case basis and take into account children's current and previous year's attendance, and whether similar requests have been granted previously. Proof of an appointment or wedding for example, may be required.

Just to remind families that if you take your child/ren out of school without authority for 5 or more days (which do not have to be consecutive), you will be liable to receive a penalty notice. Currently the amount payable under a penalty notice is £60.00 per parent/carer per child if paid within 21 days. Thereafter the amount increases to £120.00 if paid between 21 and 28 days. If the penalty notice remains unpaid after 28 days, the Local Authority will consider a prosecution in the Magistrates Court. Please note that penalty notices are issued per parent/carer per child so a family of two parents and two children will receive 4 penalty notices.

Remember, children do tell us if they've been on holiday as they are often so excited they can't help it! So it really is best to be honest with us about the reason for an absence.

## KEY DATES

September

11 <sup>th</sup> – 15 <sup>th</sup>	Reception children transition week
Weds 13 <sup>th</sup>	3:15 & 6pm – Curriculum Information Meetings Yrs 1-6
Weds 20 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am Open Morning for Reception 2024
25 <sup>th</sup> – 29 <sup>th</sup>	Book Fair
Tues 26 <sup>th</sup>	9:00am Volunteer Training
Weds 27 <sup>th</sup>	3:15 & 6pm – Reception Curriculum Information Meetings
Thurs 28 <sup>th</sup>	2pm Open Afternoon for Reception 2024
Sat 30 <sup>th</sup>	9:30-10:30am Stay & Play Session for Reception 2024
October	
2 <sup>nd</sup> – 6 <sup>th</sup>	Y6 TTRS Battle
Tues 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Flu Vaccines
Weds 4 <sup>th</sup>	2:30pm Macmillan Coffee & Cake Event
Thurs 5 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am Open Morning for Reception 2024
9 <sup>th</sup> – 13 <sup>th</sup>	Year 1 Stay, Play & Learn Sessions
Fri 13 <sup>th</sup>	Mufti for Firework Night
16 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup>	Reception Stay, Play & Learn Sessions

## Dates

Dates are attached to this newsletter. One new date that's been added since July is the Year 3 Sleepover for Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January.

Volunteer training will take place from 9:00-10:30am on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September. Anyone who would like to volunteer in school e.g. hearing readers, swimming help needs to complete this training. Contact Mrs Summers to book a space.

The first important date of the year is Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September and the Curriculum Information Meetings for Years 1-6. This is where families can come and meet the class teachers, hear about the curriculum and other key information. Reception's meeting is on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September. There are two opportunities to hear the information – straight after dismissal or at 6pm. Children can come along.

Updated dates will be sent out regularly and new dates added will be highlighted green.

## Start of Term Transition

You may remember I shared in the summer term that for the first two weeks of term, teachers would be focussing on the relationships in the class between staff and children and the children's relationships with each other. Staff are investing time now in really getting to know the children and setting up the routines and expectations for their class. Lots of PSHE learning is taking place and some English and Maths, but the full timetable of lessons will begin on Monday 18<sup>th</sup>. You'll be able to ask questions about this at the Curriculum Information Meetings on Wednesday. You'll see updates on Facebook over the next couple of weeks about the sorts of things that have been happening.

In assemblies this week, Mrs Vale and I spoke to the children about our Whole School Behaviour Agreement. The children have had their say about the behaviour expectations of the school and this will be combined with the staff ideas gathered on the Inset day. This all links with our restorative approach to behaviour and the Stay on Green chart. The final agreement will be shared with you in next week's newsletter.

## Summer Holiday Challenges

Over the summer, we ran Maths and Reading Challenges as well as the summer Kindness challenge. If your child hasn't yet let us know if they took part, remind them to tell their teacher so they can receive their prize!

## TA Vacancy

We are looking to recruit a 1:1 Teaching Assistant who has a passion for creating lifelong learners, committed to inclusion and has a high expectation of themselves and every child.

For further information please visit

<https://www.eteach.com/job/teaching-assistant-11-1366495>

## Saxon Family Volunteers for Maths

Mrs Hartshorn is keen to have volunteers to come into school and help the children with their counting, number recognition or recall of number facts. If this is something that you might be interested in doing, either on a regular basis or every now and then, do get in touch with her via the school office. Volunteers would need to complete the Saxon volunteer training on the 26<sup>th</sup> September and Mrs Hartshorn will also run a short maths session for any volunteers.

## Times Table Rockstars KS2 and NumBots Years 1 and 2

These online platforms have now been updated with the new classes and can continue to be used at home. If your child has forgotten their login details, please ask their class teacher. More details will follow with the dates of the upcoming Lumen Times Table Rockstar Battles. A photo of the new Times Table Rockstars trophy has been posted on Facebook. We are hoping that it stays at Saxon for all of 2023-2024!

## School Readiness Sessions

The school nurses are running three virtual school readiness sessions aimed at parents that have children in Reception and Year 1. The dates are:

5/9/2023 14-14.45

14/9/2023 9.30-10.15

18/9/2023 16-16.45

To book a place email: [cschoolnurseadmin@nhs.net](mailto:cschoolnurseadmin@nhs.net)

## Uniform & Snacks

The children have all returned to school looking very smart and we love the new style PE t-shirts! A few key points to remember:

- Please ensure your child is only wearing trainers on their PE day, otherwise they should be in black, leather school shoes
- Any child whose hair is shoulder length or longer needs to have it tied up
- Children can only wear one set of small stud earrings and a watch – no other jewellery
- KS2 can bring a healthy snack to school for break time. This is generally a piece of fruit, however, we are going to be reviewing our healthy snack options with the children in the coming weeks, so please look out for that. In the meantime, children should not be having sweets, chocolate or cake as their break time snack

**Oracy Question of the Week**

Would you rather eat only fruit for the rest of your life or eat only vegetables for the rest of your life?

1st Halliford Rainbows and 1st Halliford Brownies are both returning next Tuesday for a new term of laughter and learning, action, adventure and self-realisation. Rainbows welcome all school-age girls from four to seven year old. Brownies welcome all girls aged from seven to ten. No need to wait - come and join the fun right now! We help all girls know they can do anything.

Contact: [1stHallifordRainbows@gmail.com](mailto:1stHallifordRainbows@gmail.com) / [1stHallifordBrownies@gmail.com](mailto:1stHallifordBrownies@gmail.com) / 07749-232789.

**Reading**

We'll be continuing to share recommended books with you but this term, the recommendations will be from a different teacher each week.

Miss Brown recommends 'All The Ways to be Smart' by Davina Bell and Allison Colpoys. This is a joyous picture book that enthusiastically celebrates the power of the imagination while challenging stereotypes about what it means to be clever.



Freemantles is a specialist school for Autistic children who offer outreach support for parents. They have several upcoming courses:

Dads & Autism: <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/events/landing/26675>

Social Understanding: <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/events/landing/22047>

Understanding Autism: <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/events/landing/26676>

## An Introduction to our Home School Link Worker

Lots of families know Shelly but if you haven't a clue who she is and what she does – please read on!

*'My name is Shelly Lumb and I am the Home School Link Worker here at Saxon Primary School. I have been in role for the past 7.5 years. My background has always been working with children and families; starting as a Red, Blue and Green coat at holidays camps, moving into youth work (Shepperton Youth Centre) and progressing to running a children's home in SW London for young children with behavioural and attachment difficulties. I have my own child who is now an adult and I have been a Foster Carer, moving to Shared Lives adult care as the child, who came to us at 6 with additional needs (ADHD & ASD) and learning difficulties, is now 26.*



*I also worked in the early years sector for 16 years, gaining my degree and Early Years Practitioner status covering all aspects of childcare from 0-19 – but no qualification has equipped me more for my job than my life experiences. The children, young people and families I have worked with have been the most important form of learning.*

*My passion for working with children means I love my job. My aim is to make sure each child in our school is happy and families have positive experiences at home. To enable me to do that, I need you to work with us, to share as soon as possible when you feel something is wrong or family life is changing. We all hit obstacles in life and hopefully I can help get you over them, and if I can't, I will find someone who can.*

*All children have the right to feel safe and happy but it takes a team to get it right. Communication is paramount; between us, we can make that happen for your child.*

*I can be contacted on 07825 742564 – you can call me or text me and I will get back to you ASAP'*

Email: [shelly.lumb@lumenlearningtrust.co.uk](mailto:shelly.lumb@lumenlearningtrust.co.uk)

### Upcoming Events and Support

Coffee morning/afternoon

Eat it up Cafe

Games Club

Home Learning Club

Look out for more information coming soon!

## Golden Learning Celebration

Well done to all our Learners of the Week!

### KS1

1JK	Paul & Willow
1K	Ellis & Ivy
2B	Raymond & Alice
2DM	Lola & Rami

### KS2

3C	Madison & Leo
3W	Harvey & Dafne
4K	Flynn & Emily
4P	Finn & Ruby
5A	Aniyah & Edward
5P	Marilyn & Jude
6L	Jack & Esmae
6R	George V & Tabitha



### Stay on Green

Consistently demonstrating green behaviour choices throughout the entire week and therefore receiving a golden leaf this week were: Albert (6L) very well done to all of these children!

Wishing everyone a lovely weekend,

Miss Morris  
Headteacher

*Scroll down for more info*

## Water Safety

With lots of water in our local area, it's really important the children know what to do if they or someone they're with gets into difficulty in the water. Please read the information below carefully and speak to your children about it.

**Lifeboats**

# GIVE YOURSELF A FLOATING CHANCE

If you're in trouble in cold water:

- 1 Fight your instinct to thrash around**
- 2 Lean back, extend your arms and legs**
- 3 If you need to, gently move your arms and legs to help you float**
- 4 Float until you can control your breathing**
- 5 Only then call for help or swim to safety**

Help save lives. Share our Float to Live advice.  
[RNLI.org/RespectTheWater](https://RNLI.org/RespectTheWater)

**RESPECT THE WATER**

The RNLI is the charity that saves lives at sea  
Royal National Lifeboat Institution, a charity registered in England and Wales (209603) and Scotland (SC037736), registered charity number 20029326 in the Republic of Ireland

**Lifeboats** | **HM Coastguard**

## If your child is struggling in the water, do they know what to do?

**Lean back**

**Control your breathing**

**Use your arms and legs to keep you afloat**

**then call for help/swim to safety**

**In a coastal emergency call 999 for the Coastguard**

Get more advice at [RNLI.org/FloatUK2022](https://RNLI.org/FloatUK2022)

**#RESPECTTHEWATER**

The Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI), a charity registered in England and Wales (209603), Scotland (SC037736), the Republic of Ireland (CHY 2678 and 20003326), the Bailiwick of Jersey (14), the Isle of Man (1308 and 006329F), the Bailiwick of Guernsey and Alderney, of West Quay Road, Poole, Dorset, BH15 1JZ