

Autumn Term Newsletter



Autumn Term Newsletter - November 2018

We have had a very busy half term at Saxon Hill Academy. A warm welcome to our new pupils and staff who have joined us this academic year. Building work continues around school and our new classrooms are near completion. Pupils have been busy fundraising for MacMillan, Food Bank and The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. We are now busy preparing for the enjoyable run up to Christmas, we look forward to seeing you at one of our forthcoming events.

Please follow our new Twitter account to keep in touch with us! @SaxonAcademy

Harvest Festival

The whole school came together on Wednesday 17th October to celebrate Harvest Festival.

Classes performed a range of lively songs, poems and sensory stories and we learned the importance of sharing at harvest time. Reverend Mal Hawksmore from Lichfield Diocese, spoke to the whole school and talked about the importance of harvest and sharing.

Thank you to everyone for your kind donations, together we made over 800 meals for local people whom are in desperate need of food and toiletries.

PODDs

There have been lots of exciting developments with our Pragmatic Organisation Dynamic Display (PODD) communication this half term. We held a whole school AAC (augmentative and alternative communication) awareness week. Each class is using a range of PODD boards to model and aid communication. We ended last half term with a very successful parent volunteer group, who were a fantastic help at putting together a range of PODD books. There wasn't a spare laminating sheet left in the whole school by the time we had finished!

Ofsted Inspection

We are very happy to have received the official Ofsted letter from the Lead Inspector stating our school continues to be good. All pupils and staff were fantastic during the day and demonstrated all of the amazing learning that takes place at Saxon Hill. The inspectors met with the School Council, Pupils, Staff, Governors and some ex pupils taking part in a coffee morning. Thank you for all of the parents/carers whom completed the Parent View, this is always important for Ofsted to find out the communities views. We are all very proud of Saxon Hill and its pupils. Well done everyone!



Forest School

Autumn at Forest School is a glorious place to be. The weather has been kind to us so far and we have been outside every week experiencing the seasonal changes. We have felt the sunlight on our faces while tasting the delicious home grown raspberries and picking the wild blackberries. We had fun creating a café for the wild birds, only to find out that the sneaky squirrels stole all the food! The children have measured, described and identified different types of fungi and danced to charm worms out from the soil. Already this week the temperature has dropped so please remember to pack extra clothes so your child can stay warm when we are outside. We will continue to use the woodburner in the Yurt as it gets colder while we investigate why animals hibernate through the winter.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Explorers

We had a very busy half term in Explorers department. Due to lots of exciting building work in our old classroom we have been working in the library and the main hall everyday.

Our topic 'Special Me' was a great way for us all to get to know each other. We learnt about everyone's favourite instruments, songs, stories and toys!

We read a variety of the children's favourite stories such as 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' and 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea'.

Our 'Little Saxons' stay and group has been a great success and we had a wonderful 'Pumpkin Party' for Halloween. It was lovely to see so many new faces in School.

Investigators

Investigators department have had a fantastic half term. Oak, Hazel and Ash class have been learning about the topic 'All about Me'. We have been learning how to write our names in different materials, measured our heights and made pictograms about our favourite foods.

We were very lucky to all take part in 'The Owl Man' show where we learnt about birds of prey and got up close to real birds. Thank you to the parents who generously donated this experience for us all to enjoy.

Willow class have taken part in lots of science investigations and enjoyed a variety of fun experiments. We have made birds nests using different materials and tested to see which was the best for birds to live in.

Adventurers

Adventurers department have had lots of exciting things going on in their department this half term. Chestnut class have worked really hard in their new café classroom to raise enough money to go on a trip to Cadbury World. The money that was leftover was donated to Macmillan Cancer Support charity. Chestnut class held a breakfast morning every Monday and a milkshake morning every Thursday which were both very successful.

Blackthorn class organised a whole school 'Odd Socks Day' to raise awareness for Anti-Bullying Week. It was great to see lots of colourful mismatches across the whole school!

Beech class have been learning about the topic 'Festivals and Celebrations' and have taken part in lots of fun learning activities. The class particularly enjoyed celebrating Diwali, the festival of lights.

Towards Independence

As always the Towards Independence department have been extremely busy. We have continued our OCN and Work Experience sessions at 'Wyevale Garden Centre', 'The Craft Barn' and the 'Food Bank'

Pine class have celebrated many different celebrations, one of the classes favourites was the Royal Wedding of Princesses Eugenie and Jack Brooksbank. We all dressed up in posh clothes, made a beautiful wedding cake and had a reception party in class.

Pine, Beech and Oak classes will be taking part in the 'Christmas Tree Festival' at Lichfield Cathedral and will be making their own winter wonderland decorations for a Saxon Hill tree which is part of a wonderful array of real Christmas trees decorated by schools, charities and businesses.



Diary Dates

School Photograph Day - Tuesday 20th November
Staff Inset Days - Friday 30th November and Monday 3rd December
Lichfield Cathedral Christmas Tree Festival - Saturday 1st December to Sunday 6th January
KidsOut Drayton Manor trip - Tuesday 4th December

Parent Support Group Christmas Party - Sunday 9th December
Christmas Jumper Day - Friday 14th December
Candle Lit Carol Service - Friday 21st December
Term ends - Friday 21st December
Term starts - Monday 7th January