



Church Path, Ingram Road,
 Gillingham, Kent, ME7 1SJ
 Tel. 01634 852320
 Fax. 01634 281798
 office@saxon-way.medway.sch.uk
 www.saxonway-gst.org

Newsletter



Welcome Back



Welcome back and Happy New Year to one and all. We are really looking forward to an amazing 2016.



As part of the Griffin Schools Trust we are committed to developing the school through three fundamental values in developing: Wide Horizons, Proud Traditions and High Achievements.



Wide Horizons



Our aim is to:



- Offer pupils a wide range of opportunities to participate in clubs.
- Focus on developing excellence by giving pupils opportunities to excel within areas that they are talented in.
- Offer children opportunities to visit places and meet people they would not ordinarily do.



Proud Traditions



- Establish traditions that are exciting, aspirational and enjoyed by all.
- Have an environment that promotes aspiration and diversity, celebrates success and is exciting for children.
- Develop pupils as leaders.
- Establish clear and embedded values that all aspire to.



High Achievement





- Have 100% of children achieve expected outcomes at the end of each key stage.
- Support those eligible for Pupil Premium to achieve and progress as well as their peers.
- Talent spot and support children to be the 'best that they can be'.





Saxon Way Primary School is taking part in a project that will assess the impact of a family engagement programme (FAST) that is designed to improve children's attainment and behaviour and improve links between families, school and the community. To complete this project we need a number of volunteers from parents to form part of a school based team.











 Becoming a volunteer is an ideal opportunity to get involved in voluntary work within the school and to support the school community. 



 Becoming a parent partner is an extremely worthwhile role but takes a certain commitment. It would mean being available for **two full days next week** (Monday and Tuesday) to take part in training and attending designated days and sessions to help deliver the FAST programme. A letter was handed out this morning. Please read the letter carefully and approach Mrs Sears or Mrs Sandow if you are available to help. Thank you in advance for your support. 



 **Breakfast Club** 

 All Breakfast Club places must be reapplied for to allow all children equal opportunity to access this provision. Some families have been on the waiting list for places for a considerable time. Application forms will be available from main reception. 

 Access to Breakfast Club will be from 8.00am and will be through the Library entrance. Children will need to be signed in by a member of staff. 



 There will be no entry to Breakfast Club after 8.15am as staff will be required in the hall supporting those children attending. 

 Any parent/carer wishing to accompany their child into Breakfast Club will only be able to do so if this has been pre-arranged with a member of the Senior Leadership Team, and should be signed in as a visitor to the school. 

 If a child is unsettled and needs time to calm down before accessing Breakfast Club or school, the Out of Hours Room can be used if available. Please do not take children directly into the main school or office areas. 

 Please also note that the main school reception is not open until 8.30am each morning. 

 **Inclusion Team** 

 If you wish to speak to a member of the Inclusion Team, you may call or text the Team's mobile on 07415 273306 during working hours of 8.00am and 4.00pm. Staff will be unavailable outside of these hours. 

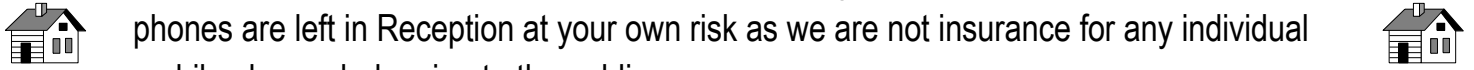
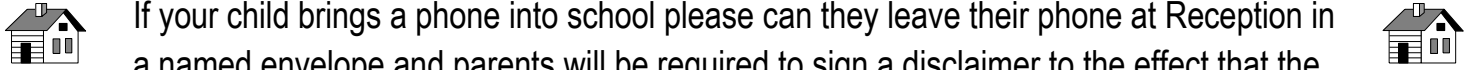
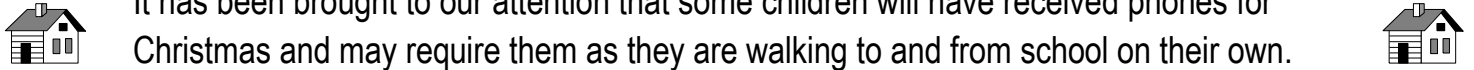




Mobile Phones in School

It has been brought to our attention that some children will have received phones for Christmas and may require them as they are walking to and from school on their own.

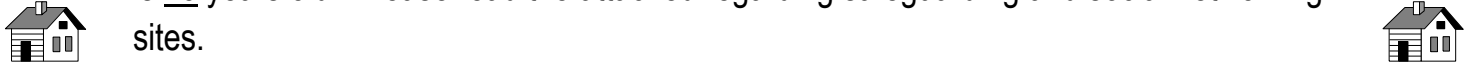
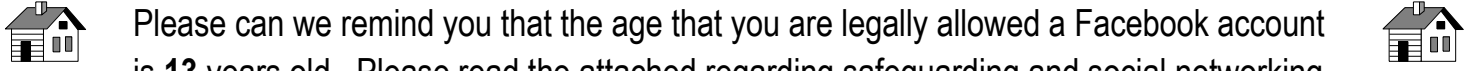
If your child brings a phone into school please can they leave their phone at Reception in a named envelope and parents will be required to sign a disclaimer to the effect that the phones are left in Reception at your own risk as we are not insurance for any individual mobile phones belonging to the public.



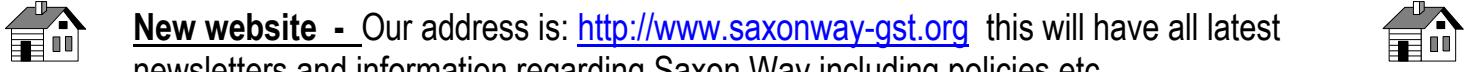
Social Media Sites

It has come to light that a number of children have their own Facebook accounts.

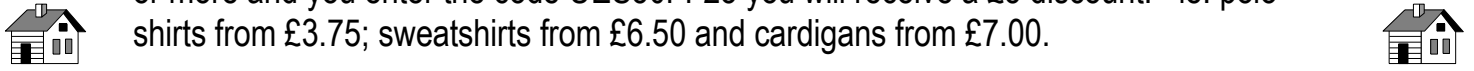
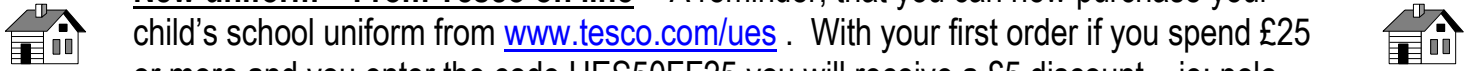
Please can we remind you that the age that you are legally allowed a Facebook account is **13** years old. Please read the attached regarding safeguarding and social networking sites.



New website - Our address is: <http://www.saxonway-gst.org> this will have all latest newsletters and information regarding Saxon Way including policies etc.



New uniform – From Tesco on line - A reminder, that you can now purchase your child's school uniform from www.tesco.com/ues . With your first order if you spend £25 or more and you enter the code UES50FF25 you will receive a £5 discount. ie: polo shirts from £3.75; sweatshirts from £6.50 and cardigans from £7.00.





SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES - FACEBOOK

GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS/CARERS



There are many children of Primary School age or Years 7 and 8 in Secondary Schools who have Facebook Profiles despite the permitted minimum age to use the site being 13, according to the site terms and conditions.

Our school is committed to promoting the safe and responsible use of the Internet and as such we feel it is our responsibility to raise this particular issue as a concern. Whilst children cannot access Facebook or other social networking sites at school, they could have access to it on any other computer or mobile technology. Websites such as Facebook offer amazing communication and social connections, however they are created with their audience in mind and this is specifically 13 years old. Possible risks for children under 13 using the site may include:

- Facebook use 'age targeted' advertising and therefore your child could be exposed to adverts of a sexual or other inappropriate nature, depending on the age they stated they were when they registered;
- Children may accept 'friend requests' from people they don't know in real life which could increase the risk of inappropriate contact or behaviour;
- Language, games, groups and content posted or shared on Facebook is not moderated, and therefore can be offensive, illegal or unsuitable for children;
- Photographs shared by users are not moderated and therefore children could be exposed to inappropriate images or even post their own;
- Underage users might be less likely to keep their identities private and lying about their age can expose them to further risks regarding privacy settings and other options;
- Facebook could be exploited by bullies and for other inappropriate contact;
- Facebook cannot and does not verify its members therefore it important to remember that if your child can lie about who they are online, so can anyone else!

We feel that it is important to point out to parents/carers the risks of underage use of such sites, so you can make an informed decision as to whether to allow your child to have a profile or not. These profiles will have been created away from school and sometimes by a child, their friends, siblings or even parents. We will take action (such as reporting aged profiles) if a problem comes to our attention that involves the safety or wellbeing of any of our children.

Should you decide to allow your children to have a Facebook profile we strongly advise you to:

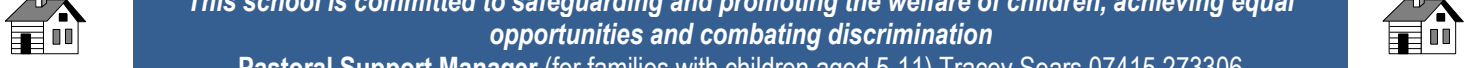
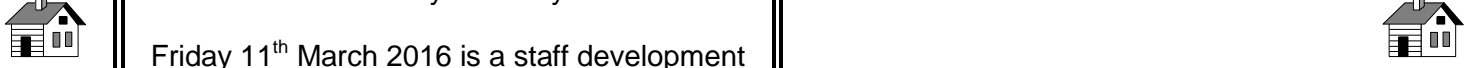
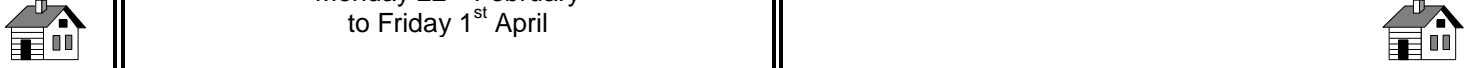
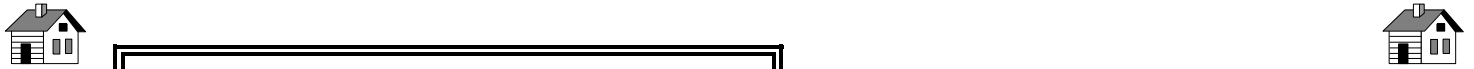
- Check their profile is set to private and that only 'friends' can see information that is posted;
- Monitor your child's use and talk to them about safe and appropriate online behaviour such as not sharing personal information and not posting offensive messages or photos;
- Ask them to install the CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre) application from www.facebook.com/clickceop on their profile. This places a bookmark on their profile to CEOP and the 'Report Abuse' button which has been known to deter offenders;
- Have a look at the advice for parents/carers from Facebook www.facebook.com/help/?safety=parents;
- Set up your own profile so you understand how the site works and ask them to add you as a friend on their profile so you can keep track of what they are posting online;

Make sure your child understands the following rules:

- Always keep your profile private;
- Never accept friends you don't know in real life;
- Never post anything which could reveal your identity;
- Never post anything you wouldn't want your parents to see;
- Never agree to meet someone you only know online without telling a trusted adult;
- Always tell someone if you feel threatened or someone upsets you.

We recommend that all parents/carers visit the CEOP ThinkUKnow website for more information on keeping your child safe online [Click here to access.](#)





2016

Term 3
Monday 4th January
to Friday 12th February

Tuesday 3rd January
a staff development day

Closing date for admission to primary school
Friday 15th January

Term 4
Monday 22nd February
to Friday 1st April

Year 6 Trip to Kingswood
21st – 23rd March

Good Friday
Friday 25th March

Easter Monday
Monday 28th March

Term 5
Monday 18th April
to Friday 27th May
Monday 2nd May

Term 6
Monday 6th June
to Friday 22nd July

Friday 11th March 2016 is a staff development
day

All dates are subject to change

2 further staff training days
to be arranged

Bank Holiday Monday
Monday 2nd May

Term 6
Monday 6th June
to Friday 22nd July



This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, achieving equal opportunities and combating discrimination

Pastoral Support Manager (for families with children aged 5-11) Tracey Sears 07415 273306
Behaviour Support Manager Hayley Mercer
CLO (for families with children aged 0-5) Donna Foley 07507 889381 & Nicky Silby 07539 308356