



FIVE ACRE WOOD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2013

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Monday 2nd December	Parents evening
Wednesday 11th December	Christmas Woodstock event for pupils
Thursday 12th December	Christmas fair
Wednesday 18th December	Pupils' Christmas dinner
Wednesday 18th December	Christmas nativity performance (lower school only)

A MESSAGE FROM PEGGY...

Welcome to term two! I hope you all had a lovely half term break and are looking forward to the term ahead... there is lots to look forward to.

Our new Teachers, Teaching Assistants and office staff have settled in well and it already feels like they are part of the Five Acre Wood furniture!

This term, we welcome some more new staff. In class, Sarah, Julia, Amelia, Hannah, Lizzy, Yasmin and Rozina have all joined us as Teaching Assistants, while Cindy Russell has returned to Five Acre Wood as a Teacher.

I am sorry to announce that Paul Woolley has retired from Five Acre Wood as Site Manager. Paul joined Five Acre Wood in 2004 and became our Site Manager in 2007. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Paul for all his hard work and commitment to the school and wish him all the best in his retirement. Sean Rackley will be joining us as the new Site Manager on 19th November.

I am also pleased to confirm that Jane Gardiner has been appointed to the role of full time Fund Raiser for the school. Jane was recruited for her background in fundraising. She has extensive experience in this field and we look forward to seeing this area grow. We have recently gained our charitable status and Jane will be looking externally to see how we can generate revenue. This will not infringe on what we already do with regard to fund raising activities within classes and other events; they will continue as they have done in the past. One of our first aims is to raise money for play equipment. As a parent to a pupil in our school, Jane understands how important this role is, and with her experience we hope to see the money coming in soon! Jane has spent some time in class getting to know how we work, which will be valuable when going out for bids.

One of the Fundraising Committee's first tasks was to come up with a charity logo. It was agreed that this would be opened up as a competition for all classes to take part in. Judges were very



impressed with the standard of work that came in and had a difficult decision to make but the new charity logo has now been chosen. Turn to page 6 to view the winning logo and two runners up.

As it is now the countdown to Christmas, we have lots of festive events coming up this term. Please make a note of these from the 'dates for your diary' section on the left.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Best wishes,

Peggy.



CHARITY CAKE SALES

On Friday 27th September, Holly Class baked cakes to sell and raise money for MacMillan Cancer Support at the Big Coffee Morning.



cakes, teas and coffees and set up a café for the morning.



Staff and pupils also baked at home and raised the fantastic sum of £99.40!

The table was filled with so many delicious cakes and

the only problem was choosing one.

Holly Class had some practice counting and handling money.

Post 16 also held their own fairtrade coffee morning. Students made Fairtrade

They sold a range of fairtrade products to students and parents, raising £40 for Tradicraft, a Fairtrade organisation which runs out of at Loose Baptist Church.



VOLUNTEER THANK YOU



We would like to say a huge thank you to The College of Papermakers of Smurfit Kappa Townsend Hook, for their generous time given and support on 1st November 2013.

Organised by Darryl Allchin, 40 employees of Smurfit Kappa came to

Five Acre Wood School to help out for the day.



Despite the rain, everyone was enthusiastic and worked very hard to make improvements to our school.

Tasks varied from painting Rabbit and Chestnut classrooms and turving the sensory garden, to clearing the access road and car park.

These improvements have made a big difference to



our school and the hard work put in is appreciated by staff and pupils.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

On Monday 30th September, pupils took part in a Harvest Festival performance at Loose Baptist Church.

Pupils performed in their classes, singing along to songs.

Post 16 students read a fair trade poem and sang and danced to their own re-branded fairtrade version of Chocco latte.

This was a whole school event and parents and carers were invited to attend the Performance.

The church accepted a number of generous donations of food items and toys from pupils.

Thank you to everyone who helped organise and attended this event and also to those who donated items.



MR ROOTSY'S PERFORMANCE

We were completely kidding ourselves if we ever thought that a visit and 'mini-gig' from Mr Rootsy was ever going to be a low key affair. After all, how could anyone keep under wraps the visit of an OMA Award Nominated UK Music Artist, that has featured on the X Factor and The Big Reunion, notched up hundreds of thousands of downloads (making him the No.1 downloaded urban artist), captained the UK3 Lions celebrity football team and who is holder of the prestigious role of 'Music Ambassador' for the 'Britain's Personal Best' Olympic legacy project?

Add into the mix the fact that



this was not only the official launch of his UK Schools Tour, but that Sukhvinder Kaur-Stubbs, Chief Operating Officer of the 'Britains Personal Best' project, and Andy Devaney Head of ARD-UK Artist management

were also joining us as VIP's for the event, and our mini gig had suddenly reached stratospheric 'no pressure at all' proportions! Thank goodness professional sound engineers and equipment were available in the form of the 'Abstrkt Sound Team', who provided the perfect sound platform for a truly authentic experience!

genuine and humble person you would be hard pushed to find: he had a very natural rapport with all of our pupils and effortlessly mixed with pupils of varied needs. He was also really flexible, and more than



Did Mr Rootsy live up to the hype?

Absolutely not - he totally and utterly exceeded our wildest dreams and expectations! He completely 'knocked the ball out of the park' with his high octane performance, in which he showcased a diverse range of original material and covers, and demonstrated what an exceptionally talented and unique artist he really is!

Was he good with our pupils? He wasn't good...he was quite simply amazing! A more

happy to share the limelight with our many extroverts (which included both pupils and staff!)

Does he want to make a difference? Undeniably - not only was he incredibly generous with his time, but he was also enormously passionate about the 'power' of music as both a motivational tool, and a

medium by which to evoke change. He also seemed to be as inspired by our pupils, as they were by him! With the rapid and significant growth of our school, we had thought it nigh on impossible to hold 'whole school' events - after all, who could possibly capture the interest of all of our pupils for a sustained period of time? Well, Mr Rootsy well and truly put paid to that notion, absolutely captivating and mesmerising all of our pupils for well over 40 minutes! We pity the poor person that even attempts to repeat this unbelievably outstanding feat!

Did pupils enjoy themselves and did Rootsy have an impact upon our school? By the looks of sheer happiness and delight on pupil's faces as they sang, cheered and danced along to each and every song, the fact that his name continues to be chanted throughout the school, and his songs are on continuous repeat, it's fair to say that he was a huge hit! Mr Rootsy is also now featuring in maths lessons and pupils are not only asking for "Rootsy time" but they are also coming up with creative ways of drawing connections with him within the curriculum! Staff across the school (mentioning no names in particular!) being extremely keen for a photo opportunity with Mr Rootsy and disturbingly quick to compete for his attention is another story altogether....!!



Did Rootsy and our visitors enjoy themselves? The following feedback speaks for itself:
"What a wonderful way to spend a morning. I've attended so many assemblies over the years, but this was a proper gig. I was impressed with the tremendous amount of energy and enthusiasm in the room. It was a privilege to be involved. Thank you so much for hosting and inviting." (Sukhvinder Kaur-Stubbs, Chief Operating Officer, Britains Personal Best).

"Today was absolutely brilliant. Your staff and

children are amazing and your school is a real credit to all of you. On behalf of Rootsy and myself I want to send you a huge thank you for all your hard work and for having us along. We both feel very humble after today's visit and we really hope to see you guys all again very soon." (Andy Devaney, ARD-UK).

Thank you to everyone that made this event the incredible success that it was. To Andy at ARD-UK for making it all happen, pulling strings and getting our name 'out there', to Sukhvinder and everyone at Britain's Personal Best for their

support and amazing generosity, as well as the fabulous 'Abstrkt' team. To Mr Rootsy - thank you for an epically memorable day - you have unquestionably shot to the top of our school 'hall of fame!'

Is this the end? No! This is just the beginning of our work with Mr Rootsy, and we are excited to announce that, as an incredibly proud 'honorary member' of our signing choir, he has bowled us over by offering to write a school anthem for us, and to record it with our pupils. Watch this space for further details, as this amazing project unfolds!

CHARITY LOGO COMPETITION

The judges had a very difficult decision to make when short listing the charity logo competition, as there were so many wonderful and relevant entries.

We would like to say congratulations to the shortlisted entries (*right and below*), who will be receiving a W H Smith voucher to say well done.

We would also like to say a special well done to Birch class, whose entries stood out, and were very eye catching. Many of these will be also appearing on the charity website page when it is up and running, so look out for your children's art work! Birch class will also receive a W H Smith Voucher.

Many thanks to all that entered, the Judges very much enjoyed looking through the various creative designs.

Friends of Five Acre Wood School – Charity number 1153151.



Winning entry by Leon Storer of Badger class (above) and collecting his prize (below left)



Runners up:

**Sam Burdis of
Birch class (right)**

**Charlotte
Pragassa of Oak
class (below)**

