



# FIVE ACRE WOOD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2014

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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Tuesday 22nd April	Start of term 5
Tuesday 6th May	Inset day (pupils not in school)
Thurs 10th & Fri 11th July	Transition day
Monday 14th July	Parents evening
Weds 16th July	Upper school performance

## A MESSAGE FROM PEGGY...

Welcome to the Spring 2014 newsletter. I can't believe that we are at the end of term 4 already!

In this newsletter you can read all about the many events that have taken place in recent terms. On page 6 and 7, you can read the sixth form updates, which were written by the pupils.

Since the last newsletter, we have welcomed some new members of staff. Rose Atwill has joined us as a Teacher, Louise Brown is the new Finance Officer and Kyle Thompson and Alys Leach have started as Teaching Assistants. We have also said goodbye to some staff; Marie Tasker, Kathryn Bennett, Hannah

Seldon, Lydia Elliott and Sarah Rivett. We wish them all the best in the future.

I am also sad to announce that Pam Cornfield, Teacher in Owl class, is retiring at Easter. Pam has worked at Five Acre Wood School for 23 years. As the reception class teacher, many of our pupils throughout the school have been taught by Pam.

Although Pam did not want a big fuss, we could not let the event go unmarked so held an afternoon tea party for Pam (see photos below). This was attended by staff and pupils who had worked with/ been taught by Pam. The signing choir also did a performance at the tea party and Pam was presented with



a book of photos and comments from parents and staff.

Pam will be missed throughout the school but we wish her all the best in her retirement.

I hope that you all have an enjoyable Easter. I look forward to seeing you soon.

*Peggy*



## WORLD BOOK DAY

On 6th March 2014, pupils and staff at Five Acre Wood dressed up in their pyjamas for World Book Day, and brought in a favourite bedtime book to read. Some classes turned their doors into book covers, which confused us all! Some classes also visited others to read to each other and share books. It was lovely to see pupils getting together to read and enjoy books together.



## FIVE ACRE WOOD ZUMBATHON



A fun (but tiring) morning was had on Friday 28th March with lots of dancing by staff, students and Michael!

Thank you to all the parents who turned up and supported us and also those who have donated money.

So far we have raised 1,351 and the total is still rising!

We look forward to seeing you at the next one.

## VALENTINES DISCO

The Five Acre Wood Valentines Disco, organised by Oak class pupils, was held on Wednesday 12th February 2014. All pupils were invited and brothers and sisters were welcome too.

The disco, which was held in the school hall, had a DJ, soft

drinks and a bubble machine. There were also items for sale on the night, including light-up balloons, glow sticks and coloured hairspray.

Well done to Oak class for doing a brilliant job and organising this event!



## GREEK DAY



On Friday 28th February, Holly Class had a day trying out Greek customs, sports and food.

We started with our own Olympic Games, where everyone competed for their honour. We had running and throwing competitions as well as tests of strength.

In the afternoon we

sampled a whole range of Greek foods - olives weren't too popular, but the cheese and bread as well as honey and yoghurt disappeared quickly. Some students had clothes to dress in or had made shields and swords at home in the style of the Ancient Greeks.

We awarded a gold medal to everyone at the end of the day.



## BADGER AND DORMOUSE CLASS UPDATE

We have had an exciting term in Dormouse and Badger class. We have been learning about castles and the senses. The children have shown a real love of

learning and we were lucky to be able to make the term even more special in the last couple of weeks.

The children visited The Chequers Centre to meet Mickey Mouse and took part in a workshop that involved the senses and included them having to



smell socks (they did smell nice though)! To finish our Castles topic the children

took part in an activity day making shields and crowns and joining together to share their learning. We had a banquet where the children enjoyed trying food that they may have had in Medieval times. All the

children had a go at trying the food and were fantastic.

Both Rebecca and Karen are really proud of the behaviour of their children this term and can't wait to have as much fun with our new topic 'We are what we eat' next term!



## BOCCIA TOURNAMENT



Five Acre Wood School took six teams to the recent Kent School Games qualifying tournament.

Great shots and tactical awareness was on display, together with a fantastic team spirit and many displays of sportsmanship.



Four teams qualified, making us the most successful School there, and they will now go on to compete in the Finals in May.

They were the U14 SLD team and U19 teams in the SLD, ASD and MLD categories.



## EASTER FAIR

The Five Acre Wood Easter Fair was on Thursday 3rd April and was attended by staff, pupils and their families.

Pupils had worked hard making items to sell at the Easter Fair and there was a variety of Easter gifts, ranging from handmade cards to cakes, decorations and peg people!

There were also some competitions, including a 'guess the weight of the cake' and an Easter jar competition which was arranged by Sycamore class. There were lots of entries for the jar



competition, where pupils/parents were asked to fill a jar with goodies. They were then put on a stall and pupils paid 50p to throw a ball and they won whichever jar they hit. We would like to thank everyone who donated a jar, the standard was really high! The top three winning entries were voted for by the admin team and those pupils won a prize of either pens, a ball or Easter chocolate.

In addition, there was an Easter Raffle which was organised by Sue Nokes, Lunchtime Supervisor. Sue worked really hard in her own time to collect prizes for this raffle and went around selling tickets. Sue managed to make an amazing £420 from the raffle alone, which included prizes of Leeds Castle Tickets, cakes, shop and restaurant vouchers and much more. Thank you Sue!



## FUNDRAISING UPDATE

### OUTDOOR PLAY EQUIPMENT

We are concentrating our current fundraising efforts on outdoor play equipment for the students. With thanks to generous donations from Unite the Union, Smurfit Kappa and the The Cobtree Charity Trust, we have been able to purchase a large wooden train carriage, trikes, scooters and giant musical instruments (see below) for the hard standing playgrounds. As we are awaiting delivery on most of these, they will make welcome additions to the playgrounds from next term. This is a great start but with



the support of local businesses we are aiming to greatly add to this in the coming months.

We also have grand plans for the school field, which hopefully some of you will have seen when they were displayed at the Easter Fair this week. We have had three companies in to design and quote for what will be a very impressive grand play area for the students. We will keep you updated with the outcomes of our funding applications for this exciting project.

We were also successful in an application to Santander Community Plus for £5,000 for specially adapted trikes. This means that we have been able to order one trike for each PMLD class in the school.

### SPONSORED EVENTS



Kirsty Metcalfe, Paula Travil, Kirstie Hemingway, Ashley Izzard and Lisa Stewart took on The Major Series to raise money for play equipment for our students last weekend. This was a challenging 6k army style obstacle course where they had to tackle obstacles such as wading through muddy trenches and commando crawling under electrified wire. They all rose to the challenge and managed the course, although as you can see from the photo above they were pretty muddy afterwards!

We would like to thank the team for giving up their Saturday to raise money for the students. Thanks also to those of you who have sponsored them – so far they have raised £225 but they are still open to further sponsors. If you would like to donate, text the code FAWS14 followed by the amount you wish to donate to 70070.

We have access to charity places in other forthcoming events this year for anyone else who would like to get involved with raising money for the school. Please contact Jane (the school Fundraiser) if you're interested in taking part in a forthcoming bike ride (April 27<sup>th</sup>), 10 mile walk (June 29<sup>th</sup>), assault course challenge (4<sup>th</sup> October), or if you would like to get a Dragon Boat team together for the dragon boat racing at Mote Park on 6<sup>th</sup> July.

### SOFT PLAY

We are very pleased to announce that we will be having a brand new soft play room installed next term.

We have successfully fundraised £18,000 for this with grants from the Baily Thomas Charitable Fund and one other fund (who we aren't allowed to name yet!)

### ALAN FIRMIN

We would like to thank Alan Firmin Ltd for generously donating their profits from pallets sold over a 3 month period. The amount is likely to be around £700-£900 and our pupils will really benefit from this donation. We would also like to thank Lyn Apps for organising this donation.

### OTHER FUNDRAISING NEWS

We have had further successes this term with the following funding applications:

- £8,000 from the Childwick Trust for eye gaze Equipment
- An X Box Kinect from Golding Homes Community Chest Fund
- £1,500 from Clara E Burgess

charity for a gong resonance therapy project

- £2,500 from the Kent Community Foundation towards a VisiLift+ interactive screen

Thank you to all of those listed above. We look forward to more success in the coming months!

## SIXTH FORM UPDATES

### AQUA SPLASH FESTIVAL

By George Hadaway



A group of sixth form students went to Larkfield Leisure centre for an aqua splash festival.

There were students from Aylesford School Sports College and Homesdale



Technology College. At Aqua Splash we learnt lifesaving skills, aqua exercises, water races, and water game and water skills. We got to Larkfield Leisure centre by minibus.

When I was at Aqua Splash I helped a boy from the Loose site. After Aqua Splash I was tired. The races were fun and fast like lightening. The Aqua Splash was wet and wild, but full of laughs.

### BOWLING

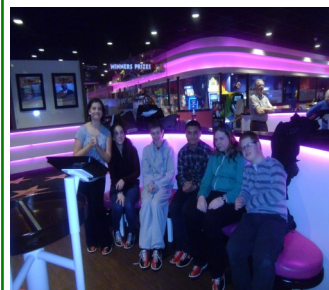
By Charlotte Wood

We went on the public bus to Hollywood bowl. We played 1 game of bowling. We cheered on our friends and our teachers. We played powerful bowling and it was wicked.

We went on the 2p machines and other machines in the arcade. When we had finished it was time for lunch. Lunch was a lovely burger and chips or hot dogs. It was exciting and I felt very proud of myself because I had a brilliant game.

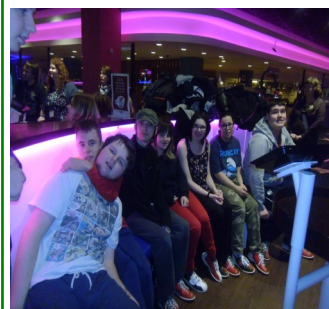


By Josh Looseley



We went to the Hollywood Bowl. We got there by bus. We played a close game of bowling and I enjoyed playing bowling with my friends. For lunch you could choose from a burger or hot dogs – plus lots of chips!

When we finished we got the bus back to school.



## INSPIRE ART PROJECT

By Connor Hollamby

On Friday three schools came together to do an art project on different sports; Aylesford primary, Aylesford school



sports college and Five Acre Wood- key stage 3 and 4.

We were put into groups and we had to choose commonwealth games sport to focus on. This is happening this year in Glasgow and we drew and

made collages. Athletes in the various sports, showing the different body positions as they executed their moves. The collages were colourful and bright. They included cycling, diving, bowls, swimming, weightlifting, table tennis

and gymnastics. We will be having an exhibition to show off our work in the summer.



## SIXTH FORM UPDATES

### DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD



On 3rd February, the Year 14 DofE students in the 16 plus welcomed the School Governors, Parents and a representative from Kent DofE for an exciting coffee morning, where we treated them to home baked cakes and cookies. The aim was to introduce the plans for the expedition which is scheduled for the Summer term. There are lots of exciting plans in place for outdoor cooking and nights under canvas so watch this space!!!

The Sixth Form leavers went for a good walk in the park. This was training for our duke of Edinburgh Award. We let our legs move, we took in some good fresh air and the wind was blowing in our faces. We walked around the park two times on the path and we saw birds, a squirrel and lots of trees. We then had a good rest on the big bench. We took our bottles of water, hats, jumpers and our coats and wore walking boots.

By Stephen Sawyer



### ROWING

By Mikey Asekome



We went to Medway Park to do rowing at the Kent school Games.

We were representing Five Acre Wood under 19's. It was hard because it was a long distance and I needed to do it quickly. It made me feel really tired.



As I was rowing people around me were clapping & cheering. This made me feel happy & it made me want to try harder. Stephanie Benstead came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the whole of Kent.



### ONESIE DAY

By Hannah Fleming

It was a Onesie day at school to raise money for Summer Wood Stock.

You had to bring in £1. Some people wore colourful onesies and

they looked funny. It was good to come to school like this. We all had a photo with a monkey/ gorilla/ lion/ panda/ dalmation and 2 super men!

Wow, it looks like a zoo!



### STAG THEATRE



On Monday 31st March 2014, sixth form pupils performed at the Knowle Sports Partnership Dance Festival entitled 'Strictly Dance 2014'. Pupils performed two dances; A Lion King Medley and a Hip Hop styled street dance. Our students were fantastic and showed so much confidence and skill to perform on the Stag Theatre stage in front of a full house.