



FIVE ACRE WOOD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Wednesday 1st October 2014	Harvest Festival
Monday 1st December 2014	Parents evening
Wednesday 10th December 2014	Christmas Fair
Wednesday 17th December 2014	Christmas Nativity (Lower School only)

SUMMER 2014

A MESSAGE FROM PEGGY...

Can you believe that we are already in a new school year at Five Acre Wood?! I hope you all had an enjoyable summer, which I am sure now seems like a lifetime ago! Pupils are settling in well to their new classes and are we are all looking forward to the terms ahead.

In this newsletter you can read all about the many events that took place during the summer term, from our Sponsored Superhero Move to Sports Day, Five Acre Wood's Got Talent and of course, Five Acre Woodstock!

On page 6 and 7, you can read the sixth form updates, which were written by the pupils. Sadly, we have had to say goodbye to some of our sixth form students; Asia, Hannah, George, Danielle, Radhy, Paige, Stephen and Charlotte are starting a new chapter of their lives and we wish them all the best of luck in the future.

Since the last newsletter, we have been joined by Tim Widdop and Richard Berry as Teachers. Both have settled in well.

This term, we welcome a number of new staff; Kelly Parkinson and Catherine Spencer have joined us as Teachers, Allison Patterson, Lesley Price, Katie Scott, Christiana Thrussell, Emma Legg and Gemma Meades as Teaching Assistants and Jo McLaughlin is our new Pupil Administrator. We hope that they all enjoy their new roles at Five Acre Wood.

Finally, I am sorry to say that Jill Lawson, Deputy Head, left Five Acre Wood at the end of last term after joining over 16 years ago. As Jill's husband is moving on from being Headteacher at Aylesford School Sport's college, Jill had taken the decision that now is the right time for her to take early retirement.

Jill's main priority was always the pupils and her dedication has helped the school progress through many changes. She has also been a key member of the Woodstock committee, helping to organise a day to remember for our pupils, and has raised money for the school by taking part in fundraising events.

Over the years, Jill has



worked closely with parents and staff to ensure that the pupils' needs are being met. She was instrumental in securing the Aylesford sixth form unit has worked hard to build up the outreach provision that Five Acre Wood provides for pupils with Special Educational Needs in the mainstream area.

I would like to thank Jill for her commitment to Five Acre Wood School. Her smile and happy demeanour will be missed by all and we wish her the best of luck in future.

You can read Jill's farewell message and see photos of her leaving assembly on page 10.

Peggy

FOOTBALL SCHEME

Pupils in Holly Class, along with two pupils from Elm class, have taken part in a football development scheme run by the charity King's Reach over 8 weeks.

Students improved their practical skills and teamwork while having a lot of fun. After the final session, all the students were presented with a certificate by the Chief Executive of the YMCA in Loose, where the sessions



were held.

Many thanks go to Ian and Stuart for their excellent coaching.

FREMLIN WALK EVENT

On Wednesday 21st May 2014, the signing choir performed at Fremlin Walk. It was arranged at the request of the National Deaf Children's

Society, who had heard about our amazing choir and asked if we would perform in order to help them to celebrate Deaf Awareness Week. Well done to everyone involved!



RABBIT CLASS UPDATE

At the beginning of the summer term, Rabbit class went on a school trip to the Julia Donaldson exhibition at Chatham Dockyard.

Rabbit class really enjoy Julia Donaldson's books, especially The Gruffalo, Room on a Broom and Monkey Puzzle.

We even got to dress up as different characters from the stories.

We were very lucky and got to look round some of the big ships.

On one we were allowed to ring the bell – it was very loud!



SPARROW CLASS TRIP

In the summer term, the Sparrows went out to the Chatham Historic Dockyard for the day. We saw lots of different sights from model ships, old ships, and a submarine. There was also lots to smell too when we went into the beautiful gardens with the scents of the flowers and the

overhanging trees blowing in the wind.

A big thanks to John who gave up his time to come and help us and also to Natasha who volunteered her time to support the pupils on their trip!

A good day was had by all!



SPORTS DAY

The Five Acre Wood annual sports days were held in the summer term.

All classes took part in a range of events, including a walking race, running race, wheelchair race and relay.

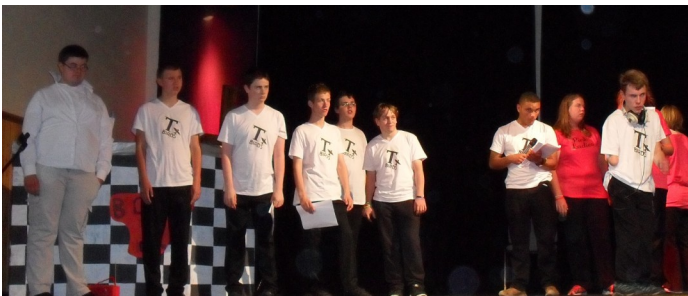
Students from Aylesford worked as helpers on the day for the main site.

There were also races for staff and parents/carers to take part in! It was great to see so many parents/carers there supporting our pupils!

Thank you to everyone involved in organising the events.



GREASE



On Wednesday 16th July, upper school pupils performed a musical production of Grease.

Pupils had fun singing, signing and dancing along to well known songs including Summer Nights, You're the One that I Want and Greased Lightenin'.

It was a fantastic performance and students looked great in their costumes. Well done to everyone involved.

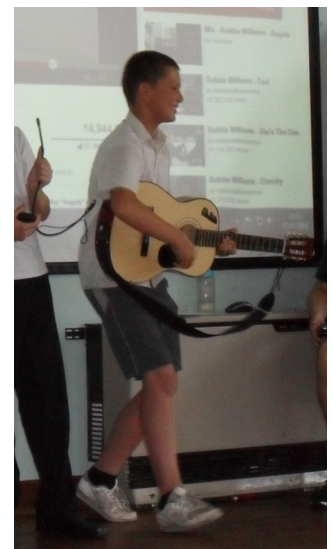


FAW'S GOT TALENT

On 17th July, pupils took part in the Five Acre Wood's Got Talent competition.

There was a range of acts and a panel of 4 judges gave feedback to each contestant.

Two winners were announced—one singer and one dancer. Both then performed on stage at Woodstock the following week. Well done to everyone who took part!



FIVE ACRE WOODSTOCK

This year's Woodstock 2014 'Wild West' music festival completely and utterly 'smashed it' – and in the process it had a meteoric impact upon our own pupils and staff, as well as those from invited mainstream and special schools.

All the hallmarks of authenticity were present – a huge mobile stage rigged with state of the art lighting and sound systems, operated by a team of professional technicians; a bevy of supremely talented artists and 'field performers' provided by our close network of industry contacts; sumptuous 'all you can consume' food and drink laid on for 499 guests for an entire day; a field decked in Marquees and Tipis, an endless breadth of bona fide themed activities as far as the eye could behold, and head turning promotional banners, materials and resources.

How on Earth did an event of this scale and stature take place at our school I hear you ask?! The answer, purely and



simply, comes down to the generosity of a whole host of individuals as well as local and National organisations, who provided their time, commitment and resources absolutely free of charge, in order to create the experience of a lifetime for our pupils.

This roll call of honour includes:

- Greggs The Bakers, who fed and watered everyone throughout the day all that they possibly eat and drink ...and then more!!
- Coca Cola who donated an incredible iPad raffle prize, which sold over 1000 tickets and in the process generated much needed 'Woodstock' funds.
- StageAce by Panache Audio Systems, whose stage and lighting system provided an unequalled 'X Factor' platform that showcased our artists and wowed the 'crowd.'
- The combined might of NSP Recording Studios and The

Flightcase Company, who unleashed an exceptionally stunning sound set up. Holmsted Events, whose jaw dropping giant Tipi provided a striking focal point for our event.

- The 36 Engineers and Loose Scouts whose incredible marquees offered our pupils invaluable shade during what was to become a very hot day!
- Travis Perkins and Scott Parsons Landscaping Services who built us an amazing and permanent 16 foot desert!

effortlessly and naturally with our pupils and who had an outstanding impact on a whole host of outcomes for our pupils e.g. communication, self esteem, confidence and inclusion, to name but a few of a series of hugely important educational areas.

- APlant – who kindly provided all of the security barriers which ensured that the safety of our pupils was maintained at all times.
- Recognition Express in



- Andy Devaney (ARD-UK Media And Entertainment Agents) and Danielle Knights (Live And Love Music) who provided us with a roster of incredibly gifted, extremely hard working, compassionate and exceptionally giving artists.
- Our amazing performers themselves - Mr Rootsy, McCrei, De'Vide, Kirsti Robinson, Jason Allen, The Darren Show And Tyber Cranstoun – all outstanding role models, who engaged so

Rochester, whose deluxe range of bespoke gifts, banners, flags, clothing and



FIVE ACRE WOODSTOCK

‘surprises’ helped us to raise the profile of the event as well as to reward the time and effort made by all the other supporting organisations.

- Joe Ellson and Richard Robinson from Bellwood Homes who raised the astounding amount of money that enabled us to have ‘all the frills.’

- Viridor, who supplied us with a stockpile of heavy duty waste bins.

- Four Jays Group who provided us with a series of prestige toilets for the event.

- Grange Farm in Lidsing who furnished us with 100 bales of straw which was used to build a unique ‘Woodstock’ sign as well as lush seating areas and rustic ‘saloon’ walls.

- Kevin Thompson from Aylesford School Sports College whose charm and humour were used to great effect as our host for the day.

- Liam Thomas, who not only secured us the generator that



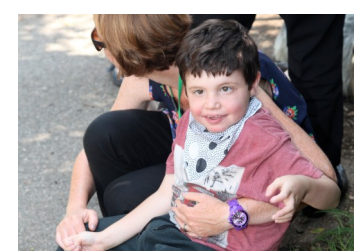
ran our vast electrical requirements for the day, but who also provided behind the scenes technical support.

In the current financial climate very few individuals and companies are willing to put the time and effort into wholeheartedly supporting organisations such as ours - it is therefore a complete pleasure to work with the above individuals and organisations, who are absolutely committed to putting the time and effort into supporting us. It is also abundantly clear that they ‘buy into’ our ethos of providing the experience of a lifetime for our pupils. We cannot thank them enough for making such an incredible difference to the lives of our very special pupil’s and we are privileged to not only benefit from their wonderful support but also to be able to refer to them as ‘Friends of Five Acre Wood.’ It’s wonderful to know that

they’ve all already signed up for Woodstock 2015!

Finally, we should also ‘salute’ the Woodstock Committee, whose efforts drew all of these organisations together to make everything happen. Their vision, tireless efforts, huge hearts and willingness to do ‘whatever’, ‘whenever’ – be that fundraising on a bike, or by begging, borrowing, procuring or making resources and equipment at all hours of day and night, in order to achieve the seemingly impossible, are much appreciated. Huge thanks therefore go the following Committee members and additional helpers - Jill Lawson, Tim Williams, Hayleigh Blighton, Emma Hendey, Terri Fowle, Sarah Eiffert, Rebecca Robertson, Adel Orr, Katie John, Dave Clay, Debbie Griffin, Kylie Overton, Matt Jones, Laura Keene, Trevor Billinge, Kelly Walker, Esther McLaren, Sean Rackley and John Hughes and Helen Thwaites.

How can we possibly ‘top’ this event next year? We’re already thinking along the lines of a circus theme so prepare yourself now for the mayhem and madness that will ensue in a year’s time! Please let us know if you can help in any way or know someone who might be able to!



FUNDRAISING UPDATE

SUPERHERO MOVE

Friday 4th July was Superhero Day at Five Acre Wood School.

We'd like to say a massive thank you to everybody who contributed in any way to making this day the massive success that it was.



A special mention must go to Tim Williams, who threw down the gauntlet and said that if staff could raise an extra £100 by the end of the



This included everybody who came in fancy dress, anyone who sponsored the students for the Sponsored Move, those who so kindly sent in cakes for us to sell and of course the general positive energy and enthusiasm of everyone involved.



day then he would cycle home dressed as Captain America. Here you can see a photo of him setting off on his 12 mile cycle home! So far we have raised £1233.50 – a truly remarkable amount of money that will be spent on play equipment for our children. Thank you all!

DRAGON BOAT RACING

Two teams from Five Acre Wood took part in the Dragon Boat racing day on 6th July at Mote Park to raise money for the school.

Although Michael is an experienced watersportman, the rest of the team are not which was unfortunately reflected in our final ranking of 32nd out of 37 teams! The Five Acre Wood team was made up of Michael Garcia, Tim Williams, Kayte John, Jim Jamieson, Paula Travil, Jack Bovingdon, Matt Jones, Jane Gardiner, James Allchin, Sarah Eiffert, and Kelly Allchin.

More successful were the second team who had chosen us as their charity to race for, captained by Sean Rackley, our Facilities Manager. They managed a very respectable 6th place and hope to have raised £300 for Five Acre Wood in doing so.

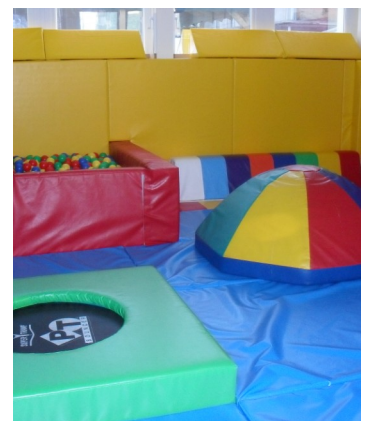


NEW SOFT PLAY ROOM

We are pleased to announce that the new soft play room has now been installed. This was funded by a £9,888 grant from The Big Lottery Fund Awards 4 All and a £14,604 grant from The Baily Thomas Charitable Trust.

We are delighted with the new room which has been completely replaced with brand new flooring and wall coverings. It contains not only a new ball pool, trampoline, den, steps and slide, but also features new technology to support the learning of our students in

the room. The giant floor piano will be controlled by students to make sounds and activate colours with touch, and a responsive balance beam changes the room colour and makes sounds when the students walk on it.



FUNDRAISING UPDATE

EDDYSTONE CHALLENGE

This month Michael Garcia undertook a formidable challenge at sea in order to raise money for the school.

Billed as 'a tough event' requiring 'a high level of stamina and a dogged Determination, designed for athletes at the top of their game', this was a daunting 28 mile race out in the Atlantic Ocean.



Michael managed to raise an equally impressive £792 in sponsorship for this event. Thank you so much to everyone who sponsored Michael for this, he was particularly touched by all of the parents and carers who supported him and the fact that he had received so much support really helped to motivate him on the day.

ACTIVE KIDS VOUCHERS



Thanks to everyone who sent in their Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers to us this year.

We have just placed our order of a wall mounted AND1 basketball back board and hoop and an inclusive Giant Go 4 Goal and base together with basketballs.

We have also been able to order some much needed basic PE items such as mats, beanbags and sequencing spots.

Sainsbury's



VISILIFT+ SCREEN

We have just taken delivery of our new VisiLift+ screen which was purchased with a £2,500 grant from the Kent Community Fund and a £2,492 grant from the Boshier-Hinton Foundation.

This amazing piece of technology will allow our students with high levels of physical disability and complex sensory needs access to fun interactive learning technology that is currently not accessible to them.

The 42" interactive touch-sensitive plasma has an in-built PC and is height

adjustable with tilt. It has two powered columns which raise and lower it and the screen can be rotated to any angle from horizontal to vertical.

The screen can be used flat like a table and height angled so that students can use it in wheelchairs or from the floor with ease to within centimetres of their bodies.

Importantly, the screen is multi-touch so, unlike an iPad or white board, students can get lots of feedback from it through using both hands. Several students are also able to use it effectively at the same time.



LLOYDS BANK COMMUNITY FUND

Friends of Five Acre Wood School applied to this fund and have been short-listed for the next stage - the public vote. Lloyd's said:

'Nearly 600 Lloyds Banking Group colleagues worked together in selection panels to review 4,500 applications and decide the final four

organisations short-listed in each of the 352 communities. The standard was very high this year and it's a great achievement to have made the short-list.

We'll be inviting your supporters, the public and our colleagues to vote for the short-listed organisations

from 2 September to 10 October 2014. Votes can be cast online, in participating Lloyds Bank branches and by SMS.'

Every organisation on the short-list will get an award with the number of votes cast in each community deciding how the awards will be allocated.

The organisation with the most votes in a community will receive £3,000, second highest votes £2,000, third highest votes £1,000 and fourth highest votes £500.

To vote, visit www.communityfund.lloydsbank.com

SIXTH FORM UPDATES

THROUGH THE DECADES

By Rebekkah Ballard

In June we had a 'through the decades' week. We did a 50s, 60s, and 70s, group. The 60s group made a poster about 60s shoes, clothes, and hairstyles.



My group made headbands and bracelets. We made a John Lennon Mannequin. We listened to some 60s music such as Cliff Richard.

Other groups made a boxed radio and a boxed TV. It was a bit crazy and confusing but I learnt a lot.



A group of sixth form students received their Bronze Award following the successful completion of an overnight expedition, where they camped, cooked independently on flameless cookers, navigated, carried a backpack and walked 23K.

Well done... we are very proud of them!

MALLING SCHOOL GYM

By Michael Connelly



This term we went to Malling school to use the gym there.

We go on Wednesday afternoons. We got there and back by public bus. We all had a personal trainer. At the gym they have lots of different machines to go on. I felt good afterwards. It is like a proper gym with TV screens on equipment. It was a two hour session.

There have been plenty of action – packed Wednesday afternoons this term!



BUTLINS

By Tom Lilley

In June, I went to Butlins. I love dancing at the disco and I did archery at the sports hut.

I went on the rides, to the arcades and bowling at the bowling alley.

I also went to the pantomime to see Snow White, I had a water fight and I went to the hospital because I had a sprained ankle.

I went swimming twice. I went to the show to see Scooby Doo. I like Butlins.



By Christopher Kiell



On Monday we travelled to Butlins by Mini Bus, stopping off at Tesco in Littlehampton to get our shopping. We saw the Pantomime Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. On Tuesday we went swimming, had an Ice Cream, played at the Funfair, did target shooting and danced at the Disco.

On Wednesday we went bowling, tried Archery, Go Karting, had a water fight and went to the Disco. On Thursday we went swimming on the flumes met Scooby Doo And watched the football.

On Friday we packed our suitcase and left to go to McDonald's and then went home.



DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD AND VOLUNTEERING

By Mikey Asekome

I did volunteering at Walderslade Village Buttercups Nursery.

I cleared the garden and go every Wednesday.

The staff were really pleased we had cleaned it all up and the children are now able to play outside.

I enjoy it because I like cleaning and I like helping others.

I do this for my D of E volunteering.

SIXTH FORM UPDATES

GREASE

By Stephanie Benstead



On The 16th of July the Sixth Form and Upper School performed the Musical of Grease.

There was acting and dancing. We had to remember the dance and it made me nervous but I

enjoyed practising with my friends. Meg choreographed our dance and it was fun.

I played a Pink Lady and was an understudy for Sandy. Sandy is the main part of the play. She is Danny's girlfriend.

SIXTH FORM PROM

On Saturday 12th July we said goodbye to eight sixth form students by having a prom at the Hilton Hotel.

The evening included a three course sit down meal and disco to celebrate the leavers' achievements at Five Acre Wood.

Everyone was beautifully dressed in their gowns and



Suits and although there was a hint of sadness, it was a very happy evening and a great way to mark the end of the students' time at Five Acre Wood.



WORK EXPERIENCE

By Rebekkah Ballard

I did my work experience at Hair Professional.

I had to wear smart black clothes and did lots of different tasks such as mixing hair dye, cleaning shelves, passing hair dye sheets to stylists, folding towels as well as washing cups up!

I practiced on a doll's head.



The Salon was lively and busy but kind and friendly.

The staff were nice and they made me feel really welcome.

My advice for student who do work experience is you have to be punctual, always stay on task and try not to wander or day dream.

By Connor Hollamby

On 19th May I went to Five Acre Wood Loose site to do my work experience placement with the admin department.

On the first day I was in Finance counting the school money and filing letters. I worked in reception franking mail and in HR Support. I also worked on reception and with the Head Teacher's PA.



By Josh Looseley



I did work experience at Waitrose Distribution Centre. I wore a uniform with steel toe cap boots and a high-vis jacket. We had to load the trucks for deliveries to shops. I got a lunch card and purchased my lunch in the staff canteen. The food was really good!

The staff were really helpful. This experience has helped me with my shyness as I'm now more confident around different people. Thank you Waitrose.

GOODBYE JILL!

Not only was 22nd July our Woodstock event but it was also the day we said goodbye to Jill Lawson, Deputy Headteacher at Five Acre Wood, after 16 and a half years.

We could not let the occasion go unmarked so on 21st July, Jill was



surprised with a leaving assembly in the church, followed by an afternoon tea in the meeting room.

The assembly highlighted Jill's achievements over the years and was attended by staff and pupils, who presented Jill with gifts and performed different songs, which she watched from her specially made throne! There was even a surprise video

call with Jill's parents who were unable to make it in person.

The assembly finale was an unforgettable rendition of 'I've had the time of my life' by the Assistant Heads, Tim, Michael and Catherine, where staff and pupils were all dancing and singing along! Following this, Jill attended her afternoon tea where she was joined by special



guests including previous staff and students who she has worked with over the years.

Thank you to everyone who helped organise this to give Jill such a memorable send-off. We wish Jill all the best in her retirement.



FAREWELL MESSAGE FROM JILL...



I could not leave without saying a few words...

Dear pupils and students - you are truly remarkable young people. You have been a joy to work with and it has been wonderful to see you grow and develop. I feel so privileged to have shared in your achievement and

successes. I will take away very precious memories and I know that I will miss you all so very much. Keep believing in yourselves and try your best.

Dear families, I have been so lucky to have worked at Five Acre Wood for the past 16 ½ years. Any school like FAW is special because we have the opportunity to get to know the families and develop relationships with you which would not be possible in a mainstream school. Things have not always been easy in home-school relationships but thank you for your trust and willingness to work together. Each and every one of your children holds a special place in my heart. I have felt so much joy in seeing how they seize every opportunity presented to

them. Thank you for allowing me to play a small part in their lives.

Dear staff, thank you for being such an incredible staff team, for the dedication you show to pupils and students and the support you give to each other. You are more than colleagues to me. We have shared laughter and tears and we have wonderful stories to tell and memories to treasure. The pleasure of working with our young people makes the job such a privilege. Take the time to reflect on how great you all are and what a wonderful job you have.

Dear governors it has been great working with you. You give up your time freely to improve the lives of our young people - it has

been a privilege to be part of such a dedicated team. Thank you.

Five Acre Wood is a wonderful school. Everyone is on a journey to 'outstandingness'. In my view, it is already outstanding! I cannot express my thanks in enough ways and as I move on to the next stage of my life it is with a true mixture of emotions - excitement at what the future holds but sadness at what I am leaving behind. I wish each and every one of you good health and a bright and happy future. Keep Smiling!

With love,

Jill x