



FIVE ACRE WOOD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2015

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Monday 1st June 2015	Staff training day (no pupils in school)
Friday 10th July 2015	Transition day for pupils
Monday 13th July 2015	'Meet the new teacher' parents evening
Wednesday 15th & Thursday 16th July 2015	Sports days (Loose site)
Monday 20th July 2015	Upper school performance

A MESSAGE FROM PEGGY...

Welcome to the Spring 2015 newsletter. I can't believe that we are at the end of term 5 already!

In this newsletter you can read about the many events that have taken place over the last two terms, including Red Nose Day and the Easter Fair.

As you are all aware, the other main event we had last term was our Ofsted Inspection, where Five Acre Wood School was judged as 'outstanding'.

We are all delighted that the hard work and dedication that is consistently demonstrated by all of the staff, governors, parents and pupils has been verified by Ofsted. As a school, we remain determined to continue to provide the highest quality provision to meet the needs of our amazing pupils.

To celebrate this amazing

achievement, pupils and staff from all three sites came together to release 400 Balloons, while holding letter balloons to spell 'outstanding'.

You can read more about our Ofsted inspection on page 8 and can view the report on our website, at www.fiveacrewood.co.uk.



Since the last update, we have had a few new staff join us. Kelly Davis has started as class Teacher in Fox class and Yvonne Beackon has been appointed as a TA, also in Fox class. After half term, Lee McClennan and Jamie-Lee Church will be joining us as Teaching Assitants.

We wish them all the best of luck in their new roles.



We have recently had a number of successful fundraising applications and as a result, pupils are now enjoying new play equipment. Find out more on pages 6 and 7. We are also pleased to announce we have been successful in our application to the Peter Harrison Foundation for £18,141 for an Eagle Nest Swing, Climbing frame and bridges together with appropriate safety surfacing. Watch this space!

Finally, don't forget to look at the 'dates for your diary' list on the left. I look forward to seeing you at some of the many events taking place in the summer term! I hope you all have a lovely half term break.

Peggy



BREAKFAST CLUB

This term at Breakfast club we have been learning about healthy eating and exercise.

We have tried explored lots of different fruits - smelling them, feeling their different textures and eating them.

We have also chosen which fruits we would like to go into a fruit smoothie and made our own fruit smoothies using a blender.



We have been active using our bodies to move, dance and do exercises.

We have particularly enjoyed shaking pom-poms and ribbons.

We also celebrated Pancake Day by making our own pancakes and choosing healthy fillings to go inside them.



ONESIE WEDNESDAY

On Wednesday 4th February we had a Onesie Wednesday day where staff and pupils were invited to pay £1 to wear a onesie.

There was a wide range of onesies being worn around the school, from animal onesies to superheroes!

Thank you to everyone who took part—we raised a total of £150!



FIVE ACRE WOOD SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

The football team have been busy with their fixtures over the last term, playing two games against Bower Grove and Bradfields.

Everyone has been playing really well and we are improving every game.

We will be having more fixtures over this term and we are always looking for keen players.



RED NOSE DAY



Five Acre Wood's School Student Council organised a day of fun for everyone to fundraise for Red Nose Day.

The fun day was on Friday 13th March and everyone was invited to come to school wearing something red. There was fun for everyone throughout the day with a Bake-Off, face-painting and a disco.

Perhaps the most fun was at the end of the day when students were allowed to throw cooked spaghetti at members of the Senior Leadership Team! The students managed to raise an impressive £457.70 for Comic Relief.

Cindy Russell, Teacher at Five Acre Wood School said 'We were pleased that the Student Council decided to support Red Nose Day as they wanted to raise money for children who are worse off than them. The students planned all of the activities themselves, advertised the events of the day throughout the school and wrote home to parents and carers. The day was very well supported and much fun was had by everyone.'



EASTER FAIR



Staff, pupils and their families came together on Wednesday 1st April when they attended the annual Five Acre Wood Easter Fair.



There was also an Easter jar competition which was arranged by Woodpecker class.



There were lots of entries for the jar competition, where pupils/parents were asked to decorate a jar and fill it with goodies. We would like to thank everyone who donated a jar; the standard was really high!



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 and decorations!

Thank you to everyone involved in organising the fair and also to all those who came along. Pupils, parents and carers enjoyed buying gifts and we raised a total of £180.



SIXTH FORM UPDATES

CYCLING

On Monday afternoon's some of us do cycling, Eddy is our cycling instructor and the teachers that are with us are Andrea, Nick, Jacque and Emma.

We got to use tools that we have not used before we had to check the gears and the wheels.

We put either foot over each side. We got Emma on a bike and we got Emma to race Nick to get the cones up at the end of the cycling lesson.



EMPLOYABILITY



On every Wednesday for our employability and it for our work experience it is going to continue until the summer also to give something back to the community.

We all have planted onions and rhubarb and Jerusalem artichokes.

Also daffodils and potatoes also mint and red cabbage— also cauliflower.

WATER SAFETY

Last term we did water safety.

We wore our clothes in the pool to see what it would be like if we fell into a river we learned some skills.

We learned safety moves and we use the floats for help.

If we saw a person in the river we called for help we did the circle to help each other.

We enjoyed it.



ART WITH SONIA



On Monday afternoons we do art with Sonia for Duke of Edinburgh.

We made paper and book covers and we also learned painting with water colours.

We made printing with leaves and kitchen utensils.



INTERNET SAFETY

In ICT Group one, we ran an E- safety leaflet competition.

This was won by Adam Connery a leaflet was given out to each student (right).



BOCCIA FINALS



The sixth form competed in the finals of 'The Kent School Games Boccia event', taken place at the university of Kent.

They competed with schools from other special

needs schools and mainstream schools. It was a very competitive event and we came out on top. The students had a lovely time and were very proud of themselves and cannot wait for the next Boccia event.

OTHER NEWS...

- A number of students this term have taken their Reading OCR Exams. Well done!
- For comic relief we raised money by having a Valentines Disco and on comic relief day a cake sale.



FUNDRAISING UPDATE

ADVENTURE TRIM TRAIL PLAY EQUIPMENT

We are very excited that this fabulous Adventure Trail has been installed in the school field.

This has been achieved through a £5,000 donation from a company who wish to remain anonymous, £3,000 from Lloyds Bank Community Fund, and the remainder from money raised through events such as our Late Summer Fair last year and individual sponsorship challenges.

Pupils have been enjoying the equipment, as you can see from these photos!

Parental permission is required for pupils to use the equipment. If you have not returned your child's permission slip, please send in to the school office. Pupils will not be allowed to use the equipment until a permission slip has been received. Thank you.



FUNDRAISING UPDATE

SENSORY DARK ROOMS

We were successful in our application to the The Bedgebury Foundation for £1,865 to provide sensory dark tents for classes.

These fabulous big black-out tents provide calming sensory spaces for our students and together with lovely UV and tactile resources to work with in the tents.

PLAYGROUND TOYS

We applied to The Toy Trust for £2,500 for toys for use on the playgrounds.

We were delighted to have this application approved and can't wait to purchase toys and equipment to make play times even more fun for our students.

NIAGRA WATER PLAY TABLE



South East Water very generously gave us a grant for £2,095 for this Niagara Water Play table. This has

now been installed and, as you can see from the photo, pupils are enjoying playing with it!

FIVE ACRE WOOD QUIZ NIGHT

Thank you to everyone who supported our quiz night this month. It was a fun night and we raised £569.

Thanks to Esther Paramor for organising The Walnut Tree to come and stage the quiz for us, as well as for donating £140 to us from the bar.

Thanks also to Bev Griffin, Steph Batten and Sarah Sanders for donating prizes for the evening.

Please let us know if there are any other social fundraising events that you would be interested in organising or attending.



SUMMER FAIR 2015

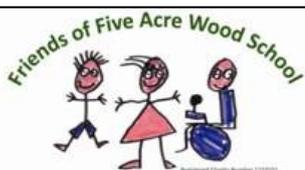
This year's Summer Fair date has been definitely set for **Saturday 18th July**.

We have already started organising the fun for this year so if anyone would like to support the event in any way, perhaps by having a stall, donating a raffle prize or sending in cuddly toys or cakes for stalls, then please do get in touch.

Please also look out for the weekly parent bulletin where

we will soon start putting out our pleas for specific items for stalls.

All support is very much appreciated.



Friends of Five Acre School are looking for Friends!

Can you bake cakes or help with events? Do you have great ideas or do you have

BE OUR FRIEND...

good contacts? Do you want to get involved but can't commit to formal meetings?

If so, please become a 'Friend' and support our school charity. There is no minimum commitment, we understand how hectic life can be so we won't expect you to commit to anything

that you can't do.

All that we ask is that we can approach you to ask for your help from time to time.

Please get in touch with Jane if you'd like to come on board and be our friend—we'd be delighted to have you!

CONTACT US

If you would like to help support Five Acre Wood School, please contact our Fundraiser, Jane Gardiner on:

jgardiner@five-acre.kent.sch.uk or phone on 01622 743925.

For more fundraising updates, please visit our website, www.fiveacrewood.co.uk

WE ARE OUTSTANDING!



Five Acre Wood School has been judged as 'Outstanding' in its recent Ofsted inspection.

The inspection report, which has now been published, praises the school's 'outstanding academic and personal outcomes for pupils' and a Principal and Governors who 'believe that nothing but the best will do'.

Teaching was judged to be 'typically outstanding across the school', stating that pupils 'are so well behaved because teaching makes learning enjoyable'.

The report highlights that 'The school very effectively tailors the range of learning activities that it offers pupils in each phase in order to meet their quite specific needs' and that 'Pupils' behaviour and attitudes are excellent'.

Peggy said 'I am delighted that the hard work and dedication that is consistently demonstrated by all of the staff, governors, parents and

pupils has been verified by Ofsted. As a school, we remain determined to continue to provide the highest quality provision to meet the needs of our amazing pupils.'

One of our parents wrote 'We just wanted to drop you a short note to congratulate you and the whole team on the fantastic report from Ofsted. From our point of view the result wasn't really a surprise, more a validation of our own views (and our daughter's). She loves going to school, and the progress she has made in the last 20 months has been far beyond anything that we dared to imagine; her speech, eye-contact temperament and concentration etc etc – all brilliant, it has made such a difference to her and to the whole family.'

It is lovely that Ofsted have been able to see what an outstanding school Five Acre Wood is, but

seeing our daughter so eager to go to school and so happy coming back proves to us that you are doing so much more than just "ticking the Ofsted boxes". We already shout Five Acre's praises from the rooftops; the ambition for the children, the child-first approach, the innovation, the constant drive for excellence, the infectious enthusiasm (I could go on – and regularly do!).

On behalf of all of us (but particularly our daughter), thank you for all you have done, we would be most

grateful if you could pass-on our thanks and congratulations to your team.' The school achieved 'Outstanding' ratings in all six categories of Leadership and management, Behaviour and safety of pupils, Quality of teaching, Achievement of pupils, Early years provision and Sixth form provision.

Pupils and staff from all three sites gathered together on the field to celebrate our success. We released 400 green balloons, which represented the pupils and the staff at Five Acre Wood.

