



# FIVE ACRE WOOD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY (TERM 3/4):

Thurs 4th Jan	First day of term 3
Weds 10th Jan—2.00pm	Parent group (behaviour)
Tues 6th Feb—9.30am	Parent group (communication)
Friday 9th Feb	Last day of term 3
Mon 19th Feb	First day of term 4
Monday 12th, Tuesday 13th & Weds 14th March 2018	Staff training days (pupils not in school)
Weds 28th March—10am	Easter Fair
Thurs 29th March	Last day of term 4

## A MESSAGE FROM PEGGY...

Well Christmas has certainly arrived here at Five Acre Wood and this term has been full of festive fun!

In this newsletter you can read about the many events that have taken place over the last two terms, including Harvest Festival, lots of Christmas events and updates from Holmesdale.

Since the last letter, we have had some more new staff join us; Kay, Liam, Roxanne, Joanna, Bess, Hayley, Poppy, Georgina, Leanne, Amy, Reena and Jackie have joined us as Teaching Assistants whilst Marie, Chey-Anne, Linda and Tanya are our new Lunchtime Supervisors. In the Therapy department, Beth has joined us as a Speech and Language Therapist and in the IT department we welcomed Adam as an IT Technician. Finally, Alex Meaders has joined us as Fundraiser—you

can read her introduction on page 6.

There have also been some changes to our existing staff—Matt Jones has been appointed as Sixth Form Phase Lead Teacher and Maxine Moore has moved from being a Teaching Assistant to working in TEAM, our family support department. We wish all of the above all the best in their new roles and hope that they are very happy at Five Acre Wood.

Our new build was officially opened on 24th November—you can read about it and see the photos on page 10. Pupils have continued to enjoy the new building (and the newly-refurbished old building!) as we now have a library area, early years soft play and an ICT suite (*see photos below*).

We have recently launched a new Facebook page so please like our page to keep

WINTER 2017

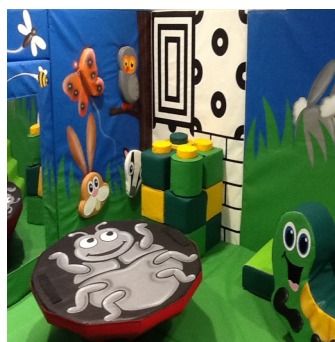


up-to-date with school and fundraising news—  
[www.facebook.com/Five-Acre-Wood-School-and-Friends-of-Five-Acre-Wood-School-1985199011764670/](https://www.facebook.com/Five-Acre-Wood-School-and-Friends-of-Five-Acre-Wood-School-1985199011764670/)

We also post updates on twitter, please follow us [@five\\_acre](https://twitter.com/five_acre) or visit [www.twitter.com/five\\_acre](https://www.twitter.com/five_acre)

Finally, I would like to thank all parents, carers and families for your support and for coming along to our events. I hope that you all have an enjoyable Christmas and a very happy 2018!

*Peggy*



## HARVEST FESTIVAL

Our annual Harvest Festival performance took place on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October where pupils sang, danced and signed to harvest-themed songs. Lots of parents and carers came along and everybody had a great time!

Pupils were asked to donate food to the Vine Church and these donations were collected during the performance. The Vine said that they really appreciated the donations as they restocked their food bank meaning that they can continue to provide monthly emergency food parcels and Christmas hampers. The food bank makes a huge difference to people's lives.

Well done to the pupils for putting on a great show and thank you to everyone who organised the performance, came along to watch it and also to everyone who donated.



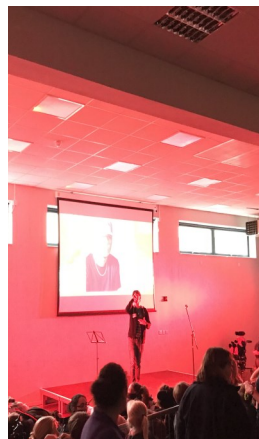


## MUSIC CONCERTS

This term pupils have been lucky to have two concerts performed to them in school.

Both concerts were set up in the school hall, with disco lighting and barriers at the front to give it a real concert feel! Acts who performed included Jack Rose and Ziey Kizzy, Nathan Grisdale and Joey

James from the X-Factor final boyband called 'Rough Copy'. Pupils had a great time dancing along!



## PANATHLON CHALLENGE

As Sports Day was cancelled last year, it was agreed that we would run a sports event in Term 1 of this year.

Unfortunately, due to the condition of the school field we were unable to hold another sports day so instead pupils took part in a Panathlon Challenge.

Each phase took part in the challenge, which had mini-taster sessions finishing with some races.

The Panathlon Challenge activities included Boccia, seated volleyball and new age kurling. The activities were accessible to all and the main aim was for pupils to have fun!

Thank you to everyone involved in organising the event.





## CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION

Each year we hold a Christmas card competition where pupils are asked to design a card and the winning designs are then used for our Five Acre Wood Christmas cards.

We received lots of brilliant entries and the winning designs are shown below.

The Christmas cards have been sent to pupils, staff and external contacts.

Thank you to everyone who designed a card for the competition, we really enjoyed looking at them all!

Well done to our winners!

The chosen winners were:

Elliot—Maple class

Leon—Ash class

Adam—Cedar class

Ayden—Wren class



## CHRISTMAS FAIR

Our Christmas fair was held on Tuesday 5th December and was a great success!

Pupils worked really hard to make items to sell on their stalls. There were a variety of items for sale, including reindeer food, Christmas cards, decorations, cakes and biscuits.

It was great to see so many people come along to the fair and we raised a total of £706! Thank you to everyone involved in organising the event and also to those who attended.



## CHRISTMAS DINNER AND CHRISTMAS CLOTHES

Pupils got in the Christmas spirit on 13th December by wearing Christmas clothes to school and having a Christmas dinner for lunch.

They tucked in to a festive dinner and all pupils sat at

tables decorated with Christmas tablecloths, napkins and crackers.

Thank you to the kitchen staff and also to all staff who helped serve the dinners.





## CHRISTMAS NATIVITY

This year's nativity performances were held on 14th and 15th December. Once again we held two performances with pupils split into two different groups.

Parents and carers enjoyed the performances as pupils sang, danced and signed along to festive songs.

Some of our pupils narrated the nativity and there were some brilliant costumes!

We would like to thank everyone involved in the nativity performances and in particular to Leanne Burgess who organised them and put in a lot of effort to ensure that they ran smoothly.

Also, thanks to everyone who came along to support and encourage our pupils. We hope that you enjoyed it as much as we did!



## CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS AND SANTA VISIT

Our class Christmas parties were held on 19th December, where pupils had great fun playing festive games and eating party food!

On the same day primary pupils also had the opportunity to meet Father Christmas in the school grotto! All pupils in the school were given a present which had been donated by Heart's Giving Tree.



On the last day of term, pupils were surprised to be greeted by Christmas songs, snow, Santa and his reindeer as they came into school. Everybody had a great time dancing in the snow!



# FUNDRAISING UPDATE

## INTRODUCTION FROM ALEX



My name is Alexandra Meaders (Alex) and I have just started working as the Fundraiser at Five Acre Wood School. There is never a dull moment in the Fundraising department and I had to hit the ground running when I started work here after half term in October 2017. I spent a bit of time getting to know my way around the school;

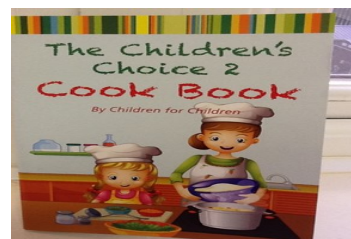
meeting the wonderful staff who teach and support the children; meeting and creating bonds with the children in all phases and on all our sites and establishing a plan in my mind of what it was I need to do.

A big focus of my work is to raise money to replace our hydrotherapy pool. There will be updates on that over the coming months, this is a priority for my attention.

Meanwhile, there has been plenty more happening...

## THE CHILDREN'S CHOICE COOK BOOK

We were chosen to be recipients of the proceeds from the sale of a recipe book published by our caterers "The Contract Dining Company".



You can buy a book from school for just £1. It has 45 recipes in it, one of which is by two of our Holmesdale students.



## MARATHON

One of our staff members – Samantha Richardson – has a charity place to run the London Marathon for us. Please support her by sponsoring her via her Virgin Money Giving page. To do this, please click this link [uk.virginmoneygiving.com](http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com) or visit the website and type in 'Samantha Richardson'. You can then click on her page which says she is running for Friends of Five Acre Wood.

## AMAZING DONATIONS

We continue to be supported by FABULOUS people from within our Community:

**Steve Farley** of Farley Electricals who, apart from his continued support, has made some great introductions to us, one of whom, **Niall McNulty**, donated a 55" smart television for our new Library.

**Brachers**, who support us on so many levels – raffles, Christmas jumper days, bake sales.

**The Maidstone Business Community** who chose FAWS to be their charity for

this year's Carol Service – many thanks to **Robert Martine** of Martine Waghorn.

**Lloyds** – in particular **Chris Miller**, who has sent staff to volunteer on our site and match funded various events for us.

**Greggs** continue to bowl us over with their commitment to our school. They come into school armed with yummy things and support our events without tiring!

**Santander** volunteer in our grounds.

**Gallagher** supply concrete and huge rocks amongst other items (sounds random, but we NEED these things!).

Finally, **Anthony Diprose** who has made fabulous things from logs! Anthony made, amongst other things, these two owls, they sit happily in our garden and we named them Harry and Meghan.



The danger of listing people is the omissions possibly made. Nobody who does anything for us should be overlooked although indeed, many of our donors wish to remain anonymous.

## EASY FUNDRAISING

Easyfundraising has been promoted to staff and parents. Do sign up by clicking this link [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) or by visiting the site and typing in 'Friends of Five Acre Wood School'. It really is money for nothing for the school AND you can save money too, by receiving special offers from your favourite stores.

## COLLECTION BOXES

We now have collection boxes at various locations around Maidstone – if you would like one for your organisation / office / shop or business, please let me know.





# FUNDRAISING UPDATE

## CREATE A RIPPLE... MAKE A SPLASH!



The fundraising department launched the first phase of fundraising for the hydrotherapy pool just before Christmas.

The campaign "Create a ripple....MAKE A SPLASH!" will raise £250,000 in 2018 / 19 via individuals, other schools, organisations and businesses pledging to raise somewhere in the region of £2,500 - £5,000 each.

Five Acre Wood School is leading the way on this campaign by filling Smartie Tubes with 20p pieces – hoping to get £10 from each member of staff - that's over

£2,500 which when gift aid added should bump up to over £3,000.

Dean Charlton, manager of Sainsbury's in Boughton Parade, Loose donated 252 tubes of Smarties to kick start the campaign. THANK YOU SAINSBURY'S.

If you would like to get involved in "Create a ripple...MAKE A SPLASH!" – please contact me.

## FACEBOOK

We have re-launched our Facebook page.

We use this to shout loudly about all the incredible support we receive as well as celebrating our children's achievements.

Please like us, follow us and share our stories at

[www.facebook.com/Five-Acre-Wood-School-and-Friends-of-Five-Acre-Wood-School-1985199011764670/](http://www.facebook.com/Five-Acre-Wood-School-and-Friends-of-Five-Acre-Wood-School-1985199011764670/)

## CHRISTMAS GROTTO

And then suddenly Christmas was looming and we arranged visits to Father Christmas Grottos.

Notcutts in Maidstone were brilliantly helpful and generous.

Sincere thanks to them for taking care of various classes that visited and making it so special for our children.



## HEART GIVING TREE



The last sign-off before Christmas was the OVERWHELMING generosity of the shoppers at Bluewater who donated piles and piles of presents to the Heart Giving Tree. Via our connection with Happy Days Charity, we

received the most incredible gifts for every single child in our school.

Roger Lee of S & B Van Hire Maidstone helped us out when it became clear that fitting the mountain of presents into a car was NOT going to work. THANK YOU Roger for allowing me to use one of your vans for the afternoon.

And thanks to Heart, the Heart Angels, Bluewater

and Happy Days for ensuring our children each receive a fabulous gift.



This is just the start:- we have loads of fundraising plans for the coming year. Watch out for emails from me, Facebook stories and tweets. Get involved if you can or simply

enjoy reading about what we are doing.

Everything we do has your child firmly placed at the centre of our plans – it's all for them and it is a joy to do!

I can be contacted by email at [ameaders@five-acre.kent.sch.uk](mailto:ameaders@five-acre.kent.sch.uk) or on 01622 743925 ext 185.



## HOLMESDALE UPDATES

### BOCCIA BY CAIN HOPKINS

On Thursday 16 November we went to new line learning school in Maidstone for a boccia competition.

When we got there we got split into two groups of three. Then we went up against two other schools one of are teams tied one game and lost two but the other team won all three of there games which put them in first place. That team has gone through to represent Maidstone in the Kent finals in Canterbury.



### ASH AND MAPLE SPONSORED RUN

Here is a picture of the amazing Ash class who, with Maple class, have raised £340 for Homeless Care Maidstone through a sponsored run!

Each child (and adult) ran 1km on

the wettest Wednesday we've had for a while!

We presented the money to the Manager Zofia who told us all about how the money would go to good use over the winter months.



### YMCA BY LASYA RAVINDRA

We went to the YMCA centre we did Rowing the we had Zumba.

Then we had break after break we did Tennis and sit down volley ball, then we had lunch after lunch we did Bochia then we then made a move back to school

### ROWING BY CASEY HUDSON

On Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> we went to Greenacre school to take part in a competition rowing we did an individual and time trial and team event.

We had to row for 2 minutes and it was really tiring. We are waiting for our results and waiting to hear for the next events.



### FOOTBALL BY FRANKIE (TEAM CAPTAIN)

We had a 5 a side football match I scored a goal. We played as a team.





## HOLMESDALE UPDATES

### CYCLING BY MIKEY HORTON

Every Thursday for 4 weeks we did cycling at the Cyclo Park.

On the first two weeks we rode the bikes round the track that they had just to see what we could do the people who were chosen where Mikey, Harry, Georgie, Olliver, Frankie, Casey, Jessica and Owen.

The last two weeks where just to practice for the main thing. The main event came we completed loads of challenge's throughout the day after the event we just had to wait. On Thursday we got the results five acre wood came second because of are stamina.



### CAROL SINGING

Well done to the sixth form and Oak class for their fantastic carol singing on Fremlin Walk!



### INTERVIEW WITH SHOBHA RAVINDRA, GOVERNOR BY JASON STREETS, MAPLE AND ASH CLASS



On the 12<sup>th</sup> of December Ash and Maple met Shobha Ravindra, who is one of the governors of Five Acre wood. Me and three of my friends asked Shobha some questions.

Elliot asked Shobha what she does outside of five acre. We found out that she is a doctor at a surgery 3 days a week, and a mum to two children one of which attends the sixth form here at Five Acre.

Nicky asked how often Shobha visits our school. Shobha said that she visits the sites a lot due to personal meetings for her daughter and then various meeting with Peggy and the governors. Shobha said she loves

visiting and feels we always give her a very warm welcome and that school is like a family.

Toby asked a tricky question which was how many teachers do they employ a year. We was told that this year a lot of new staff were recruited for the new build over at boughton lane. Shobha told us how much our school had grown in size. We was all amazed and pleased to hear about the growth of our school.

Finally I wanted to know if Shobha could do anything about getting more sports events for the boys and girls. I asked this question because I have a girl in my class that really enjoys football (and shes very good) and general sports. I was pleased that Shobha was keen to write this down and said she would put this forward for me and see what she could do.

Me and my friends really enjoyed meeting and talking to Shobha. Will look forward to seeing her again.

### DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARDS EVENING

Students collected their bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award from the ceremony at Detlin showground in front of a crowd of 1000 people.

Students have worked extremely hard all year for this award and were ecstatic to collect their award on the night.

Well done everyone!





## NEW BUILD OFFICIAL OPENING

On 24th November we welcomed a number of guests to officially open our new building. Patrick Leeson (Corporate Director, Children, Young People and Education at Kent County Council) cut the ribbon alongside our charity patron, celebrity auctioneer Raj Bisram and some of our pupils.

Following the official opening, Patrick Leeson thanked everyone involved with the new build by saying "I am so delighted that Five Acre Wood now has such a fabulous school building. It took a long time coming but now you have it and it looks wonderful. I know you will go on doing wonderful things with it and in it with Peggy and her excellent staff. It is an outstanding school".

Peggy Murphy, Principal, also thanked everybody for their support.

The visitors then had a tour of the building, with Patrick Leeson and Raj Bisram stopping at the library on the way to read a story with one of our pupils!

The Five Acre Wood signing choir then performed to our special guests who included Roger Gough (cabinet member for Children, Young People and Education), Jared Nehra (Area Education Officer), Shellina Prendergast (Conservative councillor for

Maidstone Rural East), governors and volunteers plus architects, project managers and staff from the construction companies who worked on the new build.

The song that the choir performed to was 'Celebrate good times'.

A plaque has been put up on the external wall to mark the official opening.

The event was also covered in the Kent Messenger (*bottom right*).



### Pupils join to sing Celebration as new wing is opened

A school is thrilled to have open its new wing.

Five Acre Wood School in Maidstone welcomed Patrick Leeson, Kent County Council's corporate director for education and young people's services, to cut the ribbon and declare the new building open.

He was cheered on by pupils, staff and other guests, including the school's patron, TV presenter and antiques expert Raj Bisram and Roger Gough, KCC cabinet member for children, young people and education, plus representatives from some of the organisations who helped with the build, including Lloyds, Brachers and Farley Electrical Ltd.

This new addition is part of a £12m project at the Boughton Lane school, which has also seen other buildings extensively refurbished.

The scheme has added 23 extra classrooms, plus created space for art, science, and ICT, as well as a sensory interactive room. Work began in May last year after the school received the money from KCC. Visitors were



Raj Bisram and Patrick Leeson with principal Peggy Murphy and three of her pupils at the opening of the new wing at Five Acre Wood School

Picture: Chris Dawley FM5002670

treated to a performance in the main hall from the signing choir, who thrilled with a rendition of Kool and the Gang's Celebration. Peggy Murphy, principal of the special needs school, said: "It was a simple but perfect way to celebrate the opening of our new building. Our children are at the absolute centre of everything we do. Without the constant support of people like Mr Leeson and Mr Gough at KCC, along with the unstinting goodwill of so many others, we would just not be able to achieve what we have so far and what we will achieve in the future."