



# FIVE ACRE WOOD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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

Weds 5th Jan	First day of term 3
Thurs 13th Jan	Parent Group (An Introduction to communication boards/books)
Weds 2nd Feb	Parent Group (Top tips for stammering)
Fri 11th Feb	Last day of term 3
Mon 21st Feb	First day of term 4
Weds 23rd Feb	Parent Group (Signing at home)
Weds 2nd March	Parent Group (Social Stories)
Mon 14th, Tues 15th & Weds 16th March	Staff training days (pupils not in school)
Tues 29th March	SCERTS Parent Support Group
Weds 30th March —10am	Easter Fair
Thurs 31st Mar	Parent Group (Zones of Regulation)
Fri 1st April	Last day of term 4

## A MESSAGE FROM PEGGY...

Welcome to the winter newsletter. In this edition you can read about our exciting music single launch, updates from classes, fundraising news and some of the Christmas fun which pupils have been enjoying.

Since my last letter, we have welcomed some new staff to Five Acre Wood School; Amy, Nicola, Megan and Lee have joined as Teaching Assistants, Alex has joined as Assistant Facilities Manager and Julie has joined as Pupil Placement Strategic Manager.

We have also welcomed some new pupils to the School; Ileri, Imisi, Oliver, Ruby, Harry, Heidi, Shaye, Oyon, Oliver, Woody and George. They have all settled in well.

We wish our leavers all the very best for the future.

I am delighted to announce that we have once again achieved the IQM Inclusive School Award with Flagship Status following our recent reassessment. The Inclusion Quality Mark is a nationally accredited award which recognises the exceptional

inclusion arrangements that Five Acre Wood has in place.

We are now using Arbor as our school management information service which will allow us to communicate with you more efficiently and bring all core school data into one system. To access the portal or app:

Parent Portal via a PC or MAC:  
Visit <https://login.arbor.sc> and click on **Forgot your password**. Your username is the email address you received the Arbor invitation email on.

Arbor App via mobile phone:  
The app can be downloaded from the Playstore (for android phones) or Apple Store (for iPhones).

If you have any issues accessing the App or Portal, please do not call the school. Please email [office@five-acre.kent.sch.uk](mailto:office@five-acre.kent.sch.uk) and someone will get back to you. Arbor will replace ParentMail and all communication will now be via the Arbor App and Portal.

Please can I remind all parents/carers that in the interest of your child's health and safety, it is your

WINTER 2021



responsibility to ensure all information on Healthcare Plans is kept up to date.

Thank you to all parents, carers and families for your continued support throughout the year.

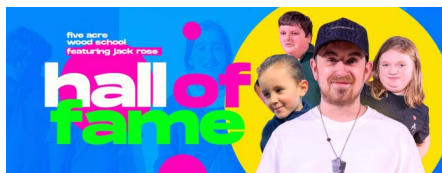
Finally, I would like to wish you an enjoyable Christmas and a happy new year.

I look forward to welcoming the pupils back in school on Wednesday 5th January 2022.



Peggy

## HALL OF FAME SINGLE



How often do you get to record and release your own music single?? As you are perhaps aware, we recently have and we are hoping it now takes the world by storm!

How did it all happen? We have worked closely with our friends at DeeVu records and their amazing stable of artists over a number of years - they are incredible supporters of the School. For example, they have championed our annual Woodstock music festivals and also staged regular concerts at the School for our pupils, to give them outstanding experiences.

With the restrictions that have been in place we have unfortunately not been able to hold any concerts recently – so together with DeeVu we came up with a different and very exciting plan! We decided to record and film our own music single, with the support of the amazing Kent based singer songwriter Jack Rose.

25 pupils had the unique experience of visiting a studio to record their vocals and over 200 pupils were involved in the filming of the video at the School. The whole project was turned around in only 4 days and it impacted on a range of learning related outcomes including communication, independence and inclusion.

Our version of 'Hall of Fame' is our 'Us' Story – it's about 'achieving new possibles', believing in yourself and following your dreams.

'World premieres' of the music video were held across our School sites on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December. Think Digital Media Van, complete with 3 large LED screens, party cannons, red carpets and food and you'll get a sense of the outdoor showcase extravaganza that we had to celebrate the event!

The track is now available in 24 media stores and 240 countries worldwide – we need everyone to pre-order, save and share it, so that we can raise the profile of our extraordinary pupils, staff and School.

Here is the link: <https://bfan.link/hall-of-fame-1>

Here is the link to the video premier: [https://youtu.be/maa\\_veNaobU](https://youtu.be/maa_veNaobU)

We are daring to dream that we might even secure a position in the Charts – and with everyone's support, who knows what might happen!

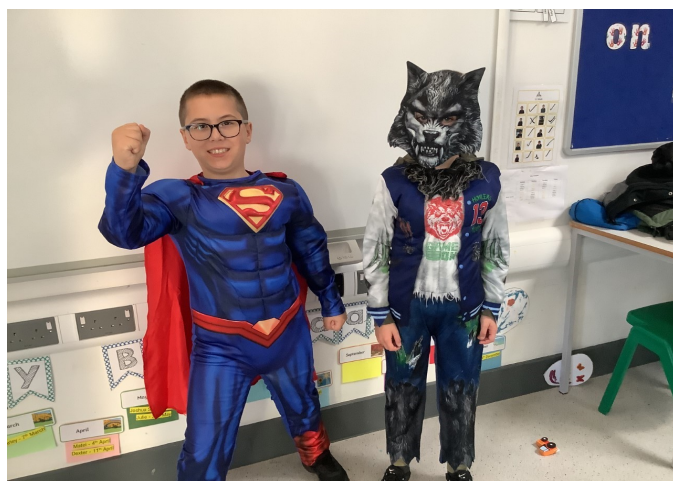
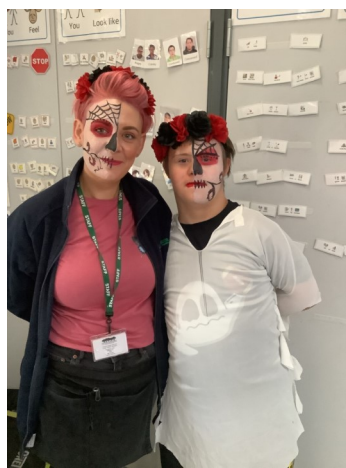
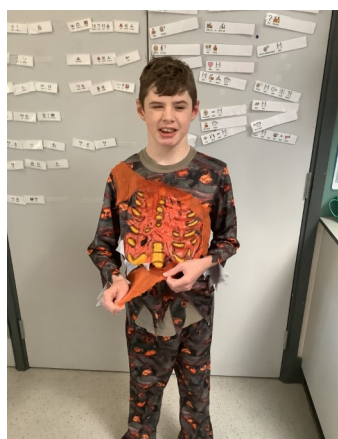
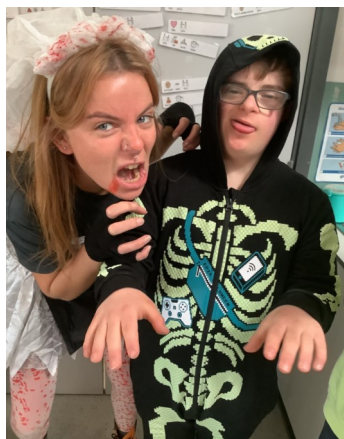
We would like to thank everyone that has been involved in this incredible project – the DeeVu family, Jack Rose, Happy Days Children's Charity and our amazing pupils and staff.





## CHARITY DRESS UP DAY

At the end of last term pupils and staff were invited to dress up in fancy dress in return for a donation to our fundraiser for Variety, The Children's Charity. We raised £1000 for this incredible charity and a great day was had by all. Thank you to everyone who took part and for your generous donations.





## CLASS UPDATES

### TURTLE DOVE CLASS



During topic we enjoyed dipping water balloons in coloured paint and dropping them from different height to form colour splattered monster shapes.



In write dance we were able to mark make and form circles and figure of eight. Using shaving foam.



During playtime we practise walking along a beam and stepping off safely to strengthen our core muscles.



During key skills we practise using a knife to slice a banana, using a knife independently.



During playtime we enjoyed playing in the leaves in the sensory garden.



During literacy we followed direction to mark make over letters, independently.

### PINEMARTEN CLASS

This term in Pinemarten class we have been working on our individualised targets, some of these include: zipping up our coats, making our own drinks, making our own toast and completing personal care routines. We've also continued working on our understanding of our emotions and how to help ourselves when we're unsettled.

We have had lots of fun playing in the sensory garden and on trim trail, where we enjoy playing tag and hide and seek.

We've loved our cooking lessons and our art lessons as this has allowed us to get messy and creative!

Pinemarten class are all looking forward to the holiday break and we have lots of crafts to bring home to use as decorations!

### PRIMROSE CLASS

This term Primrose class have been working on some winter crafts and sensory activities, including a visit from Karen Littlewood from Pop up Literacy. Karen worked on the story 'Immi' with us, drawing some beautiful pictures whilst telling the story.

We have been working hard on our physio programmes and are all doing really well towards our personalised targets. We have really enjoyed group sessions for Attention Autism and music.

One of our favourite things we have been able to do this term is use the swing in the sensory garden.

For the rest of the term, we are really looking forward to exploring Christmas themed activities and sensory stories.

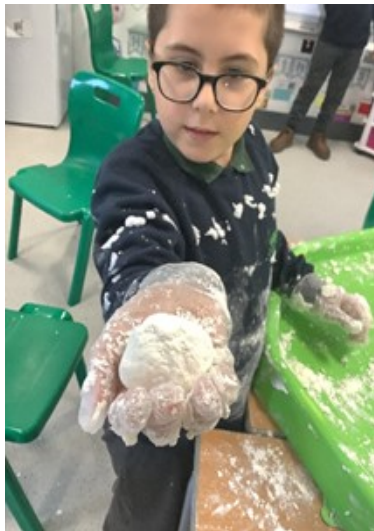


## CLASS UPDATES

### SQUIRREL CLASS

Squirrel Class have been exploring and developing our understanding of the different seasons. Our favourite has been our Seasons Tuff Tray activity.

We have also been developing our independence skills through practicing self-care routines and cooking a variety of things. Recently, we had Crumble the elf delivered from Father Christmas and we are looking forward to seeing what mischievous things he gets up to.



### CATERPILLAR CLASS

The Caterpillars have been very busy exploring. In October we explored pumpkins in various ways as well as make our own potions using caldrons and creepy crawlies with various different textures. We all enjoyed playing with the ghost train it was really spooky.

In November we explored fireworks in Attention Autism. We enjoyed the party cannons going off. Every Caterpillar was full of excitement and anticipation. It made so much mess but we loved throwing the confetti over ourselves and were asking for more.

In December we explored a winter sensory tray with rice, silver beads, snowflake cutters, twinkle lights and tinsel. We have been reading the 'Gruffalo's Child' as our story of the week. We have been learning to transition to different parts of the school, visiting the farm and the sensory garden.

Pupils and staff in class have been getting very excited for Christmas. We have been busy decorating Christmas trees and wrapping presents in Santa's workshop. We have made lots of lovely things to take home.

### WREN CLASS

Wren class have been practising their life skills. We have been following instructions and have made a range of items such as toast, milkshake, hot chocolate and biscuits.

We have also practised our personal hygiene and have followed instructions to wash our hands, face and brush hair.





## CLASS UPDATES

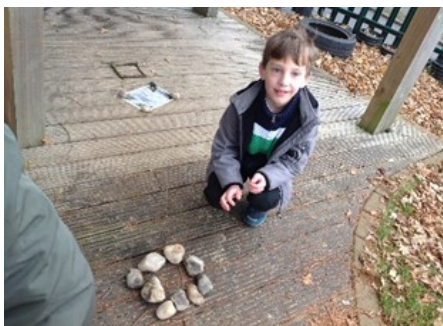
### OTTER CLASS

We have practised road safety and how we move around the school.



We have been visiting the yard to feed the animals and to help out with a few jobs.

We have been making salt dough decorations and then carefully painting them.



We have been using natural materials such as pebbles, leaves, rocks and shells as part of our learning.

### BEAVER CLASS

This term has been a busy one in Beaver class. We have all settled into our daily classroom routines and we have been working hard on our learning. We have all been engaging with our learning rotation each day. Learning has been based on celebrations and festivals this term: Halloween, Bonfire Night, Diwali, Remembrance Day and Christmas.

We have been enjoying exploring our Autumn and Winter themed tuff trays and we have got through a lot of edible snow and ice cubes. We even had a lovely, wobbly jelly full of Autumn leaves and twigs that we got to play with! We have been creating our own firework pictures using different coloured rice and lentils and our teacher used face paints to paint henna patterns on our hands! We look forward to our next topic, 'transport', next term.



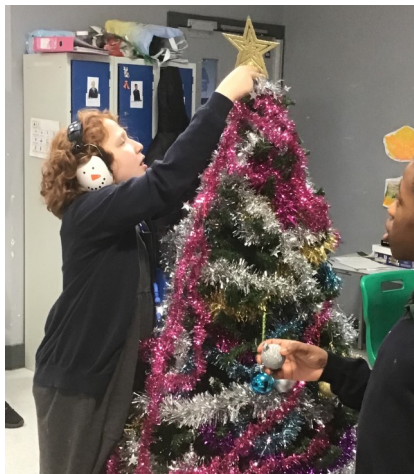


## CLASS UPDATES

### FIELD MOUSE CLASS

Field Mouse class have been very busy this term. We have loved going out into the yard to see the animals and feed them. We have also really enjoyed some winter themed activities including making snowman cupcakes.

We are extremely proud of a Christmas music video we have made. We all loved every minute of making it and were so excited to see the finished video. It is on the school Facebook and YouTube pages so please take a look. Merry Christmas from all in Field Mouse class.



### NIGHTINGALE CLASS

Nightingale class has been singing with the Signing Choir. We have been doing shared learning and yoga.

Our class trip was at The Marlowe Theatre in Canterbury to see the

Christmas pantomime "Jack and the Beanstalk".

We have been shopping for ingredients for our cooking each week.





## CLASS UPDATES

### TURTLE CLASS



In cooking, Turtle class have enjoyed making Christmas trees out of cucumber with a carrot for the star. They also made banana snow people.

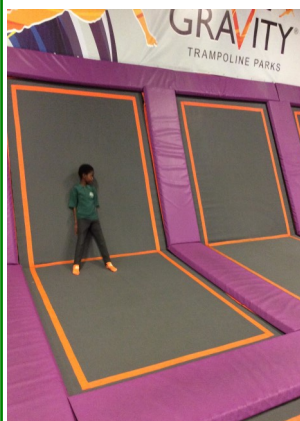


### FOX CLASS

Fox class went on a class Christmas trip to Gravity and McDonalds.

Everyone worked really hard to prepare for the trip, learning about safety when travelling by car and how to safely cross roads with an adult.

We invited pupil's families along and everyone had a great time. Merry Christmas everyone!



## CHRISTMAS

### CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION

Every year we invite pupils to design a card for our Christmas card competition. Three winning designs are then printed and used for our school Christmas cards the following year. These are sent out to pupils, staff and external contacts.

Thank you to everyone who designed a card last year. We received some fabulous

pictures. The winning designs which were used for this year's cards are shown here.



Lily — Whale Class



Kienon — Foxglove Class



Harry — Maple Class



# CHRISTMAS

## CHRISTMAS TREE

A huge thank you to Heart Teaching who kindly donated this stunning tree for our reception area.

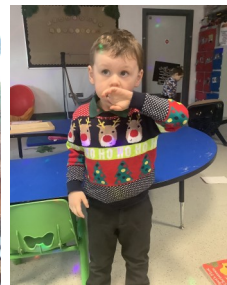


## A VISIT FROM FATHER CHRISTMAS

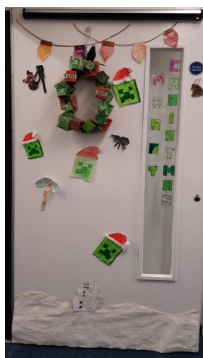
On Thursday 16 December Father Christmas visited us to deliver gifts to some excited pupils.



Friday 10 December was 'Christmas Jumper Day'. Pupils and staff were invited to get into the festive spirit and wear their Christmas jumpers. We received £92 in donations for Save the Children.



## CHRISTMAS CLASS DOORS





# CHRISTMAS

## CLASS CHRISTMAS PARTIES

Class Christmas parties and 'Christmas Clothes Day' took place on Thursday 16 December.



## ELF DAY



Friday 17 December was officially declared as our very first Five Acre Wood School 'Elf Day'. Staff were encouraged to come to school wearing elf costumes. There were reports of mischievous elf antics. As you can see, our school therapy dogs, Sandy Snowy and Luna wore their elf outfits too!



## LAST DAY OF TERM

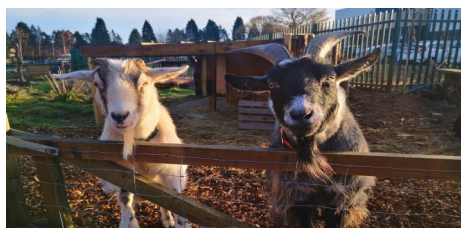
On the last day of term pupils were delighted to be greeted in the school car park by Father Christmas on his sleigh.





## FUNDRAISING UPDATE

### THE YARD



The Yard is a brilliant asset and resource for pupils at the Loose site. Even though pupil access to the chickens and ducks has had to be restricted due to advice from the Government regarding bird flu, pupils still benefit from being in the Yard and interacting with the goats. The runs for the quail and homes for the guinea pigs are completed. We look forward to our Yard family expanding in 2022!



### LUCKY LOTTERY BALLS

Thank you to all those who support our monthly lottery draw. We had a bumper draw this Christmas with two members of FAW staff winning the £100 and £50 prizes. If you would like to buy a number for the rest of the academic year (8 draws) the cost of a number is £17.50. Please contact [fundraiser@five-acre.kent.sch.uk](mailto:fundraiser@five-acre.kent.sch.uk) to get a number and arrange to make payment.

### IQ CARDS

We hope you have loved the cards and products you have ordered. We are thrilled with the company that we work with on this project and highly recommend them if you have children in other schools where they might be looking to run a similar project. Contact Charlotte at [www.iqcards.co.uk](http://www.iqcards.co.uk) We have raised £1,000.00 through doing this which is just brilliant!

### THE BRANCH CAFÉ

We were thrilled to get a £10,000.00 grant from the Screwfix Foundation towards the total needed to enable us to progress The Branch Café. Other applications are still out there and we really hope to have more exciting news in the New Year.

### MAIDSTONE UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB



We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to Juan, Nick, Ben, Trevor and Max from Maidstone United Football Club who visited us with a fantastic £500 donation to the school and a signed football shirt on 16 December.

### CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Thank you to everyone who supported our Christmas Raffle! With sincere appreciation to the raffle committee consisting of David, Krissy, Lynda, Louise and Sarah who did such a brilliant job in getting in prizes as well as stuffing and labelling all the envelopes to ensure every child in the school went home with 2 books of tickets! Also massive thanks to Karen who secured £1,000.00 of match funding from Barclays. The total raised is over £3,500.00

### SPORTS EQUIPMENT FOR SNOGLAND

We put in funding applications for some new equipment for our pupils, so expect to see enthusiastic boxers, badminton players, yoga devotees and toned bodies (we have two dumbbell pyramids on order) coming home! We are grateful to Maidstone Leisure Trust for their grant of £1,500.00 to enable us to purchase the necessary items.

### INTO 2022...

So many exciting projects are bubbling away! We look forward to bringing you updates on the house purchase, the sensory pod for FAW at Palace Wood, the double decker bus, new sensory lighting and music in our fabulous hydrotherapy pool, even more news from the Yard.

Wishing you a very merry Christmas and happy new year!

Alex





## PARENT SUPPORT GROUPS 2021-2022



Five Acre Wood will be offering 9 parent support groups this academic year, which are aimed at supporting parents and carers whose children have specific needs. All meetings will be held virtually via TEAMS.

Please see below a list of dates and subjects.

Any updates or changes will be listed on the school website and sent via email.

Dates	Time	Subject
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December 2021	10.30am – 11.30am	An Introduction to PECS
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> December 2021	10.30am – 11.30am	Top tips for reluctant talkers
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> January 2022	10.30am – 11.30am	An Introduction to communication boards/books
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February	10.30am -11.30am	Top tips for stammering
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	10.30am – 11.30am	Signing at home
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March 2022	10.30am – 11.30am	Social stories
Thursday 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2022	10.30am – 11.30am	Zones of regulation
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> April 2022	10.30am – 11.30am	Using visual supports
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> May 2022	10.30am – 11.30am	Developing early communication skills

### FURTHER INFORMATION

- We require you to inform us of your attendance at least 1 week in advance of a Support Group and if there are less than 5 attendees for any one session then unfortunately it will not go ahead. Please confirm your attendance by emailing [vgeylani@five-acre.kent.sch.uk](mailto:vgeylani@five-acre.kent.sch.uk) or phoning us on 01622 743925.
- If a session has to be cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances, or insufficient take up (less than 5 attendees) then we will endeavour to provide parents/carers with as much notice as possible.
- During a session, if there are other issues that you want advice about, please feel free to raise them and we will do our best to address them at the time.



### Term Dates with Diary Dates 2021/22

***DUE TO CORONAVIRUS, ALL DATES ARE PROVISIONAL AND ANY EVENT SCHEDULED MAY BE SUBJECT TO CANCELLATION***

Date	Time	Event
<b>Term 3</b>		
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2022	N/A	First day of term 3
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> February 2022	N/A	Last day of term

<b>Term 4</b>		
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> February 2022	N/A	First day of term 4
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> March 2022	N/A	Staff training day (pupils not in school)
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> March 2022	N/A	Staff training day (pupils not in school)
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> March 2022	N/A	Staff training day (pupils not in school)
Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> March 2022	TBC	Easter Fair
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2022	N/A	Last day of term

<b>Term 5</b>		
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> April 2022	N/A	First day of term 5
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May 2022	N/A	Bank holiday (pupils and staff not in school)
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> May 2022	N/A	Last day of term

<b>Term 6</b>		
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> June 2022	N/A	Staff training day (pupils not in school)
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> June 2022	N/A	First day of term 6 for pupils
June 2022	TBC	Sports day
June 2022	TBC	Sports day
June 2022	TBC	Sports day – FAW Snodland
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> July 2022	All day	Transition day
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> July 2022	3.45-6.45pm	'Meet the new teacher' parents evening
July 2022	TBC	Secondary summer performance
July 2022	TBC	Secondary prize giving
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2022	N/A	Last day of term



### **NOTE TO PARENTS/CARERS REGARDING MEDICATION**

To ensure that your child is given the most current prescribed medication of the correct dose and at the right time, please read these guidelines:

1. Please ensure that all medicines sent into school are in the ORIGINAL pharmacy containers/packaging clearly labelled with:

- Your child's name
- Name of prescribed medication
- The dosage and frequency of administration
- How medicine should be given, e.g. by mouth, via feeding tube
- Date medicine was dispensed
- Expiry Date

Any nurse will have the right to refuse the administration of medication to your child if this information is not clearly shown on the label.

2. Please inform the school nurse of any change to your child's regular medication, including alterations to dose, frequency or medication being stopped as advised by a doctor. These alterations need to be confirmed in writing by the prescriber. **We cannot accept verbal alterations and will be unable to give an amended dose unless we have the medication in its original contained with the correct information printed on the label or receive the changes in writing from the prescriber.**

3. If your child is prescribed emergency medication (Diazepam/Midazolam for epilepsy or Anapen/Epipen for allergy) please inform the school nurse immediately. Further information from your child's doctor will be needed regarding when the emergency medication should be given and this will be kept in school so all staff are aware of what care your child needs in an emergency.

4. Please ensure there is a sufficient supply of all the medicines your child needs whilst in school. We will contact you to advise when we are running low.

5. When sending in medication, it must not be put in your child's bag. Instead, it should be handed directly to a member of the class staff. If your child comes into school by taxi, the medication should be given to the escort who will then hand it to a member of the class staff when they arrive at school.