



FIVE ACRE WOOD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY (TERM 3/4):

Tues 3rd Jan	First day of term 3
Weds 11th Jan	Parent Group (Signing at home)
Thurs 26th Jan	Parent Group (Sensory Processing and Sensory Circuits)
Weds 8th Feb	Parent Group (Emotional Regulation)
Fri 10th Feb	Last day of term 3
Mon 20th Feb	First day of term 4
Thursday 2 nd March	Parent Group (Fussy Eaters)
Mon 13th & Tues 14th March	Staff training days (pupils not in school)
Tues 14th March	SCERTS Parent Support Group
Weds 22nd Mar	Parent Group (Sensory Processing and Sensory Circuits)
Weds 29th Mar	Easter Fair
Fri 31st Mar	Last day of term 4

A MESSAGE FROM PEGGY...

WINTER 2022

Welcome to our winter newsletter. In this edition you can read about Children in Need celebrations, class updates, our Christmas events, latest fundraising news and our Strategic Development Plan.

We have welcomed some new staff to Five Acre Wood School this term; Sara, Gemma, Nina, Antonia, Charlie, Lauren, Jacqueline, Jody, Shanice and Billie have joined as Teaching Assistants, Emily has joined as Attendance Officer, Hannah has joined as Fundraiser, Hannah has joined as Occupational Therapist and Denise and Karen have joined as Lunchtime Supervisors.

We have also welcomed some new pupils to the School; Lexxi-May, Mace, Archie, Aurora, Daisy, Eden, Nevaeh, Charlie, Bruce, Gaurab, Wyatt, Aiden, Ivy-Louise, Olivia, Joshua and Zack. They have all settled in well.

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

I am pleased to share with you the news that we have

once again achieved the IQM Inclusive School Award with Flagship status following our reassessment at the end of November. The Inclusion Quality Mark is a nationally accredited award which recognises the exceptional inclusion arrangements that Five Acre Wood has in place.

At the beginning of December, we were delighted to accept a kind donation of a real Christmas tree from Kingswood Christmas Trees for our reception area at the Loose site.



It has become a Five Acre Wood School tradition to decorate classroom and office doors in Christmas themes. These will be judged and prizes will be awarded but as you can see from the photos on page 13, each and every one of the designs are



excellent. It has been a joy to see them brightening up the school sites and the effort that has been put into decorating them has been amazing!

Please can I remind all parents/carers that in the interest of your child's health and safety, it is your 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. I would like to wish everyone an enjoyable Christmas and I wish you all a happy new year.

I look forward to welcoming the pupils back into school on Tuesday 3rd January 2023.

Peggy

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Our Harvest Festival celebrations took place at the end of term 1. Here are photos of some of the classes during their brilliant performances. We would like to thank everyone who was able to attend.

TURTLE CLASS



HEDGEHOG CLASS



CHAFFINCH CLASS



DORMOUSE CLASS



CHILDREN IN NEED

Five Acre Wood School raised an impressive £486.21 for Children in Need on Friday 18 November. We would like to say a very big 'thank you' to everyone for their generous donations. Pupils and staff enjoyed dressing up and participating in Children in Need themed activities during the day.



Blackthorn class pupils dressed up and some brought in things they enjoyed sharing with their school community. During the day they reflected on what it means to be charitable towards others in need. Thank you to all who took part and to their families for their generosity.



CLASS UPDATES

OSPREY CLASS

We have had a very busy term in Osprey class looking at celebrations around the world. We started with Halloween and Bonfire Night and made our own fireworks in class using plastic bottles and other recyclable materials. After this we focused on Diwali and Hanukkah. We looked at where these celebrations originate from, the stories behind them and different ways these are celebrated.

We have made some wonderful treats over the course of this term and enjoyed making our own chocolate cakes!

We rounded off the term with our Christmas celebrations. We have been looking at the nativity story and

we thoroughly enjoyed starring in a performance for the school nativity.

We have looked at Christmas traditions and how they came about. We have also been focusing on different traditions.

Everyone in class has helped to decorate the classroom and turn it into our very own 'winter wonderland'.



ANT CLASS



stories 'Stick Man' and 'The Gruffalo's Child' whilst playing in our sensory tray.

Our cheeky elf which we named 'Candy Cane' has visited us in class and has been up to lots of mischief.

We went on a scavenger hunt, following the clues around the school which was lots of fun. We all got a chocolate coin at the end as a treat.

We had great fun decorating our Christmas tree and we have been doing lots of Christmas crafts.

We did lots of practice for our Christmas performance where we performed 'Santa Shark'.

Merry Christmas everyone from all of the pupils and staff in Ant class.

This term has been super busy in Ant class. We have had lots of fun exploring the seasons and celebrations such as Bonfire Night, Halloween, Diwali, Remembrance Day and of course Christmas!

We have been enjoying lots of time outside in our Sensory Garden.

We have been reading the

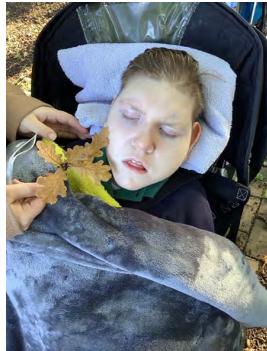


CLASS UPDATES

DAISY CLASS

This term Daisy class have enjoyed exploring the change in weather and learning all about winter and winter animals.

We invited our parents and carers into school for a Halloween themed coffee morning where we enjoyed some delicious Halloween treats, tea and coffee. We showed our parents how creative we can be by making autumnal arts and crafts using leaves which we had collected from the Outside Learning Environments during the week.



We have enjoyed exploring different stimuli with our hands. Our class team have created some amazing sensory trays filled with different autumnal items which we loved exploring.

We have enjoyed exploring different fruits and vegetables, how they can be used to create different shapes when painted and then be used as stamps.



We designed our own pumpkins. With the help of our class team, we carved designs into our own pumpkins. This was quite messy!

We took the pumpkins to The Yard where we were allowed to feed the pigs. The OLE staff taught us which animals like to eat pumpkins.



Daisy Class we have been accessing the Hydro Pool. We have all made great progress. Morgan has taken 4 consecutive steps whilst in the water, which is a huge achievement! Adam is able to push off from the side of the pool using his leg strength and Zac has been enjoying feeling weightless in the pool.

CLASS UPDATES

BUMBLEBEE CLASS

Bumblebee class have had a wonderful term exploring herbs and spices, lights and reflections and lots of sensory winter fun!

We played with 'melted snowmen', our 'winter wonderland', 'small world' and gingerbread playdough.

We are working hard to develop our communication and mobility skills. We enjoy playing with our friends.



BLUEBELL CLASS

Bluebell class has been very busy this term. Pupils have been working on their independence. They have practiced dressing and undressing and learned various different methods, such as the flip method to make it easier to put their coats on.

Pupils have worked on their physiotherapy targets, alongside working on counting, practicing their fine motor skills through working on clever fingers and have also worked on sharing space and exploring different sensory items.

During topic sessions they learned about all the celebrations that happen this term.



Over the last few weeks Bluebell class have learned all about Christmas and enjoyed decorating the class Christmas tree!

It has been a great term, filled with lots of fun and learning.

CLASS UPDATES

CHERRY CLASS

Cherry class have had a very busy term. We loved reading our class book 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe'. We have been learning about lots of different fairy tales including many that are written by Hans Christian Anderson.

We were lucky enough to go to the cinema to watch 'Sonic 2'. Lots of adults commented on how well behaved we all were.

We loved our meet and greet session at The Yard. The pigs loved their tickles.

We are looking forward to next term when we will start to learn about the Egyptians.

We would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas.



HEDGEHOG CLASS

Hedgehog class have been learning about celebrations and have loved doing activities about traditional holidays.

We have also been focusing on our fine motor skills, working together and communication.



PINE MARTEN CLASS

Pine Marten enjoyed a trip to the cinema at the start of term. They wrote all about the reclining leather seats and the pop corn afterwards.

Pupils were lucky to have sessions with Maidstone FC coaches. They charmed the coaches, honed their football skills and even scored a few goals.

Dance sessions were themed on fireworks, animals and superheroes. Pupils took part in lots of activities; composing a dance sequence, games and a dance-off at the end of the session. Some great photos were taken by one of the pupils.

Pupils made firework bottles and conducted an experiment to create 'fireworks' in a jar. They created some stunning firework and winter artwork. They completed Lego challenges and worked hard on addition, multiplication, reading, handwriting and phonics.

In horticulture sessions, pupils learned how to build frog and toad shelters. They sequenced instructions and built a hibernaculum. They created a fruity 'frog' using their imagination and cutting skills.



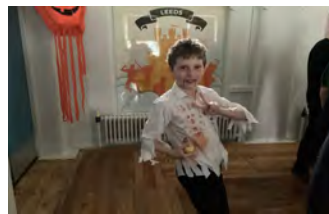
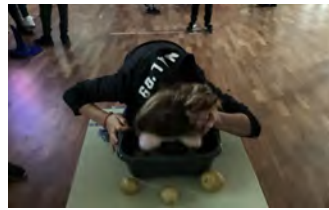
CLASS UPDATES

HALLOWEEN

Sparrow class enjoyed their trip to Pumpkin Moon.

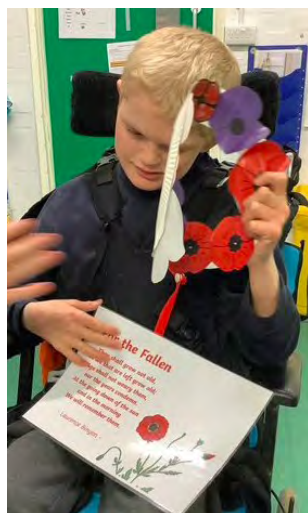


Pupils at our Snodland site enjoyed dressing up for Halloween. Some Blackthorn pupils worked at the allotment dressed in their costumes. Pupils carved pumpkins and had fun apple and potato bobbing during a party organised by Beech class.



REMEMBRANCE DAY

Here are some photos of Daisy class celebrating Remembrance Day on Friday 11th November and a photo of the classroom door which Whale class decorated for Remembrance Day.



CLASS UPDATES

PREPARATION FOR ADULTHOOD

During Preparation for Adulthood sessions, pupils have either participated in work experience at the allotment and grounds work around the school site in Snodland or participated in sessions at the Loose site working alongside the OLE team.

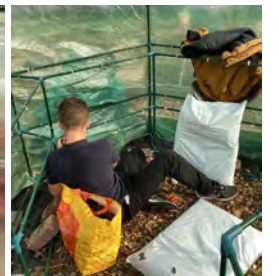
Pupils have been developing their confidence and mindset through a work placement, including working as a team, leading a team, checking the health and safety when using tools and arriving at work fully prepared and wearing the right clothes and footwear.

At the allotment, year 8-11 pupils have been busy clearing and preparing the grounds for planting. They have pulled weeds and grass, tidied and re-organised overflowing compost bins, re-organised raised beds, assembled a greenhouse (which came as a kit), planted bulbs for the spring and seeded leeks and potatoes for our first crop this winter. They have planted a variety of patio fruit trees and some hazelnut trees which were donated by the OLE team, created new paths and covered them with bark. They re-roofed and re-organised the shed, made wreaths, cleared hedges by cutting back branches and brambles and have created a new sitting area following donations from the community growers at the allotment.

At the Loose site, pupils have been working at the farm, helping with the re-organisation of the Forest School grounds and doing general grounds work around the school gardens, such as the sensory garden.

At the Snodland site, pupils have been tidying the school grounds,

playground and hedges. They have been developing their mini-enterprise skills to raise funds by harvesting sunflower seeds which were planted last spring and creating little bags to sell them. Harvested lavender is in the process of being carefully put into small gift bags for drawers and airing cupboards. Christmas gifts and decorations were also made for the coffee morning held in early December.



CLASS UPDATES

FOXGLOVE CLASS

Foxglove class visited Santa's house on their Christmas outing to Brookside Garden Centre. A wonderful time was had by everyone.



CHERRY CLASS

Cherry class have had fun putting up Christmas decorations this term and they made the most of the snowy weather this week during playtime.



FAW SNODLAND CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT CHRIST CHURCH



OUTDOOR LEARNING ENVIRONMENT



Our Outdoor Learning Environment (OLE) has been going from strength to strength this term. We have nearly finished building our second outdoor classroom, the first being 'The Croft' at our yard. The new one is placed next to the poly tunnel tucked into a corner and is now known as 'The Potting shed'. This is where pupils will have the opportunity to make hanging baskets and wooden planters as well as growing plants from seeds to use around the school.



Pupils from our Palace Wood site have been visiting Apple Tree Yard once a week and attending Young Farmers sessions. They have been busy undertaking all the tasks needed to keep our animals safe and well.

On behalf of the whole OLE team I would like to thank everyone for their support with all that we do.

- Paul Atkinson (Outdoor Learning Environment Lead)

MAIDSTONE SCARECROW FESTIVAL



Congratulations to Maple class on winning the 'best school' category for 'Timmy Plotter' in the Maidstone Scarecrow Festival. Derek Mortimer, the Mayor of Maidstone, visited them at the Loose site to award them with a certificate and their prize money. Pupils were delighted to have the opportunity to ask lots of questions afterwards.



Preparation For Adulthood pupils from Snodland have visited every day this term to help tidy, develop and maintain the OLE. This has been an amazing opportunity for them and we would all like to say a huge 'thank you' to everyone involved and for all their support. Snodland pupils have also been coming to Apple Tree Yard and the OLE to carry out their BTEC course in Animal Husbandry and have been planning and filming a documentary about the OLE ready for the spring.

Pupils have been attending Forest School, creating dens, making bird feeders and 'getting in touch with nature'. Building fire squares and making water features out of half bamboo poles has been popular with pupils.

COMMUNITY RAIL CELEBRATION ASSEMBLY

Community Rail visited the Snodland site to present the School's Project Award. Pupils showed them around the school. Daniel Wright from Community Rail said 'Your pupils have made us feel so welcome today and they are so very polite. Your school has a very happy feel to it.' Well done everyone!



CHRISTMAS

CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION

Each year pupils are invited 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. They are sent 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 we used for this year's cards are shown here.



Kiryl — Blackthorn Class



Logan — Blackthorn Class



Woody — Swallow Class

NATIVITY

Our primary nativity performances took place at the Loose site on 6th and 7th December. We received some wonderful feedback from families and visitors who were able to attend and would like to thank everyone for coming. Thank you to all of the staff who were involved with the performances and very well done to all of the fabulous performers.



'ELFRIDGES'



On 12th and 13th December, TEAM at the Loose site opened up their 'Elfridges' Christmas shop to enable pupils to choose their own Christmas gifts for their families at a cost of £2. The gifts were wrapped, labelled and ready to go home to be placed under the Christmas tree.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

A delicious Christmas lunch was served in the hall at the Loose site on Wednesday 14th December. A big thank you to the kitchen staff team and all who helped to serve it.



CHRISTMAS

CHRISTMAS DOORS



CHRISTMAS

A VISIT FROM FATHER CHRISTMAS

On Thursday 15th December Father Christmas visited to deliver gifts to some excited pupils.



LAST DAY OF TERM

The last day of term was 'Elf/Christmas Fancy Dress Day' and many of our staff came to school wearing Christmas outfits. When pupils at the Loose site arrived at school they were greeted by Santa and Rudolph on their sleigh.



FUNDRAISING UPDATE

INTRODUCTION

My name is Hannah Juden. In November I joined as the Fundraiser at Five Acre Wood School. There is never a quiet minute in the Fundraising department and I have enjoyed some fantastic events as well as meeting most pupils in all learning approaches and across all sites. I am excited to work with staff and pupils moving forwards. We have some fabulous projects planned for 2023. I will keep you updated over the coming months.

I would like to thank you for your fantastic support this year. Wishing everyone a very safe and peaceful Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

- Hannah

KENTISH VW KLUB DONATION



In November we were contacted by Steve (Chairman for the Kentish VW Klub), who informed us of some fantastic news. The club had raised money from a raffle to club members with a variety of prizes on offer. The money raised was divided between Five Acre Wood School and SPACE 2 BE ME.

On Friday 2nd December we had the pleasure of inviting Steve, Phillip Stanley (Club Membership Secretary) together with Viv Lindley and Darren Checksfield (club members) into school. Sarah from the fantastic SPACE 2 BE ME charity also joined us. They all had opportunity to meet our pupils and we were presented with a cheque for £402.

CHRISTMAS FAIR

We were super excited to host our annual Christmas fair at the Loose site, which has not been able to take place over the last few years due to COVID. Pupils, with the support of staff, created some magnificent items such as Christmas playdough, tree decorations and the chocolate cupcakes went down a treat! In total we raised £444.90. Thank you to everyone who supported the event.



CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

On the 9th December we held our first FAW Christmas Jumper Day! It was fantastic to see so many pupils and staff wearing their festive wear. In total, we raised £125.58 which will go towards our fundraising efforts.

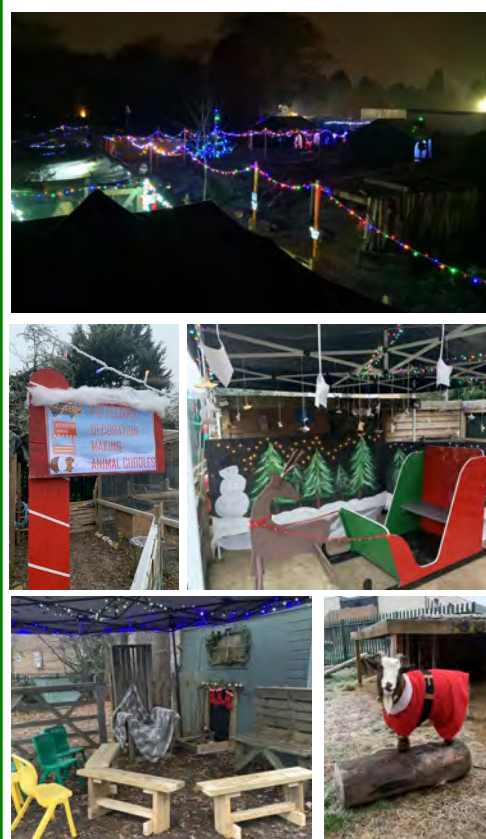


WINTER WONDERLAND

On Sunday the 11th of December, we held our very first Winter Wonderland event, which was brilliant. Many families came to support us on what was a bitterly cold evening. We had our snow machine up and running which was not needed after all as we had the real thing! Alongside the snow and magical soundtrack, the hot drinks were flowing. The craft stall was busy along with the animal adoption table. Santa and his elf were very busy sitting by the fireplace listening to children's wishes for Christmas and telling a Christmas story.

We would like to say an enormous thank you to everyone who helped on the evening, to the OLE staff who organised this event and parents and carers who visited us. We raised over £1000 and without you, our events would not be possible.

We are excited to announce planning has already started for both a spring and winter event in 2023. Keep a look out for further details in the new year.



Term Dates with Diary Dates 2022/23

Date	Time	Event
<u>Term 3</u>		
Tuesday 3 rd January 2023	N/A	First day of term 3
Friday 10 th February 2023	N/A	Last day of term

<u>Term 4</u>		
Monday 20 th February 2023	N/A	First day of term 4
Monday 13 th March 2023	N/A	Staff training day (pupils not in school)
Tuesday 14 th March 2023	N/A	Staff training day (pupils not in school)
Wednesday 29 th March 2023	TBC	Easter Fair
Friday 31 st March 2023	N/A	Last day of term

<u>Term 5</u>		
Monday 17 th April 2023	N/A	First day of term 5
Monday 1 st May 2023	N/A	Bank holiday (pupils and staff not in school)
Friday 26 th May 2023	N/A	Last day of term

<u>Term 6</u>		
Monday 5 th June 2023	N/A	First day of term 6 for pupils
June 2023	TBC	Sports day
June 2023	TBC	Sports day
June 2023	TBC	Sports day – FAW Snodland
Friday 7 th July 2023	All day	Transition day
Monday 10 th July 2023	3.45-6.45pm	'Meet the new teacher' parents evening
July 2023	TBC	Secondary summer performance
July 2023	TBC	Secondary prize giving
Friday 21 st July 2023	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.

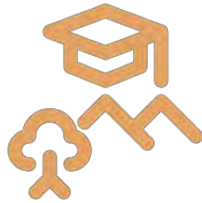
5. When sending in medication, it must not be put in your child's bag. Instead, it should be handed directly to a member of the class staff. If your child comes into school by taxi, the medication should be given to the escort who will then hand it to a member of the class staff when they arrive at school.

Personal Development

Continue to create opportunities for pupils to be resilient and further develop their self-esteem in all environments



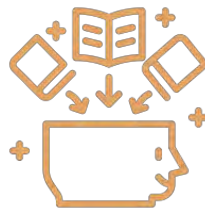
Further develop outside learning



Re-establish opportunities for pupils to participate in interclass activities



Continue to increase opportunities for pupils to learn skills and develop personal attributes



Behaviour and Attitudes



Build on the meaningful opportunities that pupils are offered develop their independence



Ensure all staff have a sound understanding of the functions of behaviour and how to positively influence and support pupils



Further develop pupil voice through the school

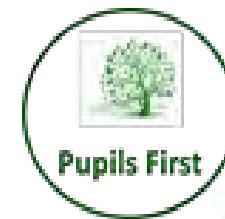


Further develop nurture principles and trauma informed practice in the school



STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN

2022—2023



Overview



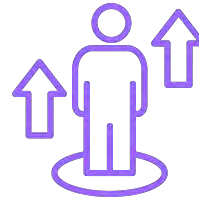
To further develop Five Acre Wood, the Strategic Development Plan has been developed for the coming year.

There are four key areas:

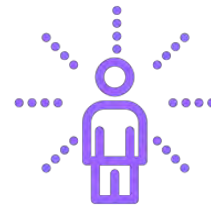
1. Leadership and Management
2. Quality of Education
3. Personal Development
4. Behaviour and Attitudes

This document is an overview for this academic year

Leadership and Management



Staff have ownership of their professional development



Raise parental awareness of learning, achievement and pupil opportunities



Work with KCC to build capacity within the school

Quality of Education



Share current good practice in the planning and delivery of exciting, meaningful and interactive lessons



Review and enhance the curriculum in all learning approaches



Increase and embed assessment tools including accreditation at KS 4



Focus on pupils developing a love for and an interest in reading at all levels, as an essential skill



Personal Development

Help you to feel good about yourself

Add more outdoor learning activities

Help you to be with your friends in different classes

Help you to be ready for adult life



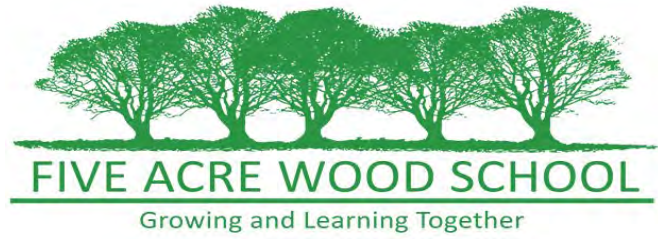
Behaviour and Attitudes

Help you to be independent

Help staff to understand your behaviour

Help you to make decisions

Offer you the right support



Five Acre Wood School



Development



Plan



Overview



Five Acre Wood School



staff

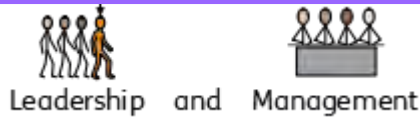


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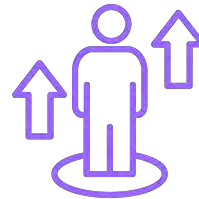
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Leadership and Management



School



staff



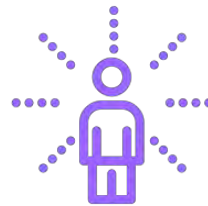
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Parents



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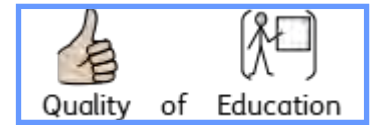
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Quality of Education



Teachers



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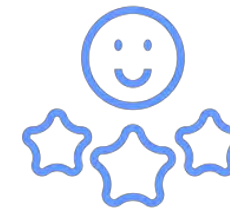
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Help



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