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21st October 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have now reached the end of term one and so much has happened during the last 7 weeks. It has been lovely to see so many of you in and around school.

Pupils and Staff

We are really pleased at how well all pupils, both new and existing, have settled in to their classes this year. Pupils have already established new routines and are keen to learn.

Our new staff have also settled in well and since September we have had more new staff join us. Hannah Bovis, Lauren Hopkins, Louise Paterson, Rebecca Farley and Kirsten Bell have joined us at Teaching Assistants; we wish them the best of luck in their new roles.

I am very sad to announce that Debbie Simpson from TEAM, our family liaison department, will be leaving this term. I would like to thank her for all her hard work over the years, both in class and TEAM and for all the support that she has given to our pupils' families. She will be missed but we wish her the best of luck in future.

Healthcare plans

As you are aware, our healthcare plan system is now in place and parents/carers are asked at all meetings to check that plans are up-to-date and resign them. These plans include all information regarding your child's healthcare needs so please always inform us if there are any changes and ensure that you return any signed forms that have been sent home. We keep the updated plans and should a pupil ever have to go to hospital, the plan would go with them. We have received some very positive feedback from a number of external agencies, including a paramedic who commented that having the plan saved a lot of time.

New build

The new build developments are continuing and some pupils have been given the opportunity to go inside the new building! The latest photos are on the school website. Keep up-to-date by visiting www.fiveacrewood.co.uk.



School events

On 10th September we held our first picnic for families of children in our Primary classes to enable them to meet other parents and children in the department. Everyone had a lovely time and the rain managed to hold off! The children and their siblings had the use of the play equipment and families brought their own picnics. Parents commented how nice it was to be able to use the play equipment and there was some interest in this becoming a regular event. We are hoping to continue this in future.

There was a good turnout at our class coffee mornings which were held for all classes. When organising these events, we are always very mindful of the needs of our pupils. Some of the sessions were held in the afternoon to lessen the emotional impact on some of our younger pupils. We will continue to bear in mind the needs of the pupils when planning these events in future.

We had five additional parents/carers attend the home school partnership group meeting this term. These meetings are an opportunity for parents/carers to meet with the school and discuss ideas of how we can work together. Everyone is welcome so if you are interested, please come along. The next meeting will be held at the school on Tuesday 8th November at 9.30am.

We received good feedback regarding our Harvest Festival Performance this year. It was the first performance held in our new hall and we felt that in particular the younger pupils coped really well with this. Feedback was very positive and parents/carers enjoyed the performance.

The next parent group session will be about communication and will be held on Wednesday 23rd November from 9.30am-11am, led by our Speech and Language Therapists, Dennis Mlambo and Rosie Payne. In order to make this session as beneficial as possible, we would like you to send in suggestions of what you would like covered. Please confirm your attendance in advance (and anything that you would like covered in the session) by emailing office@five-acre.kent.sch.uk.

LPPA Award

Finally, I am delighted to announce that we have achieved the Leading Parent Partnership Award. Thank you to everyone who contributed their views in order to help us achieve this. We feel that it is a very positive reflection of the support we provide to you and the efforts of our staff in working in partnership with you. As a school we see that you are the experts on our children and we truly value your guidance and advice. This award has enabled us to recognise our strengths but also to evaluate where we go next with our work.

I hope that you all have an enjoyable half term and I look forward to seeing you soon.

Kind regards,



Peggy Murphy
Principal

Dates for your diary

<u>Term 2</u>		
Date	Time	Event
Monday 31 st October 2016	N/A	First day of term 2
Tuesday 8 th November 2016	9.30am-11am	Home School Partnership Group meeting
Wednesday 23 rd November 2016	9.30am-11am	Parent support group (Communication)
Monday 5 th December 2016	3.45pm-6.30pm	Parents evening
Tuesday 6 th December 2016	10am-11.30am	Christmas Fayre
Wednesday 14 th December 2016	1.30pm-2.45pm	Primary Nativity (Snowy Owl, Tawny Owl, Hedgehog, Woodpecker, Rabbit, Fox, Robin, Wren).
Thursday 15 th December 2016	1.30pm-2.45pm	Primary Nativity (Sparrow, Kingfisher, Dormouse, Otter, Squirrel, Badger, Osprey, Roedeer)
Friday 16 th December 2016	6pm-7.30pm	Christmas Disco
Tuesday 20 th December 2016	TBC	Class Christmas parties
Wednesday 21 st December 2016	N/A	Last day of term
<u>Term 3</u>		
Tuesday 3 rd January 2017	N/A	First day of term 3
Thursday 12 th January 2017 (workshop 1, part 1)	9.30am-3.30pm	Makaton for Parents
Saturday 14 th January 2017 (workshop 2, part 1)	9.30am-3.30pm	Makaton for Parents
Thursday 26 th January 2017 (workshop 1, part 2)	9.30am-3.30pm	Makaton for Parents
Saturday 28 th January 2017 (workshop 2, part 2)	9.30am-3.30pm	Makaton for Parents
Friday 10 th February 2017	N/A	Last day of term
<u>Term 4</u>		
Monday 20 th February 2017	N/A	First day of term 4
Monday 13 th March 2017	All day	Staff training day (pupils not in school)
Tuesday 14 th March 2017	All day	Staff training day (pupils not in school)
Wednesday 15 th March 2017	All day	Staff training day (pupils not in school)
Thursday 30 th March 2017	10am-11.30am	Easter Fayre
Friday 31 st March 2017	N/A	Last day of term
<u>Term 5</u>		
Tuesday 18 th April 2017	N/A	First day of term 5
Monday 1 st May 2017	All day	Bank holiday (school closed)
Friday 26 th May 2017	N/A	Last day of term
<u>Term 6</u>		
Monday 5 th June 2017	All day	Staff training day (pupils not in school)
Tuesday 6 th June 2017	N/A	First day of term 6 for pupils
Friday 7 th July 2017	TBC	Transition day
Monday 10 th July 2017	3.45pm-6.45pm	'Meet the new teacher' parents evening
Wednesday 12 th July 2017	TBC	Sports day (Primary)
Thursday 13 th July 2017	TBC	Sports day (Secondary)
Tuesday 18 th July 2017	10.30am	Secondary Summer performance and Prizegiving
Friday 21 st July 2017	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.