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9th February 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

Christmas now feels like a distant memory and although we have experienced some wintery weather this week, we are now at the end of term 3 and are therefore looking forward to the start of the spring term!

Pupils and Staff

We have welcomed some new staff this term. Sam has joined us as a Teacher and Hayley, Mollie, Kerrie-Anne and Hayley have joined us as Teaching Assistants.

We have also had some new pupils join Five Acre Wood – welcome to Noah, David, James, Andrew, Alex and Cody.

We hope that they have enjoyed their first term and we wish them all the best at Five Acre Wood.

IQM

I am delighted to announce that following our third Inclusion Quality Mark (IQM) assessment as a Centre of Excellence, we have now progressed to become a Flagship School; there is only one other school in Kent with this award!

The Inclusion Quality Mark is a nationally accredited award which recognises the exceptional inclusion arrangements that Five Acre Wood has in place. It bases its framework around three core areas; the individual pupil, the family and community and the staff. It focuses on educational inclusion, which is about equal opportunities for all pupils and ensuring that the learning, achievements, attitudes and well-being of every young person matters.

Dave Stott, the assessor stated 'I was very impressed by all aspects of the review and I am completely confident that the school has the drive, management and expertise to maintain and develop inclusion activities whilst undertaking the challenges of the research within the Flagship programme'.

This is a fantastic achievement and I would like to thank the Senior Leadership Team for the hard work they put in to prepare for the assessment.



Fundraising

Fundraising has been going at some pace since the beginning of the year. The launch of "Create a ripple...MAKE A SPLASH!" has seen so many groups of people getting really invested in the project. It was given a huge boost at the start with a donation of £15,000 from "The 12 Electric Club". Since then we have received donations ranging from £30 right through to an incredibly generous anonymous donation of £10,000. It isn't all for the Hydrotherapy Pool, plenty of money is being raised for the Sensory Garden, the Memory Garden and for classroom equipment. It isn't just about money coming in, the profile of the school is being raised on social media and within the local community. Please do continue to interact with us as much as possible on Facebook and Twitter – it is free and effective publicity for us. Do get in contact with Alexandra Meaders on ameaders@five-acre.kent.sch.uk with any fundraising you or your place of work or maybe a group you belong to could get involved with. Every penny raised will make a difference to your children.

SCERTS training

Our staff training days will be held on Monday 12th, Tuesday 13th and Wednesday 14th March so pupils will not be in school on these days. A number of our staff will be taking part in SCERTS training, led by international expert Emily Rubin. Emily specialises in Autism, Aspergers Syndrome and related social learning disabilities and she is coming from America to deliver this training to us.

SCERTS is an educational model for individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) or individuals not on the autism spectrum who are developing social communication and emotional regulation skills. SCERTS provides specific guidelines for helping an individual become a competent and confident social communicator and active learner. It can be adapted to meet the demands of different social settings for youngsters, including home and school. Therefore, Emily will also be holding a parent/carer session on Tuesday 13th March 2018 from 6pm-8pm, at Five Acre Wood. Refreshments will be available and there will be an opportunity for you to ask questions. The session is open to any parents/carers from other schools, at a cost of £20 per person but will be FREE TO FIVE ACRE WOOD PARENTS/CARERS! This is a great opportunity and we hope to see you there. An information poster is attached but if you would like to book a place, please email ndevereux@five-acre.kent.sch.uk or call the school office on 01622 743925.

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

Kind regards,



Peggy Murphy
Principal

Dates for your diary

Date	Time	Event
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Term 4

Monday 19 th February 2018	N/A	First day of term 4
Monday 12 th March 2018	N/A	Staff training day (pupils not in school)
Tuesday 13 th March 2018	N/A	Staff training day (pupils not in school)
Wednesday 14 th March 2018	N/A	Staff training day (pupils not in school)
Wednesday 28 th March 2018	10-11.30am	Easter Fair
Thursday 29 th March 2018	N/A	Last day of term

Term 5

Monday 16 th April 2018	N/A	First day of term 5
Wednesday 2 nd May 2018	2.00pm	Parent support group (Behaviour)
Monday 7 th May 2018	N/A	Bank holiday (pupils and staff not in school)
Wednesday 16 th May 2018	All day	Parent support group sessions (subjects TBC)
Thursday 24 th May 2018	10-11.30am	Secondary summer performance
Friday 25 th May 2018	N/A	Last day of term

Term 6

Monday 4 th June 2018	N/A	Staff training day (pupils not in school)
Tuesday 5 th June 2018	N/A	First day of term for pupils
Wednesday 27 th June 2018	TBC	Primary sports day
Thursday 28 th June 2018	TBC	Secondary sports day
Friday 6 th July 2018	All day	Transition day
Friday 13 th July 2018	9.30am	Parent support group (online safety)
Tuesday 10 th July 2018	3.45-6.30pm	'Meet the new teacher' parents evening
Thursday 19 th July 2018	10.30am	Secondary prize giving
Tuesday 24 th July 2018	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.



Parent/Carer training session—The SCERTS Model

Tuesday 13th March 2018—6pm-8pm

at Five Acre Wood School, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 9QF

with international expert Emily Rubin

Emily specialises in Autism, Asperger's Syndrome and related social learning disabilities and she lectures internationally.

What is the SCERTS model?

SCERTS is an educational model for children and older individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and their families. The model can also be used with individuals not on the autism spectrum who are developing social communication and emotional regulation skills. SCERTS provides specific guidelines for helping an individual become a competent and confident social communicator and an active learner.

Join us and learn more about:

- How current neuroscience helps us understand social and emotional development in our children.
- How embedding supports for social and emotional engagement in the classroom and at home supports language, literacy, and academic growth.

This event is **FREE TO ALL FIVE ACRE WOOD PARENTS/CARERS.**

Refreshments will be available and there will be an opportunity for you to ask questions.

If you would like to attend, please confirm your attendance by emailing ndevereux@five-acre.kent.sch.uk or by calling the school office on 01622 743925.

