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25 May 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

Another term has flown by and here we are at the end of term 5! Hopefully we will soon start to enjoy some summer weather.

Pupils and Staff

We have welcomed some new staff this term. Keith and Julie have joined us as Specialist Teachers and Gemma has become one of our lunchtime supervisors.

We have also had a new pupil join Five Acre Wood – welcome to Keemiya.

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

Sensory Garden

A message from Alex, our fundraiser:

'We are all about "teamwork" and one of the projects we are currently working on demonstrates the absolute best spirit of that. Our sensory garden that has been in the planning for a while now is steadily becoming a reality. Led and driven by Paul, our fabulous horticulturalist, the garden is like a huge dozing animal that is now slowly waking up. The wooden gazebo, started so brilliantly and enthusiastically by volunteers from Santander and now completed by the family of one of our staff members forms the hub of the beast – the beating heart from where all the paths will lead out. One leading down a winding path to a sensory sandpit, the path being constructed by a team of volunteers from Greggs, the sandpit dug out by a team of volunteers from Network Rail. Old tyres surround the sandpit, donated by local company AN Tyres – soon to be filled with top soil and planted up with the sea of plants donated by our friends at B&Q Maidstone. Another path will lead to an upright mirrored sensory maze – reflections from the trees and our pupils happy faces will be a treat to enjoy. A further path will lead to a log flume style water feature, making use of the natural drop of the garden. The water will flow along, sparkling in the sunshine and tinkling like little bells to a bed, where it will be captured and then re-used. Wind chimes and ribbons will dangle from the trees creating magical sounds and feelings as the breeze gently moves them. The generosity of the time given by the volunteers, along with the funding and supplies given by Greggs, Tesco's, Groundwork, Gallaghers and the kindest anonymous donor have ensured this sensory garden is a truly organic and enriching experience for every single one of our students. Teamwork at its best!'



Teaching School

I am really proud and pleased to inform you that Five Acre Wood School, has recently been selected as a National Teaching School, taking a leading role in recruiting and training new entrants to the profession. Introduced in 2011, teaching schools are excellent schools that work with partner schools in an alliance to provide high quality school-led initial teacher training and professional development opportunities for teachers at all stages of their career. They raise standards through supporting other schools, especially those in challenging circumstances, and ensure that the most talented school leaders are spotted and supported to become successful headteachers

As part of the application, I have also been appointed to the role of national leader of education. National leaders of education, along with staff in their school, use their knowledge and experience to provide additional leadership capability in other schools in need of support. The type of support provided is flexible and tailored to meet the needs of each individual school. National leaders of education also have responsibility for developing the next generation of NLEs and national support schools.

When you draw up a list of the really important things in life - the things that really matter - the need to give our children the best education we can has to be up near the very top of that list. I am delighted to be able to assist in fulfilling this need, by giving support to colleagues in schools which are facing challenging circumstances. Having been selected for this role, I will ensure that the knowledge and experience that our teachers at Five Acre Wood School and I have gathered in our careers to date, is used to give energy, enthusiasm and direction. I have a passion for excellence in education and in this new role, I will use my passion to ensure professional development opportunities and standards of teaching are raised to their highest levels thus ensuring all our children get the education they need and deserve.

Butlins

Students and staff from our 6th form enjoyed a week long residential trip to Butlins at the start of this term. The students participated in some fun and challenging activities and the week was a great success.

Events

Pupils recently had a fabulous opportunity to meet and handle a variety of weird, wonderful and cute animals during fun and exciting workshops which were run by Creepy Claws. Their presentation was educational, fun and packed full of animals that children rarely get a chance to meet! This wonderful experience was organised by TEAM who also raised the funds for it through the proceeds of the monthly staff Lucky Balls draw. The children were engaged and enjoyed this amazing experience.

Many of our staff overcame their fear of tarantulas and snakes to support them to enjoy this experience.

Last Friday we will held our very own 'Street Party Snack Time' to celebrate the Royal Wedding of Prince Harry and Megan Markle. We were fortunate with the weather and a good time was had by all.

I would like to congratulate all of the students who took part in the secondary performance of Shrek yesterday. A lot of hard work and time went into this production and I would like to thank all staff who were involved. Lots of parents and carers attended and I am sure you will agree that it was a brilliant performance.

Well done to some of our fantastic pupils who formed a team and entered the Primary Panathlon Challenge. This event took place yesterday and I am delighted to announce that we came first!



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

Kind regards,

Peggy

Peggy Murphy
Principal

Dates for your diary

Date	Time	Event
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.