

12 February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Here we are at the end of a fairly quiet term 3. I am sure many of our pupils will have enjoyed the arrival of the snow this week.

Pupils and Staff

We have welcomed some new staff and pupils to the school this term and they have all settled in well. We hope they have enjoyed their first term and that they will be very happy at Five Acre Wood School.

Children's Mental Health Week

At the start of February, Five Acre Wood participated in 'Children's Mental Health Week', run by the children's mental health charity Place2Be. Pupils were mental health focused activities into the week. On Thursday 4th February pupils and staff participated in a fundraising event, 'Dress to Express', by wearing their favourite coloured clothes or a colour to express how they were feeling for a donation of £2 to Place2Be, a children's mental health charity. So far we have raised in excess of £150. Thank you to everyone who donated to the charity.

World Book Day

World Book Day will be on Thursday 4th March. We are planning an exciting day and details will follow in due course.

Leading Parent Partnership Award

In October 2016, Five Acre Wood achieved the Leading Parent Partnership Award. Following a reassessment in January 2021, we have once again achieved the Award. The Award helps the school to work in partnership with parents and carers. Increasing parental participation in school life leads to improved pupil progress, punctuality, attendance and behaviour. Thank you to everyone who contributed to help us achieve this.

SCERTS training

Our staff training days will be held on Monday 8th, Tuesday 9th and Wednesday 10th March. 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.

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. Emily will also be holding an online parent/carer session on Tuesday 23rd March 2021 from 6pm-8pm. There will be an opportunity to ask questions. The session is open to 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. If you wish to book a place, please email hstewart@five-acre.kent.sch.uk or call the school office on 01622 743925.

Healthcare Plans

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 and you should therefore notify us of any changes as they arise.

I would like to wish everyone an enjoyable half term and I look forward to welcoming pupils back to school on Monday 22 February.

Kind regards,



Peggy Murphy
Principal

Updates from Alex, our fundraiser:

Fundraising NEWS January - February 2021 (Christmas) Coin Challenge

We raised over £460.00 with this challenge and there are still a few buckets out there with classes! Thank you to everyone that took part. It was great to hear how much some of the students enjoyed squirreling away their coins!

Lucky Lottery Balls

Our first draws of the year have now taken place ... well done to the January and February winners. This lottery has already raised over £1,500.00. There are still a few numbers available, so if you want the chance to win some cash each month, please email the Fundraiser on ameaders@five-acre.kent.sch.uk

FAW – Round the World Challenge

It's just a bit of fun! We've plotted our route and we want to travel together and take in some fabulous sites of the world! Whether you are a runner or a cyclist, a jogger or a walker, please keep a weekly tally of how many miles you have gone and email them in to ameaders@five-acre.kent.sch.uk. We are sharing weekly updates of where we have visited on our Facebook page and via Parentmail too. Do join in the fun, we've got over 22,000 miles to travel and every mile you do will help us on our way!



Sainsbury's comes up trumps AGAIN!

As their Local Charity partner back in 2019, Sainsbury's took us under their wing. We benefitted from over £5,000.00 being raised then and they've kept in touch ever since, supporting us with loads of unsaleable goods that we have been able to make use of in our various phases. We were so touched when Sainsbury's Larkfield turned up a few weeks back with piles of yummy cookies, cakes and snacks as a "You've got this" morale booster for our staff! They even brought a bunch of flowers for Peggy! We are always grateful to be in the midst of such a kind caring community.



Hydrotherapy pool update

We are NEARLY there! The temptation to share pictures is so great! BUT I want to wait just a tiny bit longer so that I can unveil this outstanding new facility to you in its total and complete beauty. A wonderful by-product of this build is a new Multi-Sensory Room! The room is now all designed and ready to be filled with superb sensory equipment from which so many of our students will benefit. We need to raise about £12 - 14,000.00 to get the room as we want it. We are already well on our way with fundraising, with over £4,000.00 designated already! We will keep you updated!

A Step Ahead Mentors

We are hugely grateful to Harry Webster and Oliver Smith who made a donation of £2,000.00 just recently. They set up a mentoring business back at the beginning of Lockdown number one and pledged to donate some of their hard-earned money to charity. We are so lucky to have come to their attention and benefitted from this wonderful sum.



In Memory

A Virgin Money Giving page set up in memory of Fred Mooney has raised over £500 for us and the total is still ticking up! Fred passed away at Christmas but is fondly remembered by so many at FAWS, he was the beloved Grandpa of one of our former students. We are so grateful to Jean Mooney for setting up this page – a wonderful dedication to a much loved man.

Friends of Five Acre Wood and Grow 19

The AGM for the charity is on Tuesday 2 March 2021. Like SO much of life right now, it will have to be a virtual meeting. Everyone is invited to come to the meeting and we are always keen to have new members and Trustees. Please email ameaders@five-acre.kent.sch.uk to be sent a link to the meeting or find out more about the charity.

Friends of Five Acre Wood and Grow 19
Registered Charity Number 1153151





Parent/Carer training session—The SCERTS Model

Tuesday 23rd March 2021—6pm-8pm Online via Zoom

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.**

There will be an opportunity for you to ask questions.

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



Term Dates with Diary Dates 2020/21

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

Date	Time	Event
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Term 4

Monday 22 nd February 2021	N/A	First day of term 4
Monday 8 th March 2021	N/A	Staff training day (pupils not in school)
Tuesday 9 th March 2021	N/A	Staff training day (pupils not in school)
Wednesday 10 th March 2021	N/A	Staff training day (pupils not in school)
Wednesday 31 st March 2021	TBC	Easter Fair
Thursday 1 st April 2021	N/A	Last day of term

Term 5

Monday 19 th April 2021	N/A	First day of term 5
Monday 3 rd May 2021	N/A	Bank holiday (pupils and staff not in school)
Friday 28 th May 2021	N/A	Last day of term

Term 6

Monday 7 th June 2021	N/A	Staff training day (pupils not in school)
Tuesday 8 th June 2021	N/A	First day of term 6 for pupils
June 2021	TBC	Sports day
June 2021	TBC	Sports day
June 2021	TBC	Sports day – FAW Snodland
Friday 2 nd July 2021	All day	Transition day
Monday 5 th July 2021	3.45-6.45pm	'Meet the new teacher' parents evening
July 2021	TBC	Secondary summer performance
July 2021	TBC	Secondary prize giving
Wednesday 21 st July 2021	All day	Woodstock and 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.