

22 October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of term 1, I would like to thank parents and carers for their continued support and co-operation.

Pupils and Staff

We have welcomed lots of new staff and pupils this term who have all settled in well. We hope they have enjoyed their first term at Five Acre Wood School.

I am pleased to announce that Sam Hazle, one of our Teachers, has been appointed as Assistant Head Teacher from January 2022. Congratulations Sam!

Harvest Festival

Harvest Festival celebrations for primary pupils took place this week. Classes were asked to choose a harvest song to perform or create an interactive PowerPoint presentation. These performances/presentations were shared with parents and carers via the class Teams pages. We hope you have enjoyed watching these.

School Travel Plan response sheets

We are currently in consultation with Kent County Council Infrastructure Division and other site users to look at ways to improve access to the school site. A School Travel Plan response sheet was sent home at the start of October. We would appreciate it if this information could be returned at your earliest convenience. Thank you to those Parents and Carers who have already completed and returned the form.

Parent Support Groups

Details of our parent support groups for this academic year will be sent home in due course. Reminders will be sent home nearer the time of each session, together with details of how to confirm your attendance. Please be advised that these groups will not run with fewer than 5 attendees.

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. Healthcare Plans will be routinely sent home for Parents/Carers to review at the start of each academic year and prior to your child's annual EHCP review meeting, with the exception of the red Healthcare Plans which will be reviewed four times during the school year.

Strategic Development Plan

Please find attached a summary of the school's Strategic Development Plan for this year which highlights all of the targets that we will be working towards this year, together with a review document for the last academic year.

Please also find attached the term dates with provisional diary dates for your information. Please be aware that these may be subject to change/cancellation. We will send out information regarding individual events which are able to take place closer to the time.

I would like to wish everyone an enjoyable half term and I look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday 1 November.

Kind regards,



Peggy Murphy
Principal

Transport – car park update from Sarah, our Logistics Manager:

Please can I remind all parents and carers that with effect from 1st November 2021, our opening time will return to 9:15am for all pupils. We will be removing the staggered arrival times that are currently in place. All vehicles will be able to access the car park at the start / end of the day at once. Staff will receive pupils from 9:15am and pupils will be taken out to vehicles from 3:15pm at the end of the day. Staff will continue to manage the flow of traffic to / from the site at the start and end of the day.

Any informal early drop off arrangements that may previously have been agreed will no longer continue. For further information, please refer to the letter which was sent via ParentMail on 15 October 2021.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Updates from Alex, our fundraiser:

We are buying a house....

The Cobtree Charitable Trust have agreed to give us the funding to enable us to buy a house in Snodland! We are so thrilled to be able to have this forward-thinking, and indeed pioneering, project come into being. We know it will prove to be a really important learning resource for our older pupils as they start making the transition from being “children” to becoming adults, who can live as independently as possible. In an ideal world we would make the purchase before Christmas, but the last 18 months have taught us, to make plans, then rip them all up, then make more plans....we won't give a date of when we will have the house. It will be soon!

Sensory Pod for Five Acre Wood at Palace Wood

Thank you for all your support as we tried to win a Sensory Pod. As you may know, we didn't win, however, we have been offered a discount on a pod! We are looking to raise £8,500.00 for this brilliant piece of equipment which will be installed at our Palace Wood setting. We will be making fundraising applications and would welcome any support you can give for this project!

Double Decker Bus

We are going to purchase a double decker bus! It will then be stripped of its interior furnishings and made into a soft sensory play area. The bus will be able to move between sites although will be based at Loose, given the amount of space it will take up in the car park. The bus will be available for static hire during weekends and holidays. We need to raise c. £70,000.00 for this and funding applications are already in the pipeline – again, any support you can give for this would be fantastic.

The Branch Café

We have had a *slight* delay in getting this up and running, as more financing was needed than was initially anticipated (see my comments above about plans and ripping them up and making new ones!). It is all ticking along and WILL be coming to fruition; we are waiting on responses from various funders to enable the next exciting steps to be taken – watch this space!

Co-op Charity Partner

We have successfully applied to be the Co-op's charity partner again! We are so thrilled to have this community partnership and benefitted to the tune of over £5,000.00 last time. Please support your local Co-ops and if ever you can, mention that you are connected with Five Acre Wood School when you are in a Co-op, I am sure they would appreciate knowing their charity partner is grateful!

The Yard....

...is still expanding! Our two goats looked on with slight bemusement as 6 runner ducks and 12 chickens moved in next door to them! These animals are proving quite excellent with our pupils on so many levels, and we are really excited to be planning to welcome quail, guinea pigs and pigs in the Spring!

Lucky Lottery Balls

We still need to sell about 25 more numbers before we can have our first draw! It is £25 per number which will enter you into 12 draws throughout the school year, with the opportunity to win either £40 or £25 each draw. There's normally a bit of a bonus amount at Christmas, so it's all a

good bit of fun as well as a FUNdraiser. Please email me on ameaders@five-acre.kent.sch.uk if you would like to take part.

IQ cards

Thank you for your orders! Your children have made some fabulous designs which can be turned into cards, postcards, fridge magnets, sticky labels, mouse mats and even a chocolate bar! I must have all orders in by 3 November 2021 to ensure we get the products back by 10 December. Don't delay – get your order in NOW!

Christmas Raffle

Even though we can't have our normal Christmas Fair this year, our Friends of Five Acre Wood and Grow 19 committee have decided they will hold a Christmas Raffle. Raffle tickets will come home for you to buy, in the third week of November and the draw will be held on 14 December. If you have any connections to really fab prizes, please do let me know (ameaders@five-acre.kent.sch.uk) and I will pass your info onto the committee.

Variety, The Children's Charity – fundraiser

Thank you for all the wonderful outfits you sent your children in for this fundraiser! We really want to give something back to this incredible charity – thank you for your amazing support. If you didn't manage to send in a donation – or maybe you just would like to give more – you can donate via our Just Giving page up until 5 November <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/VarietyDressUpDay> Keep an eye on our school Facebook and Twitter pages for lots of fundraising news and always be in touch directly with me if you have any questions about anything we are doing!

Alex

Term Dates with Diary Dates 2021/22

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

Date	Time	Event
<u>Term 2</u>		
Monday 1 st November 2021	N/A	First day of term 2
Monday 6 th December 2021	3.45-6.45pm	Parents evening
Tuesday 7 th December 2021	TBC	Nativity performance
Wednesday 8 th December 2021	TBC	Nativity performance
Tuesday 14 th December 2021	10.00-11.30am	Christmas Fair – Session 1
	1.30-3.00pm	Christmas Fair – Session 2
Wednesday 15 th December 2021	Lunchtime	Christmas dinner
Thursday 16 th December 2021	Various	Class Christmas parties and Christmas clothes day
Friday 17 th December 2021	N/A	Last day of term
<u>Term 3</u>		
Tuesday 4 th January 2022	N/A	First day of term 3
Friday 11 th February 2022	N/A	Last day of term

<u>Term 4</u>		
Monday 21 st February 2022	N/A	First day of term 4
Monday 14 th March 2022	N/A	Staff training day (pupils not in school)
Tuesday 15 th March 2022	N/A	Staff training day (pupils not in school)
Wednesday 16 th March 2022	N/A	Staff training day (pupils not in school)
Wednesday 30 th March 2022	TBC	Easter Fair
Friday 1 st April 2022	N/A	Last day of term

<u>Term 5</u>		
Tuesday 19 th April 2022	N/A	First day of term 5
Monday 2 nd May 2022	N/A	Bank holiday (pupils and staff not in school)
Friday 27 th May 2022	N/A	Last day of term

<u>Term 6</u>		
Monday 6 th June 2022	N/A	Staff training day (pupils not in school)
Tuesday 7 th June 2022	N/A	First day of term 6 for pupils
June 2022	TBC	Sports day
June 2022	TBC	Sports day

June 2022	TBC	Sports day – FAW Snodland
Friday 1 st July 2022	All day	Transition day
Monday 4 th July 2022	3.45-6.45pm	'Meet the new teacher' parents evening
July 2022	TBC	Secondary summer performance
July 2022	TBC	Secondary prize giving
Friday 22 nd July 2022	N/A	Last day of term



BEHAVIOUR AND ATTITUDES

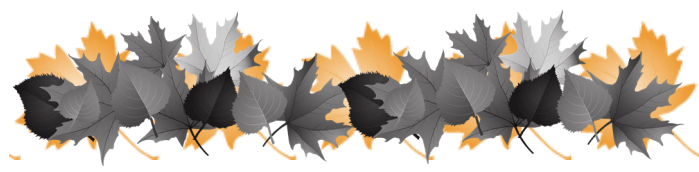


TARGET

- To improve attendance following the pandemic
- To continue to support pupil behaviour through learning approaches

PUPIL OUTCOMES

- Positive learning environments are established, which promote engagement, motivation and achievement in order to provide the best possible opportunity to learn and progress



PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

TARGETS

- To re-establish pupil voice opportunities, post the pandemic
- To place a specific focus on pupil independence, through their personalised learning goals and EHCP outcomes
- To build on pathways to employment and adulthood



PUPIL OUTCOMES

- There is a whole-school commitment to listening to the views, wishes and experiences of all children and young people.
- All pupils have a personal learning goal that focuses on developing their independence, alongside their EHCP outcomes.
- Pupils benefit from regular and meaningful opportunities to develop the skills they need to support their transition to adulthood



FIVE ACRE WOOD SCHOOL

Growing and Learning Together

STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN

2021-2022





OVERVIEW

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

The aim of this plan is to remain 'Outstanding' whilst building upon our current excellent practice

In order to achieve this, there will be four key areas:

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

This document is an overview of the plan for the academic year 2021-2022



There are also seven Strategic Plans that focus on the development of each of the Learning Approaches and Therapy Provision



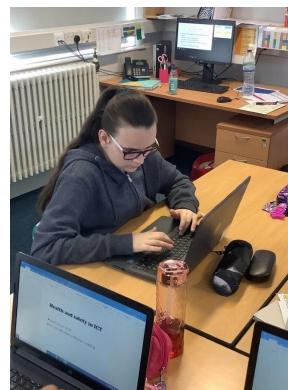
QUALITY OF EDUCATION

TARGETS

- To continue to develop the curriculum offer within the learning approaches e.g. Outdoor learning and forest school; structured curriculum; embedding new subject specialist curriculum and preparing for adulthood
- To transition all provision plans to EFL to ensure individualised, appropriate and challenging learning pathways are evident for all pupils
- In line with our ever increasing growth, ensuring new teachers and staff are supported to meet the high standards that FAW require

PUPIL OUTCOMES

- Pupils encounter a curriculum which is tailored to their needs
- Individualised provision will ensure that pupil progress is accelerated
- Pupils will be supported by skilled staff who are able to effectively meet their needs and accelerate their progress



LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

TARGETS

- To work with KCC to build capacity
- To ensure new staff have the mentoring and training needed to successfully fulfil and develop in their role to a high standard
- To continue to integrate systems across the school sites
- To work with staff to revisit the school visions and values, establish a 'commitment culture' and behaviour, mindset and wellbeing



PUPIL OUCOMES

- Current pupils will continue to have a place at FAW and we can continue to meet the demand for provision at key entry points
- Pupils are supported by staff that are empowered to solve their own problems
- Pupils will be supported by skilled staff who are able to effectively meet their needs and accelerate their progress
- Efficient systems will ensure that staff are more able to focus on the goals of individual learners



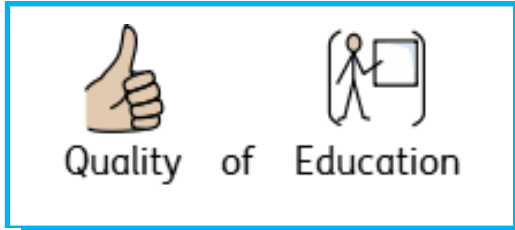
Five Acre Wood School Development Plan



Five Acre Wood School staff



are working on these targets



To help adults at Five Acre Wood

know what you need to learn

To help adults at Five Acre Wood support pupils learning



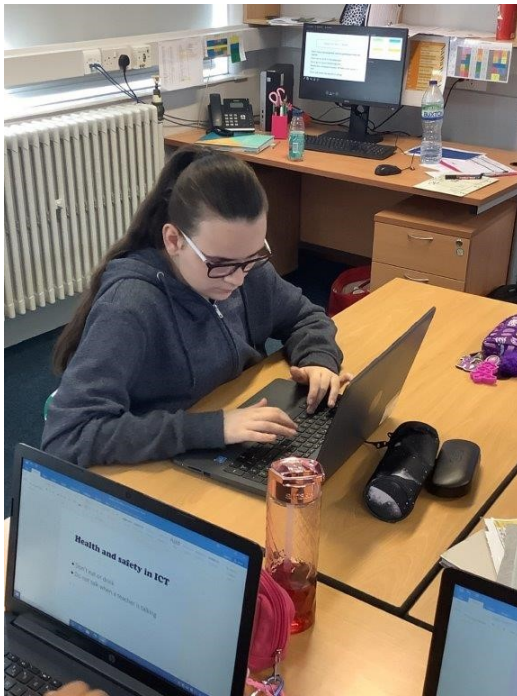
To make your learning enjoyable and relevant



Leadership and Management





To help adults at Five Acre Wood support pupils learning







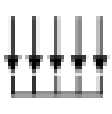


To help adults at Five Acre Wood feel safe happy and



well



 Leadership and Management





 To make sure that we have classrooms




 for all of our pupils






 To make sure that all the adults

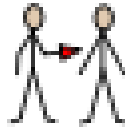



 at Five Acre Wood believe in the same

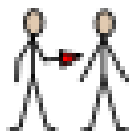

 values



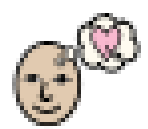
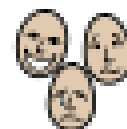
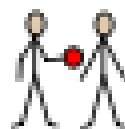
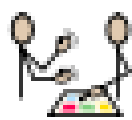
Personal Development



To help you do work by yourself



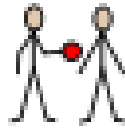
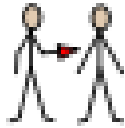
To help you prepare for work and adulthood



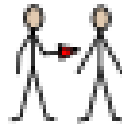
To help you communicate your feelings and wishes



Behaviour and Attitudes



To help you with your behaviour



To help you go to school everyday





2020—2021 Strategic Development Plan Review

OVERVIEW

Every year we work on targets within four key areas:

- Quality of Education
- Leadership and Management
- Personal Development
- Behaviour and Attitudes.

This document outlines the outcomes for the school community from the targets we set ourselves during the last academic year.



QUALITY OF EDUCATION

TARGETS

- To continue to raise the profile of the Arts across the school
- To embed a 'whole school' approach to assessment
- To deliver a Covid-19 recovery curriculum in each learning approach
- To introduce the Pyramid Approach to Education in some Structured and EYS classes

OUTCOMES

We were awarded Arts Mark Silver in July 2021. Creative Arts were instrumental in the recovery curriculum to support engagement in learning.

We have successfully trialled Evidence for Learning in a number of the learning approaches, and have added all the school curricula to the on line programme. By the end of this academic year we are hoping to use this as the assessment platform for all learning approaches.

The recovery curriculum focused on low

demand and highly focused activities to support pupils return to school. Through individual observations and an emphasis on incidental learning, the pupils have engaged in their learning successfully. A 'Preparing for Adulthood' working party has developed secondary age pathways for our pupils which has started to be delivered this academic year.

The Pyramid approach has been integrated into some of the Early Years and Structured Learning Approaches. This has focused on functional communication through PECS and Critical Communication Skills, with our teaching staff and speech and language therapists working together to ensure the approaches remain true to our ethos and values. Through evidence based learning, successful areas of the approach have been cascaded to all classes. The project has facilitated the joint working between 'education' and 'therapy' to ensure that the pupils receive a holistic education whilst at FAW.

LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

TARGETS

- To continue to harmonise health and education working practices within school
- Due to the high number of new teachers, to focus on Teaching and Learning in term 1
- To work with UCL to lead an 'Inclusion through Engagement' research project
- To trial a self evaluation tool to develop leaders within their learning approaches

OUTCOMES

A trans-disciplinary model of working is now in place. Referrals to therapy are focused on the desired outcomes for the pupils, therefore ensuring that the 'right' professionals are involved to help the pupil reach the desired outcome. This has led to joined up professional decision making. The therapeutic offer has included well

being support, music therapy, speech and language therapy, occupational therapy, behaviour support and play therapy.

Communication guidelines and non negotiables have been unified into one framework which is used to promote the embedding of therapeutic strategies across learning approaches. This has meant that more pupils are receiving therapy input.

Therapy teams have been working on consistent and transparent approaches to meet pupil need. Support has been ongoing for new teachers to the profession and FAW.

An Assistant Head Teacher and an experienced special school practitioner have supported Newly Qualified Teachers successfully through their first year and also students training to be teachers. Learning Approach Leads have supported new teachers to the school, supporting them to understand the needs of our pupils and the best

way of supporting learning.

Due to the success of this, a Teaching Assistant Lead Practitioner Team has been established to offer new TA's the same support. This will ensure that pupils are learning within a consistent and appropriate environment with well informed support.

A network of 14 schools across London and the South East, led by FAW has been created to research and explore how to increase pupil engagement. A research informed handbook has been produced by The Centre of Inclusive Education, along with a framework for schools to use as a self-reflective tool.



BEHAVIOUR AND ATTITUDES

TARGET

To introduce 'readiness for learning' time into the daily timetable for all pupils

OUTCOMES

Through the delivery of the recovery curriculum, readiness for learning was a key focus, as many of our pupils had been detrimentally effected by the change in routine the pandemic inevitably brought. For those pupils who really struggled with engagement, staff worked



collaboratively to creatively find ways to support their engagement in learning. Through these approaches, the majority of pupils have returned to school and their readiness for learning has improved.

For those pupils who find our learning approach offer difficult to engage with, we have trained a further 2 staff in a nurture approach and now have a primary and secondary nurture provision.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT



TARGETS

- To introduce reflection time into the daily timetable for all pupils
- To increase the opportunities that pupils have to meaningfully influence their lives by embedding pupil agency and self-determination within the culture of the school.

OUTCOMES

The concept of reflection has proved challenging to many of our pupils. The pupils in the formal learning approaches have benefitted from using De Bono's Thinking Hats to support their thinking when looking at what has

gone well, what was tricky and their next steps in learning.

We have continued our focus on how our pupils learn in order to support their engagement, resilience and independence. Through focused learning walks, professional development activities for our staff have been highlighted and delivered. This has built upon the way in which we perceive pupil engagement and how we more accurately assess when a pupil is learning through the quality of their engagement in an activity.

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

We have increased the number of pupils we can cater for, which has meant that we have had building works at the Loose and Snodland sites. We have also established two Functional classes at Mid Kent College.

Our hydrotherapy pool was completed and we had the official opening in September. We are really looking forward to offering this brilliant facility to our pupils and the community. We just need to train staff to support our pupils in the pool.

We have the funding to purchase a house in Snodland this year. This facility will offer our functional approach the opportunity to practice their living skills.

Our yard has been established with two goats at the end of last year and chickens and ducks in September. This



facility is planned to grow as other animals join the yard.

The school field has been turfed with artificial grass, which means that the pupils can use the field in all weather.

We increased the size of the therapy team, so we have a full team to support your children.

We have acquired a plot of land at Little Fant Farm, and are in the process of renting a building to set up a café for our pupils to work in. Both these endeavours, will enable our pupils to practice their work related skills.

We now have six therapy dogs to support the emotional regulation of our pupils. Poppy, one of the dogs has also had 6 puppies!!



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.