

21 October 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Here we are at the end of term 1 already!

Pupils and Staff

We have welcomed many new pupils and staff this term. They have all settled in well. We hope they will be very happy at Five Acre Wood School.

School Events

Class coffee mornings took place this term. These are a great opportunity for parents and carers to meet the class team and to see their child's classroom. Thank you to all who were able to attend.

Harvest Festival celebrations for primary pupils took place this week. I would like to say a huge thank you to those who organised the event and to everyone who was able to come and join us. I am sure you will agree that our pupils did really well. I would also like to say 'thank you' for your donations to Family Food Bank.

Our 6th form leavers prom was held on Friday 22 July at The Village Hotel in Maidstone. Reception drinks were followed by a meal for the 80 guests, accompanied by singing from the talented Hugh Blackwood. Everyone then 'strutted their best moves' to a fabulous disco until midnight. It was a very enjoyable evening for all involved and we wish all the leavers the very best for their next adventures. As promised in my last newsletter, I have shared some photos below.





Class photos

Time Photography will be coming into school in February next year to take class photos. Details will be sent home nearer the time.

Community Rail Awards

Congratulations to our 6th form pupils who won the Small Projects Award with their 'Let's Celebrate Differences' sunflower mural which is on display at Snodland Rail Station. Local residents have commented that the artwork has 'cheered up the area'. Our pupils have taken great pride in seeing their artwork shared in public. A very well done to all involved.



Maidstone Scarecrow Festival

Maple class has entered a scarecrow for the Maidstone Scarecrow Festival. 'Timmy Plotter' was created by 4 of our pupils. Timmy is now on display in 'Little Stars' in the Royal Star Arcade in Maidstone. Local schools and community groups were invited to create scarecrows based on the themes of 'Maidstone faces' or 'famous characters from literature'. A prize will be awarded to the best school and best community group. Members of the public will be able to vote for their favourite. Scarecrows will be on display at various locations around Maidstone throughout the half term week. Good luck Maple class!



Hazlitt Theatre's pantomime launch

Four pupils from the Snodland site recently visited Maidstone Museum to take part in the Hazlitt Theatre's launch of their pantomime, Sleeping Beauty. They met the cast and the Lord Mayor of Maidstone, Derek Mortimer and participated in a Q&A session with the actors. They had a brilliant afternoon. Well done to them all!



Parent Support Groups

Details of our parent support groups for this academic year are attached. These sessions are aimed at supporting parents and carers whose children have specific needs. 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.

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

I would like to wish everyone an enjoyable half term. I look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday 31 October.

Kind regards,

Peggy

Peggy Murphy
Principal

Term Dates with Diary Dates 2022/23

Date	Time	Event
Term 2		
Monday 31 st October 2022	N/A	First day of term 2
Tuesday 6 th December 2022	TBC	Nativity performance
Wednesday 7 th December 2022	TBC	Nativity performance
Tuesday 13 th December 2022	10.00-11.30am	Christmas Fair – Session 1
	1.30-3.00pm	Christmas Fair – Session 2
Wednesday 14 th December 2022	Lunchtime	Christmas dinner
Thursday 15 th December 2022	Various	Class Christmas parties and Christmas clothes day
Friday 16 th December 2022	N/A	Last day of term
Term 3		
Tuesday 3 rd January 2023	N/A	First day of term 3
Friday 10 th February 2023	N/A	Last day of term

Term 4		
Monday 20 th February 2023	N/A	First day of term 4
Monday 13 th March 2023	N/A	Staff training day (pupils not in school)
Tuesday 14 th March 2023	N/A	Staff training day (pupils not in school)
Wednesday 29 th March 2023	TBC	Easter Fair
Friday 31 st March 2023	N/A	Last day of term

Term 5		
Monday 17 th April 2023	N/A	First day of term 5
Monday 1 st May 2023	N/A	Bank holiday (pupils and staff not in school)
Friday 26 th May 2023	N/A	Last day of term

Term 6		
Monday 5 th June 2023	N/A	First day of term 6 for pupils
June 2023	TBC	Sports day
June 2023	TBC	Sports day
June 2023	TBC	Sports day – FAW Snodland
Friday 7 th July 2023	All day	Transition day
Monday 10 th July 2023	3.45-6.45pm	'Meet the new teacher' parents evening
July 2023	TBC	Secondary summer performance
July 2023	TBC	Secondary prize giving

Friday 21 st July 2023	N/A	Last day of term
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PARENT SUPPORT GROUPS 2022-2023



Five Acre Wood will be offering 8 parent support groups this academic year, which are aimed at supporting parents and carers whose children have specific needs. All sessions will be held in person at Five Acre Wood School on the Loose site.

Please see below a list of dates and subjects.

Any updates or changes will be listed on the school website and sent via email.

Dates	Time	Subject
Wednesday 30 th November 2022	9.45am – 10.45am	Emotional Regulation - ideas about how to support your child's understanding of their emotions and ability to regulate these.
Thursday 8 th December 2022	9.45am – 10.45am	Fussy Eaters - We'll provide top tips to support your child to explore a wider range of foods.
Wednesday 11 th January 2023	9.45am – 10.45am	Signing at Home – Five Acre Wood use Makaton to develop students' understanding and use of language. Come along to this session to learn some basic signs.
Thursday 26 th January 2023	9.45am – 10.45am	Sensory Processing & Sensory Circuits – An opportunity to learn more about your child's sensory needs and how to support this at home.
Wednesday 8 th February 2023	2.00pm – 3.00pm	Emotional Regulation - ideas about how to support your child's understanding of their emotions and ability to regulate these.
Thursday 2 nd March 2023	2.00pm – 3.00pm	Fussy Eaters - We'll provide top tips to support your child to explore a wider range of foods.
Wednesday 22 nd March 2023	2.00pm – 3.00pm	Sensory Processing & Sensory Circuits – An opportunity to learn more about your child's sensory needs and how to support this at home.
Thursday 4 th May 2023	2.00pm – 3.00pm	Signing at Home – Five Acre Wood use Makaton to develop students' understanding and use of language. Come along to this session to learn some basic signs.

FURTHER INFORMATION

- Please can you inform us of your attendance at least 1 week in advance of a Support Group and if there are less than 5 attendees for any one session then unfortunately it will not go ahead. Please confirm your attendance by emailing vgeylani@five-acre.kent.sch.uk or phoning us on 01622 743925.
- If a session has to be cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances, or insufficient take up (less than 5 attendees) then we will endeavour to provide parents/carers with as much notice as possible.
- During a session, if there are other issues that you would like advice on, please feel free to raise them and we will do our best to address them at the time.

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.