

10 February 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of a fairly quiet and somewhat chilly term 3, I am sure we are all looking forward to some slightly warmer weather.

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. Matt Smith joined as Assistant Headteacher for the Sensory and Practical learning approaches and is a valued member of the Senior Leadership Team.

Arbor

Arbor is our school management information service which allows us to communicate effectively with Parents and Carers. To find out how to access the portal or app, please see below.

To access the Parent Portal via a PC or MAC:

Visit <https://login.arbor.sc> and click on **Forgot your password**. Your username is the email address you received the Arbor invitation email on.

To access the Arbor app via mobile phone:

The Arbor app can be downloaded from the Playstore (for android phones) or Apple Store (for iPhones).

If you have any issues accessing the app or portal, please email office@five-acre.kent.sch.uk.

SCERTS training

Our staff training days will be held on Monday 13th and Tuesday 14th March 2023. 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, Asperger's 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 a Parent/Carer session on Tuesday 14th March 2023 in the school hall 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.

World Book Day

World Book Day will be celebrated on Thursday 2nd March this year. We will be planning an exciting day for pupils. Further information will follow in due course.

Outdoor Learning Environment

Our Outdoor Learning Environment team continue to develop areas in the yard and the welfare of our animals is always at the heart of everything that they do. This term, a cable reel table was added to the guinea pigs' enclosure to provide them with an elevated area to enjoy their lunch! Our pygmy goats, Buttons and Coco, have been enjoying climbing on old tyres and pallets which have been added to their area.



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 20th February 2023.

Kind regards,

Peggy

Peggy Murphy
Principal

Updates from Hannah, our fundraiser:

Fundraising News - January-February 2023

Despite the frosty mornings and the cold, wet, windy days, we have been working hard behind the scenes on some exciting new events and ventures. Some are still underway, for example our upcoming Spring Fair, which is taking place on Saturday 25th March between 10am and 2pm at our Loose site. Make sure you save the date, as there are lots of exciting activities planned for a fun filled day. Further information about all our upcoming fundraising events will be shared via our Facebook page and Arbor over the next few weeks.

New fundraising platform

As you may be aware, we have previously used Easy Fundraising as a platform for our supporters and donors to raise money for our charity. We are pleased to announce we will be joining 'Peoples Fundraising' as our new platform. Once we are fully up and running, we will share further details. This platform will allow others to create their own events and/or make a one-off payment. It will also allow us to run online raffles.



Don't forget there are many ways you can donate to us such as take on a personal challenge, create your own event, set up a monthly standing order or take one of our charity donation tins. We would love to hear your ideas and support anyway we can. Please contact us via the office or send an email to fundraising@five-acre.kent.sch.uk.

RRT – Rapid relief team

Rapid Relief Team have supported FAW for many years in a variety of ways, such as at Woodstock festivals and by providing food parcels. We were lucky enough to receive many food parcels at the end of 2022 and we had some fantastic feedback regarding the items and quality of the products.

We are pleased to have joined the Rapid Relief Team 'Early Bird Learning Program' which provides a variety of resources such as classroom packs, SMARRT bars and food boxes, in an effort to support schools as the Covid catch up efforts continue.



FAW would like to say the biggest 'thank you' to Vince and his team at RRT Maidstone and we look forward to working with them in 2023.

Volunteering at FAW

Donating to FAW can involve many aspects including items such as paint or wood, but also your time. We were very pleased to welcome volunteers back into the Outdoor Learning Environment at the end of 2022. Unfortunately, this has not been possible since before the pandemic and is something we have missed tremendously, as a big passion of ours is to involve our community in what we do. We wanted to share how volunteering at FAW came about...

Regular volunteers who work with us one day a week during term time are known as 'Growing Times'. Chris and John are our two regular volunteers, but 'Growing Times' has several other volunteers who drop in now and again to help. One of them went on to join our own site team.



'Growing Times' was started in 2019 by Paul, the OLE lead. It was created to give the volunteers a sense of belonging, as the work they do is so valuable to us. They give so much in time, skills sets, passion and enthusiasm and we wanted to recognise this.

'Growing Times' have been instrumental in helping to build our sensory garden, hop pole, chicken enclosure and cuddle corner in Apple Tree Yard as well as fencing and roofing of enclosures within

the yard. In fact, Apple Tree Yard would not look as amazing as it does now without their valuable contributions. Chris was part of the team from Lloyds Bank who helped to build the yard in 2019. We had over 100 volunteers from Lloyds Bank spread over a two-week window to build the yard from scratch. This is one of our proudest achievements.

What it means to Chris to be a volunteer at Five Acre Wood School:

"I can honestly say that I get so much out of volunteering at Five Acre Wood School and for being part of the development of 'Apple Tree Yard' from when it was just a rough piece of ground to now, a functioning outdoor learning environment.

By volunteering at the school over the years, I have seen a tangible effect this outdoor learning has had on of the lives of the children from the school. This I can see makes a lasting change and for me is very rewarding. It is very satisfying to know that you are making a difference and helping children with special needs to make their lives better. I have also made some very good friends and I am not just sat at home!"

We would like to thank all groups of volunteers for all for their hard work and for being part of an amazing team who really do make a difference to the lives of our pupils. In our next newsletter, we will be sharing all our volunteering news since the start of this academic year.

If you would like to volunteer your time (at any of our sites) or if you would like further information, please do not hesitate to contact us at the office or email hjuden@five-acre.kent.sch.uk.



Parent/Carer training session—The SCERTS Model

Tuesday 14th March 2023—6pm-8pm

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 2022/23

Date	Time	Event
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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)
Saturday 25 th March 2023	10am-2pm	Spring Fair
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)
Monday 8 th 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

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.