



FIVE ACRE WOOD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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DIARY DATES

Mon 1st May	Bank holiday
Thurs 4th May 2.00-3.00pm	Parent Support Group (Signing at Home)
Mon 8th May	Bank holiday
TBC—June	Sports day—Loose
TBC—June	Sports day—Snodland
Fri 7th July	Transition day
Mon 10th July— 3.45-6.45pm	Meet the new Teacher—parents evening
TBC— July	Secondary summer performance
TBC— July	Secondary prize-giving

A MESSAGE FROM PEGGY...

Welcome to the Spring 2023 newsletter. We have had a fun packed term 4. In this edition you can read about World Book Day, Red Nose Day and our Easter and Spring Fairs. You can also read the latest updates from Hannah, our Fundraiser and read about activities and learning which has taken place in our class updates.

On page 13, we have shared with you some fabulous photographs of Erla-Kate, one of our pupils, who participated in a photo shoot promoting World Down Syndrome Day.

This term we welcomed a new pupil to the School. We hope that Ruby has enjoyed her first term at Five Acre Wood School.

The following staff have joined us this term; Peter has joined as a Teacher, Samantha, Justine, Jennie, Katie, Harriet, Chukryan, Tonbra, Caris, Sarah and Jason have joined as Teaching Assistants, Jack has joined as IT Apprentice, Helen has joined as Lunchtime Supervisor, Jason has joined as Grounds Worker, Linda has joined TEAM and Lauren and

Lauren have joined as Healthcare Assistants. We wish them all good luck in their new roles and we hope that they will be very happy at Five Acre Wood School.

I would like to say a huge thank you to international expert Emily Rubin who delivered her exceptional SCERTS (Social Communication, Emotional Regulation and Transactional Support) training to staff and parents/carers this month.

Arbor is our school management information service which enables us to communicate with Parents and Carers efficiently.

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: Please download the app from the Playstore (for android phones) or Apple Store (for iPhones).

SPRING 2023



If you have any issues accessing the App or Portal, please email office@five-acre.kent.sch.uk and someone will get back to you.

Please ensure that you inform the School of any changes of address, mobile numbers etc. Please also be reminded 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.

I would like to wish everyone an enjoyable Easter break. I look forward to welcoming pupils back to School on Monday 17th April.

Peggy

WORLD BOOK DAY

On Friday 3rd March pupils and staff came to school dressed as their favourite book characters for our World Book Day celebrations. As you can see from the photographs, they were wearing some amazing outfits.

Congratulations to Bumblebee and Hazelwood classes who won a prize for their book themed doors. Thank you to all classes who took the time to decorate their doors. They were really impressive.

As part of our World Book Day celebrations, pupils had the opportunity to participate in a 'book swap' which involved bringing into school a book that they no longer wanted. They were given the opportunity to exchange their book for a different book which had been brought into school by a peer from their class. They were then able to take their new book home with them.

WHALE CLASS



WREN CLASS



PINEMARTEN CLASS



MAPLE CLASS



WORLD BOOK DAY

TURTLE CLASS

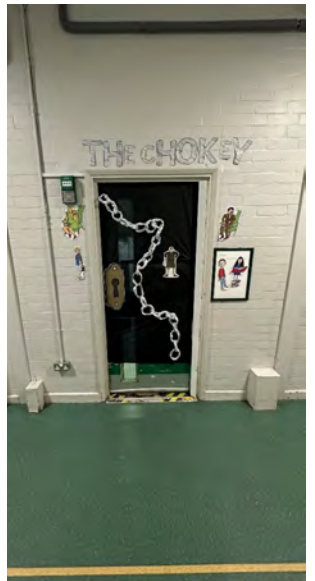
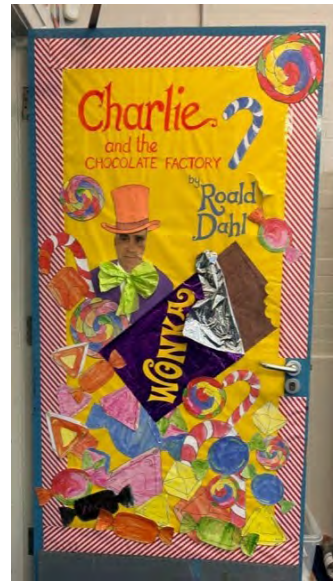


BUMBLEBEE CLASS



WORLD BOOK DAY

CLASSROOM DOORS



WORLD BOOK DAY

CLASSROOM DOORS



MOTHER'S DAY



Pupils were invited to visit the Five Acre Wood School Mother's Day shop on 16th and 17th March to select and purchase gifts for Mother's Day on Sunday 19th March.

The shop was a great success and we would like to say a huge thank you to TEAM for setting up and running the shop. We hope everyone enjoyed their special gifts.

RED NOSE DAY

Friday 17th March was Comic Relief Red Nose Day. Our theme for the day was 'coming together and spreading joy'. With that in mind, many pupils and staff came into school wearing something red or something that makes them happy for a £1.00 donation to Comic Relief. You can see photos of pupils on Red Nose Day in the class updates.

During the day Classes chose an activity which makes them happy such as cooking, singing, dancing, stories, sensory play, junk modelling and outdoor learning.

Thank you to everyone for their generous donations. We raised an impressive £300.62 for Comic Relief.

CLASS UPDATES

DORMOUSE CLASS

Dormouse class enjoyed learning all about animals this term. They had lots of fun exploring different animals such as pets, farm animals and wild animals. Pupils used the “Tiger who came to Tea” and “Old McDonald” stories as a gateway to learning about different animals in the environment.

Pupils practised their communication skills using familiar adults’ names when making requests and practised functional skills during activities such as making tea, sandwiches and cakes.



BUMBLEBEE CLASS



This term, Bumblebee class have been having lots of fun building their communication and independence skills. They have enjoyed making pancakes, visiting the animals at The Yard and practising play skills with their friends.



The inspiration for lessons this term has been fairy tales; pupils have explored Rapunzel’s spaghetti hair, rescued crocodiles from Shrek’s slimy swamp, thrown a pea tea party for the Princess and the Pea and made shaving foam beanstalks for Jack to climb.



Bumblebee class have had a fantastic term and cannot wait to explore some new learning next term.

CLASS UPDATES

HEDGEHOG CLASS

This term Hedgehog class have been working on the theme of 'animal magic', including topics such as life cycles, habitats and categorising different animals. They have read books such as, 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar', 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea' and also some non-fiction text about farm animals.

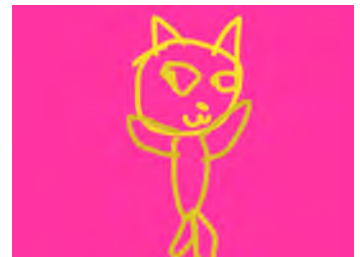
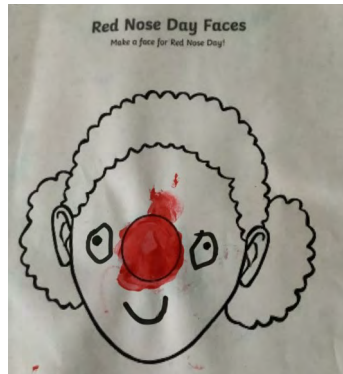


Pupils have been working on using digital skills to improve their fine motor and drawing skills.

items, asking for different colours and learning to turn take with their peers.

Hedgehog class have been using visuals to support with choosing time and have enjoyed decorating different

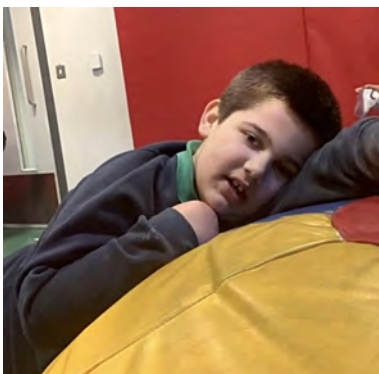
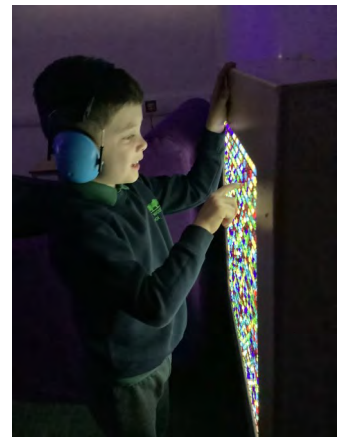
Comic Relief Red Nose Day was a fun day, where pupils participated in Red Nose Day Yoga and enjoyed painting Red Nose Day faces.



SQUIRREL CLASS

Squirrel Class have been working on building social relationships and meeting their sensory needs.

Pupils have also worked on transitioning to different places around the school, including the outdoor learning areas, soft play, the MSI room (specific pupils) and to and from the hall at lunch times.



BEECH CLASS

Beech class had fun working on their interpretation of George Orwell's 'Animal Farm'. They wrote the script, made masks, rehearsed for just a couple of lessons and then performed the twenty-minute play in the hall to most of the School. It was a great success!



CLASS UPDATES

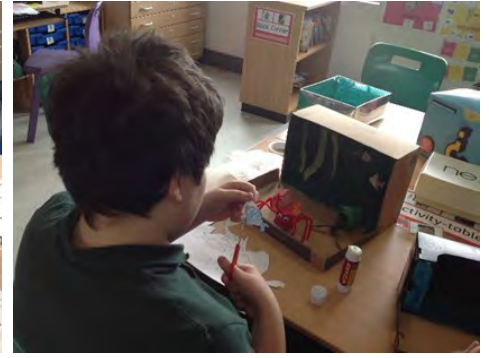
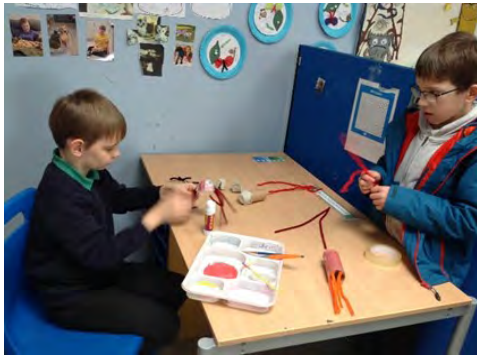
PINE MARTEN CLASS

This term Pine Marten class have enjoyed learning about animals. They shared pictures of pets and considered how to look after them. They learned about animal life cycles and produced amazing models of the lifecycle of a butterfly to demonstrate their understanding.

Pupils have continued to work on their independence and cooking skills,

making sandwiches and sweet treats. They are really proud of their under the sea craft projects which links to their learning about habitats.

This term in gardening, pupils have been able to go outside more often to do planting. They look forward to being able to do even more next term in the warmer weather. Happy holidays everyone!



ANT CLASS

Ant Class engaged in some fantastic Fairy tales this term, including The Three Bears, Jack and the Beanstalk and The Three Little Pigs. They made porridge, created their own beanstalk and built the Three Little Pigs' houses.

Ant class celebrated 'Holi' and enjoyed exploring coloured spaghetti. They wore their pyjamas for Red Nose Day for 'something that makes us happy!'

Ant class had fun practising for the Guinness World Record attempt for making paper chains.



FIELD MOUSE CLASS



Field Mouse class have been doing some work on pets and spring time. They went to 'Pets At Home' to look at the animals and collect information leaflets about how to care for them. Pupils really enjoyed looking at the fish so they made their own fish tanks.

Pupils made a spring tree full of chicks for Easter. How many chicks can you count in their tree?



CLASS UPDATES

LADYBIRD CLASS

This term Ladybird class have had great fun exploring various fairy tales, wildlife, Holi festival and science.

They have been reading the story, 'What the Ladybird Heard' and enjoyed creating artwork to display on their door during World Book Day Week. Everyone looked amazing dressed up as different characters from books. They also enjoyed reading 'Jack and the Beanstalk' which has been a favourite in class. They had fun making a beanstalk in Saplings and then measured it using their bodies.

Pupils celebrated the Holi festival with coloured powders. Staff and pupils had great fun when washing the powder out in the bath and turning the water a rainbow of colours.

Ladybird class explored being scientists and looked at different reactions of materials. They experimented to see what would happen when they mixed ingredients together.

Pupils have been exploring nature and really enjoyed going on a hunt to find natural resources and insects in the woodland and then marking them off on their clipboards.

It has been a very busy term but also a great term.



CLASS UPDATES

GRASSHOPPER CLASS

This term the Grasshoppers have really enjoyed all the natural marvels and learning opportunities the weather has provided, from the sunshine to the rain and the snow. Grasshoppers have particularly enjoyed time in Saplings where they can fully immerse themselves within nature.

One of their topics has been 'fairy tales' which has been a firm favourite within their learning. Grasshoppers have also been learning their peers' names during their 'good morning' session.



SWALLOW CLASS

This term Swallow class celebrated world book day. They all came dressed in their favourite book character costumes and had a really fun day.



In cooking this term they made chicken pasta bake, which was an opportunity to practice life skills.



Pupils dressed up for Comic Relief Red Nose Day and had great fun practising making paper chains for our Guinness World Record attempt to create the longest paper chain in one hour.



CLASS UPDATES

SPARROW CLASS



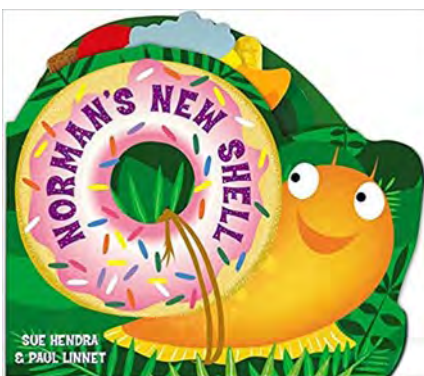
Joel and Winnie performed at a dance show at the Hazlitt theatre and this was celebrated in the key stage 3-4 assembly.

Sparrow class visited Grow 19 and interacted with the pupils who run their cafe.

All Sparrow class pupils successfully selected an item from the menu and ordered the food and/or drink they desired.



BADGER CLASS



It has been a busy term in Badger Class with lots of animal themed fun. They enjoyed creating new shells for Norman the Slug in a bid to help him achieve his dream of becoming a snail! Donuts were a popular choice. Pupils engaged in role play and puppet shows, sharing their wonderful ideas with the class team; trips on aeroplanes to far off lands, rides on safari vehicles to spot unusual creatures, as well as the retelling of familiar tales. Farm play and setting up a shop have also been popular. However, you would be shocked at the price of some of the items in the Badger Café!



CLASS UPDATES

JAY CLASS

Jay class have had a busy term. They enjoyed making real and paper pancakes. They had races tossing the paper pancakes and learned how to mix and cook real ones. The best part was eating them!

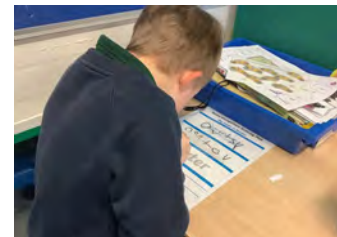
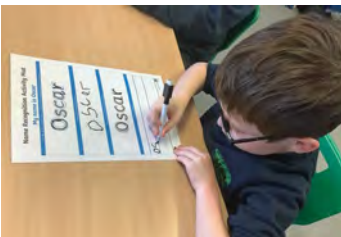
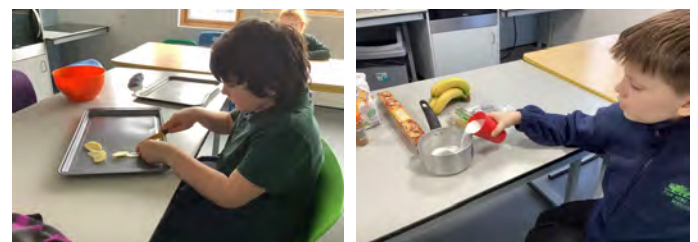
During topic time, pupils learned about habitats and created an artistic habitat for a giraffe. They talked about being healthy, earning points for choosing to have a healthy morning snack and looking at how germs can move to different objects and people.

Maths has helped pupils to develop their understanding of money, playing shops and

learning to count with 1p, 2p, 5p and 10p coins. They have also improved with their understanding the seasons, date and ordinal numbers.

English has been very exciting, from reading and hearing lots of different stories, dressing up as their favourite characters for Word book day and designing a book theme for the classroom door.

Most of all, pupils have enjoyed playing together, developing their social skills, learning new games and learning how to work with their partners.



CLASS UPDATES

JAY CLASS



WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY

On 21st March, one of our pupils, 9 year old Erla-Kate, had a super exciting day in front of the camera lens, wearing her odd socks and participating in a full photo shoot for Monsoon Accessorize to promote World Down Syndrome Day.

Images of Erla-Kate were posted across social media through the Monsoon/Accessorize channels. As you can imagine, we were delighted to be able to share these on the School Facebook page and we are sure you will agree that the photos are incredible. We are extremely proud of Erla-Kate and hope she had an amazing day.



FUNDRAISING

MSI ROOM



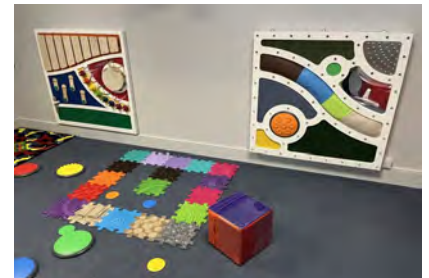
Over the February half term, our new MSI room was installed. We think you will agree that it looks fantastic.

The environment allows for individual focus and small group experience. Switches can be used to enhance the control and operate the equipment, developing cause and effect understanding.

The room has a positive impact on well-being, providing time to listen to music or explore the magical effects of the

bubble tube, floor mat, projected images and wall tiles. It is a fabulous and exciting resource which allows pupils opportunities to explore and extend their learning experiences.

Thank you to The Boshier Foundation, Cullum Family Trust, A Step Ahead and a variety of other donors for their fantastic support.



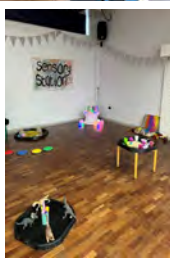
SPRING FAIR

On Saturday 25th March, our Spring Fair took place. Thankfully the weather was on our side. Our yard was open for visitors to pet and feed our animals, join in an 'eye spy' activity and egg hunt as well as a variety of games and activities.

In the hall there were a variety of external stalls, a cake and refreshments stall, teddy and chocolate tombola, raffle and craft activity, to name just a few.

Our sensory corner was a huge hit as well as fantastic performances from AJDC dance studio.

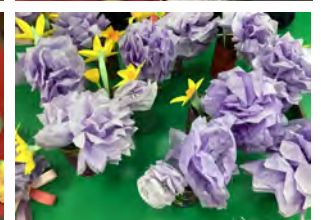
We would like to say a huge thank you to all the staff involved in the day and our pupils, families and friends who attended. In total we raised a fantastic £1,476.18.



EASTER FAIR

Our annual Easter Fair was a huge success. We were joined by some very special guests.... our pigs from Apple Tree Yard. They were very well behaved and loved all the extra strokes.

Pupils and staff put a huge amount of effort into creating some wonderful items to sell, from yummy Easter cakes, ornaments, sweet cones and cards to cute Easter baskets. It was fantastic to see so many of our families. Thank you for supporting us. In total we raised £710.



Term Dates with Diary Dates 2022/23

Date	Time	Event
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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.