

26 May 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

As term 5 draws to a close, I hope everyone is looking forward to the half term break.

### Pupils and Staff

We have welcomed some new pupils to the school this term. Wyatt, Elliott, Nicholas, Oluwademilade, Teddy, Ario and Abigail have all settled in well.

We have also welcomed some new members of staff this term. Welcome to Chloe, Emma and Richard who have joined as Teachers, Lucy, Nadine, Lorraine, Erin, Levent, Eleanor and Aran who have joined as Teaching Assistants, Katherine who has joined as Therapy Assistant, Lyndsey who has joined as Lunchtime Supervisor, Kevin who joined the OLE team, Paul who has joined as Minibus Driver and Darlene who has joined as a Health Care Assistant. We hope they have enjoyed their first term with us.

### Duke of Edinburgh – Bronze Award



Congratulations to the 8 Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 pupils who completed their bronze Duke of Edinburgh expedition this term, walking almost 11 miles over 2 days. This involved walking in sunshine and storms, setting up their own tents, cooking their own meals and ensuring all the kit

was safely stored away. We are all incredibly proud of every single one of them who took turns in navigating their way to the campsite, communicating and negotiating every direction.

I would also like to say a huge 'thank you' to Carly and Matt for making this fabulous achievement possible.

### Outdoor Learning Environment

This term, Thomas, one of our pupils, launched an initiative to raise money for the OLE by growing and selling different varieties of mint. Each pot of mint came complete with a care guide and a recipe created exclusively by Thomas. They were then displayed in Reception and via a trolley service for staff to purchase.

Thomas enjoys watching things he has planted evolve from a seed to a recipe. He has acquired excellent horticulture skills from what he has learnt with the OLE team and now has his own poly tunnel at home that he uses to grow food for his animals. A huge thank you to all staff who supported this brilliant venture.

The OLE also held their first plant sale at the Loose site this term. Staff were given the opportunity to purchase some delicious tomato plants which had been planted and cared for by pupils.

### 'Hooden Horse' workshop

Sparrow class were visited by James Frost who delivered a 'Hooden Horse' workshop. 'Hoodening' is a folk tradition which originated in Kent over 200 years ago. A wooden hobby horse is mounted onto a pole and carried by someone who is hidden from view under a sack cloth. Sparrow class pupils thoroughly enjoyed the workshop and were fully engaged throughout.



## 'Beautiful' single

As you are aware, we have been working with DeeVu Records to record our latest music single. A group of pupils visited the Big Jam recording studio in Sittingbourne at the end of March and recorded their very own version of the song 'Beautiful' by Christina Aguilera.

Please keep an eye on our social media pages for further news and updates. Once we have a release date for the single, we would really appreciate the support of parents, carers and their families and friends through sharing, 'liking' and purchasing the single.

## Year 7 Panathlon swim challenge



This term our Year 7 pupils went to Larkfield Leisure Centre to compete against other SEND schools in the Panathlon Swim Challenge. They all did amazingly well. Some swam unaided for the first time and some swam 10 metres for the first time. Two pupils swam an impressive 40 metres.

Overall, Five Acre Wood School came third so they came away with bronze medals. Mid Kent College helpers and the organisers commented on how happy and well behaved our pupils were. We are extremely proud of them all.

## 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 Play Store (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](mailto:office@five-acre.kent.sch.uk).

## 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 their Healthcare Plans is kept up to date and you should

therefore notify us of any changes as they arise.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone an enjoyable half term and I look forward to welcoming pupils back to school on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

Kind regards,

*Peggy*

Peggy Murphy  
Principal

**Updates from Hannah, our fundraiser:**

### **Fundraising News - 2023**

#### **Coronation celebrations**



On Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May we celebrated the coronation of King Charles III across all of our sites. Classes took part in a variety of activities including class parties and craft activities. Many of our staff and pupils came into school wearing red, white and blue. We would like to thank Tovil Council who supported the day by providing a contribution towards craft resources such as sequins, crayons, and confetti.



### Procter and Gamble donation

This term we received a generous donation of £500.00 from Procter and Gamble in Grays after being nominated at their recent charity awards night. The money which we received will be put towards our sensory bus, which you will hear more about in the coming months. We would like to express the biggest 'thank you' to Procter and Gamble for their support.

### FAW Charity Football match

The 'match of the year' took place on Friday 19th May at the Gallagher Stadium, where FAW staff, friends and family took on staff and volunteers from Maidstone United Football Club and Stones Community Trust and what an evening it was!

The turnstile calculated 480 spectators, which completely blew us away as well as the FAW chants and crowd support. Both teams, played fantastically well and scored some truly terrific goals, with the game ending in a draw of 6-6. The evening also consisted of a raffle which was a huge success. On that note, we are pleased to announce, we raised a fantastic £3360.73. All money raised from the event will go towards running and providing essential football resources for our fabulous and fun football sessions for pupils, which take place on a Thursday across all sites. These sessions promote a variety of learning experiences that support the development of teamwork, communication, movement and following adult instruction, to name just a few.

The sessions are supported by the wonderful Ben and Max from Stones Community Trust, which is the charitable arm of Maidstone Utd Football Club. The Trust has delivered a range of programmes since starting, that reflect its commitment to improving the education, health and well-being of its local communities. We are very fortunate to have Ben and Max as our coaches who provide a differentiated learning experience, allowing all our pupils to access these sessions.

We would like to say an enormous thank you to the Stones Community Trust, Maidstone Packaging Supplies, and Impress Promotions LTD. We would also like to extend our thanks to all companies who donated generous raffle prize donations: Property Advisory Services, Civil Service Insurance, Park Live, Musket Brewery, Hazlitt Theatre, Tonbridge and Malling Leisure Trust, Flip Out Chatham and Mote Park water sports.

Our final thank you is to our wonderful pupils and their families, both of the teams who played on the evening, our staff and our community for their continued support. Planning is already underway for next year!





Congratulations and well done to Tiegan in Alder class. Her winning logo design was given pride of place on our players' football shirts.



### **Term Dates with Diary Dates 2022/23**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>
<b><u>Term 6</u></b>		
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> July 2023	All day	Transition day
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> July 2023	3.45-6.45pm	'Meet the new teacher' parents evening
July 2023	TBC	Secondary summer performance
July 2023	TBC	Secondary prize giving
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> July 2023	All day	Woodstock festival for pupils and staff
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> 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.