

9 February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

While term 3 has been slightly quieter than the previous term, there has been lots going on in school, and lots of planning for upcoming events and activities for next term which I'm pleased to share with you.

Pupils and Staff

We have welcomed some new staff including our new school Councillor, Jag, and new pupils Ethan, Dennie, Jack, Calvin-Lee and Albert 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.

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 11th and Tuesday 12th March 2024. 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.

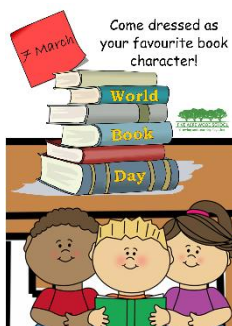
Emily will also be holding a Parent/Carer session on Tuesday 12th March 2024 in the school hall from 6pm-8pm. There will be an opportunity to ask questions. The session is open to Parents/Carers from other schools, at a cost of £20 per person but will be FREE to FIVE ACRE WOOD PARENTS/CARERS! This is 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.

Dates for your diary



Non-Uniform Day

Our next non-uniform day is on Friday 23rd February. We are asking for a donation of some chocolate or a soft toy towards our Spring Family Fun Day tombola.



World Book Day

World Book Day will be celebrated on Thursday 7th March this year. Class doors will be decorated in our favourite storybook characters, and we will be planning an exciting day for pupils. Further information will follow in due course.



Comic Relief

On Friday 15th March, pupils are invited to come to school wearing something red, or something that makes them happy, for a donation of £1 which all goes to Comic Relief.



Socks for World Down Syndrome Day

World Down Syndrome Day is a global awareness day which has been officially observed by the United Nations since 2012. To raise awareness, on Thursday 21st March, we are asking pupils to come into school wearing crazy or odd socks. No donation is required.

Football Festival



On Friday 12th of January, some of our year 7 pupils from Redwood and Birch class went to a Shooting Stars Football Festival, sponsored by Disney, at the Kent FA training ground in Aylesford. They worked really well together, playing in pairs and with other schools. Our pupils had a brilliant time and enjoyed games and drills themed around the story 'Frozen'.

Holocaust Memorial Assembly

This term, a holocaust memorial assembly was held for KS3 and KS4 pupils at our Snodland site. The theme was 'fragility of freedom' and extracts from Anne Frank's diary were used to support the learning and encourage pupils to consider and value the freedoms we have in our communities. Pupils led the assemblies alongside our teachers Caroline and Duncan and the pupils attending were fully engaged and respectful.

Afternoon tea with HRH Princess Anne

Katja, one of our Teaching Assistants from Loose, had the privilege of meeting HRH Princess Anne and enjoyed afternoon tea in recognition of volunteering with her church. Well done for your hard work Katja; your reward looks lovely!



Outdoor Learning Environment

Our amazing Growing Times volunteers have erected a new shed that will be used as our new animal hospital which we have named The Retreat. We hope to use this area with its heat, hot water and electricity to treat any of our sick animals and as a resource as a learning tool for our groups that work at the yard. Pupils will have an opportunity to keep accurate records of health care checks that they have completed, such as clipping nails, giving vitamins and mite preventative procedures.

The land based Oxford Road group come and work in the OLE once a week. Over the course of January, the group have built a chestnut fence along the front of the meadow. The group have worked tirelessly, using the kango hammer to dig deep holes for the posts to be cemented into. This proved tricky with the ground being frozen solid over the cold snap. The fence looks fabulous thanks to all their hard work!

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 19th February 2024.

Kind regards,



Peggy Murphy
Principal

Updates from Hannah, our fundraiser:

Fundraising News - January-February 2024

On the face of things, fundraising events may seem a little quiet this term compared to last but there is currently lots of planning underway behind the scenes. A sneak peek at our upcoming fundraising events can be found below, but we will be sharing further information via our Facebook page and Arbor over the next few weeks so watch out for those updates!

Our next fundraiser in school however will be our Psychic Night which the school are hosting in association with J&L Events. This will take place on the evening of Friday, 23rd February and is free to enter. We hope to see many of you there!

Term 4 is looking exciting with our Spring Fair (previously known as Easter Fair), Spring Showcase (Snodland) and our Spring Family Fun-Day taking place. Keep a look out for more information in the new term!

Many of you ordered Christmas gifts from IQ-cards last term, which allows pupils to get creative and turn their designs into items for you to purchase, whilst raising money for the school. Thank you to everyone that contributed. The scheme raised £415.00 which is fabulous and which I am sure, made many family members and friends happy over Christmas to receive such meaningful gifts. Thank you also to everyone that came to our Winter Fair which raised £867.21.

If you would like to make a donation to the school, or do a spot of fundraising yourself, please don't hesitate to contact us via the office or send an email to fundraising@five-acre.kent.sch.uk. If you would like to volunteer your help at any of our events, or can suggest any fundraising ideas, we would love to hear from you!

Donations

Our charity raffle was a huge success last term and would not have been possible without the support of our families, friends, and our community. Thank you to everyone who purchased a raffle ticket and to the companies who supported our fundraiser – CSIS (Civil Service Insurance Society), J&M Builders and Kingscote Estate & Vineyard.

We were blown away to receive a further donation of £1,700 from The Coppice pub, who have taken part in lots of different fundraising events over the last several months, such as bingo night, all in aid of raising money for our school. All events at the pub have been supported by a grandparent of FAW, and we are extremely grateful for their phenomenal support and fundraising efforts. This donation will support the renovation of our soft play bus. A huge thank you from everyone at Five Acre Wood School.

Shaun in the Heart of Kent

This term pupils had the opportunity to take part in our exciting project with The Heart of Kent Hospice. Pupils were invited to draw, paint, mark, make one of our yard animals. Once finished our 'baaarilliant' designs were sent to a designer who worked their magic by incorporating all pupils designs onto one, in order for him to be vinyl wrapped. This would not have been possible without the support of Identity Wraps, a local vinyl wrap company in Marden.

We cannot reveal our final design just yet but look forward to sharing some sneak peeks over the coming weeks. To support both this fantastic project and our fundraising efforts with The Heart of Kent Hospice, we will be holding a fundraising day in April, across all sites. More details coming soon.

FAW Peaks Challenge

Between the 8th and 11th of April this year, 15 staff/volunteers will embark on a challenging adventure to climb the UK's 4 largest peaks in just 4 days!

They will be climbing a total elevation of 4446m over 36 miles to the top of Snowdon, Scafell Pike, Ben Nevis and Slieve Donard to raise a total of £8,000 to go towards our 'out of this world' Woodstock festival 2024!

If you would like to sponsor our team, you can do so at the link below. All donations are greatly received. <https://www.peoplesfundraising.com/fundraising/TeamFAWPeaks>

If you would like to look back at some of our previous Woodstock events, the videos can be found below:

Woodstock 2023 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rt8wmLm044U>

Woodstock 2022 - https://youtu.be/hMzufG_fWf0

We are blown away by the support we have received already from individual donations to sponsorship from local companies. We would like to give a huge shout out to Nick at NPC Electrical SouthEast Ltd for his very kind donation of £100 which will support our ferry costs.

As always, thank you for your continued support, we cannot wait to share our journey with you!

Term Dates with Diary Dates 2023/24

Date	Time	Event
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Term 4

Monday 19 th February 2024	N/A	First day of term 4
Friday 23 rd February 2024	All day	Non-uniform day
Friday 23 rd February 2024	6-9:30pm	Psychic Night
Thursday 7 th March 2024	All day	World Book Day
Monday 11 th March 2024	N/A	Staff training day (pupils not in school)
Tuesday 12 th March 2024	N/A	Staff training day (pupils not in school)
Friday 15 th March 2024	All day	Comic Relief Day
Thursday 21 st March 2024	All day	Socks for World Down Syndrome Day
Saturday 23 rd March 2024	12-3	Spring Family Fun Day
Wednesday 27 th March 2024	Time slots tbc	Spring Fair
Thursday 28 th March 2024	N/A	Last day of term

Term 5

Monday 15 th April 2024	N/A	First day of term 5
Monday 6 th May 2024	N/A	Bank holiday (pupils and staff not in school)
Friday 17 th May 2024	TBC	FAW charity football match
Friday 24 th May 2024	N/A	Last day of term

Term 6

Monday 3 rd June 2024	N/A	First day of term 6 for pupils
June 2024	TBC	Sports days
July 2024	TBC	Sports day – FAW Snodland
Friday 5 th July 2024	All day	Transition day
Monday 8 th July 2024	3.45-6.45pm	'Meet the new teacher' parents evening
July 2024	TBC	Secondary summer performance
July 2024	TBC	Secondary prize giving
Tuesday 23 rd July 2024	N/A	Last day of term



SCERTS for Five Acre Wood Families & Carers

A framework to foster active engagement in autistic children and young people

Tuesday 12th March 2024—6pm-8pm

This workshop will provide an overview of the SCERTS[®] (Social Communication, Emotional Regulation, Transactional Support), a comprehensive, multidisciplinary educational approach designed for autistic children and young people. The ethos of SCERTS emphasizes the presence of positive, supportive and trustworthy relationships as the foundation of an effective educational programming. When we, as interactive partners, modify our interactive style and the environment, we can help our neurodivergent learners feel safe, connected, and actively engaged. The workshop will begin with a review of neurodevelopment and the critical role of the interactive partner in providing transactional support for children at different developmental stages. The core developmental domains of SCERTS will be introduced along with the empirical evidence of the model.

Emily Rubin, MS, CCC-SLP is the Director of Communication Crossroads in Atlanta, GA, a private practice specialized in providing professional learning focused on helping families, caregivers, and educators create positive learning environments focused on relationships and an appreciation of the neurodiversity of children. She is a co-author of the SCERTS Model and a speech-language pathologist who is passionate about the relationship between social emotional engagement and the development of language, learning, and well-being. She lectures internationally and provides ongoing technical assistance to school systems and other agencies that care for children and their families.

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.

