



FIVE ACRE WOOD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2024

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY (term 5):

Mon 15th April	First day of term 5
Fri 19th April	Non-uniform day (Shaun the Sheep Fundraiser)
Mon 6th May	Bank Holiday
Fri 24th May	Last day of term 5
Mon 15th April	First day of term 6
TBC—June	Sports Day Loose
TBC—July	Sports Day Snodland
Fri 5th July	Transition Day
Mon 8th July	Meet the new teacher—parents evening
TBC—July	Secondary Summer Performance
TBC—July	Secondary prize giving
Fri 24th May	Last day of term 6

A MESSAGE FROM PEGGY...

Welcome to the Spring 2024 Newsletter. It was lovely to start the term walking into the Loose site after the school was decorated during the February break. We also had a stunning new sensory circuit installed which the children have enjoyed interacting with. It was just the right time for a spring clean!



This term has been an eventful one with a variety of non-uniform/dress-up days taking place, raising awareness of Down Syndrome, funds for Comic Relief, and collecting donations to give to homeless shelters. Pupils and staff also dressed up for World Book Day which you can read more about on pages 2-4. It was also wonderful to see so many

faces at our Spring Family Fun Day and Spring Fair. Thank you to all that attended.

We have welcomed some new staff and a new pupil this term. We said a warm hello to Scott and hope he has enjoyed his first term at the school. The following new staff have joined the team this term; Paul who joined as a Teacher at Snodland, Kyra, Vicky and Surbhi who joined as Teaching Assistants at Loose, Carol who joined the kitchen team and Tracey, who is our Health Care Assistant.

I would like to say thank you to international expert Emily Rubin for her ongoing assistance and delivering her excellent SCERTS (Social Communication, Emotional Regulation and Transactional Support) workshop this month. The SCERTS workshop is always a well attended event and provides training to both staff and parents/carers.

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. As always, if you have any issues accessing any Apps, Portals or just need general assistance, please email office@five.acre.kent.sch.uk and someone will get back to you.

I would like to wish everyone an enjoyable break and I look forward to welcoming pupils back to School on Monday 15th April.



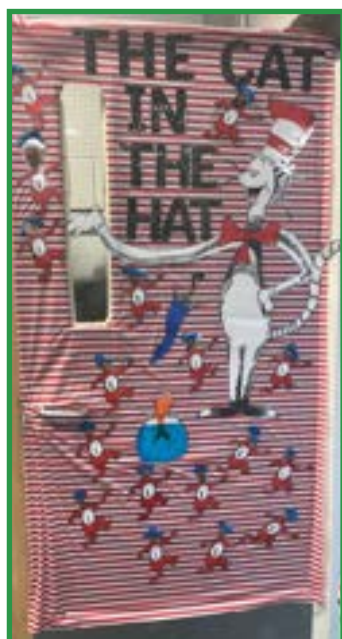
Peggy

WORLD BOOK DAY

On Thursday 7th March we celebrated World Book Day and pupils and staff enjoyed dressing up as book characters and classes decorated their doors. Congratulations to Fieldmouse class who won a prize for their Gruffalo themed door!



CLASSROOM
DOORS



WORLD BOOK DAY



WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY

Thursday 21st March was World Down Syndrome Day and pupils and staff were invited to wear their craziest socks combo to raise awareness of Down syndrome. One of our pupils, Erla-Kate, put on her finest odd socks and enjoyed her latest modelling shoot at Monsoon/Accessorize to promote the day. She was pride of place on the social media channels for Monsoon and Accessorize and looked absolutely fantastic. We are also pleased to tell you that Erla-Kate has signed a modelling contract with Zebedee modelling agency. The agency is an 'inclusive' company working with all people with disabilities, championing disabled, visibly different, non-binary, and trans models. We look forward to seeing her future shoots!



RED NOSE DAY

On Friday 15th March, pupils were invited to wear something red or something that made them happy to raise money for Comic Relief. The school was extremely colourful and the children enjoyed various themed activities in classes. Thank you to everyone who donated!



WHALE CLASS



CRICKET CLASS
MADE THEIR
OWN RED NOSES



PERFECT PERFORMANCES

Pupils from Oxford Road and Snodland participated in a dance event called Love to Dance at the Stag Theatre in Sevenoaks. Each Satellite provision performed a dance they had been practicing. The performances were a great success and pupils displayed excellent character supporting others from other schools and also celebrating their success.



Later in March, pupils from KS3 and KS4 participated in the Voices of the Wilderness Project and performed at the Woodville Theatre in

Gravesend. The show was performed for parents and carers of the schools that participated.

Pupils demonstrated amazing teamwork and supported each other throughout the day and their dedication and enthusiasm was evident in their performance. They were ambassadors for the school and some even participated in an interview about the experience. Well done everyone!

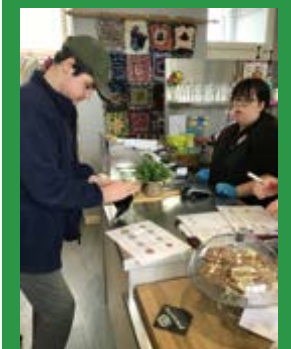
CLASS UPDATES

SPARROW CLASS

This term, Sparrow class have enjoyed cooking and identifying the ingredients in recipes and this is a skill that we have been focussing on. Pupils within Sparrow are able to understand what ingredients they will be using for cooking and then recognising if we need to buy them on our weekly shopping trips.

We have been able to successfully cook cheesy garlic bread, vegetable pasta bake and rocky road (which the children loved!)

Furthermore, Sparrow have thoroughly enjoyed weekly trips to Grow 19 where we are able to practice using money in a practical situation, communicating with unfamiliar people and begin to understand denominations of change.



CLASS UPDATES

VOLE CLASS

Vole class have had a great term. Our topic this term has been 'Health is Wealth'; we have been focussing on healthy eating, exercise and a good sleep routine. The pupils have really enjoyed learning about this topic and have been working hard making extra tasty smoothies. We even had the parents visit to taste the smoothies. The class has been taking part in exercise sessions including dance, football and circuits whilst also creating their own exercise regime.

On a Monday, Vole class have been going to Morrison's café and pupils have been choosing a snack of their choice and waiting patiently for their food. The pupils in Vole class have behaved impeccably whilst visiting the café and we are very proud of them all for how they have behaved whilst out in the community.

The pupils have also thoroughly enjoyed attending Young Farmers this term where they have been learning how to care for the animals and understand their needs.



HONEYSUCKLE CLASS

Honeysuckle class enjoyed World Book Day, especially all the activities related to *Mr Wolf's Pancakes* and *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*. We have also completed lots of activities related to numbers such as mark making, sorting, recognising and matching.



SNAIL CLASS

Snail class team have had a little redesign in our outside area allowing for more exploration on mud and sand tyres, and a small curiosity platform for us to create picnics and extend our play opportunities.

We had a fun science week where we explored different frozen materials and we also did a few experiments such as magic milk rainbows and vinegar and soda mixing. Our favourite was the Cola and Mentos mint explosive fountain.



In our Saplings sessions we have been using tools to dig and mix mud. We have loved the new mud kitchen and looking for the signs of spring.

CLASS UPDATES

SNOWDROP CLASS

We have been lucky enough to have the lovely ladies from Moonbeam Theatre visit us and help us to explore different textures, scents, and stimuli related to our environments and gardens. We have listened to some amazing songs (with signs), explored soil, leaves and planted our very own seeds!

We have been working hard on our physio targets which has included accessing therapies such as Hydrotherapy, Rebound and MOVE. We have also loved accessing Sensory Circuits to improve our readiness for learning.



The pupils love to bake and we have been doing lots of it this term. We use our switches to activate the whisk and love getting messy decorating our cakes and cookies!



CLASS UPDATES

MAPLE CLASS

In Maple class this term we have been learning about rivers, getting better at working as a team and enjoying lots of cooking. We have learned how to make pancakes, toasted sandwiches and pizza. We enjoyed tasting Chinese noodles and sauces. We have learned how to plan ingredients for our sandwiches and the toppings for pizza and even got involved in buying them.

In our IT lessons we have started to use the laptops and also been able to use them in our other learning. We love playing maths and phonics games.

In our daily story time, this year our book has been Gangsta Granny, by David Walliams. Our story times are also being child led and we are



getting very good at listening to our friends and asking them comprehension questions about what they have heard in the story.

The year 5's have enjoyed a Task Master project run by the Law University of Warwick and they were amazing at suggesting ideas and working together.

SWALLOW CLASS



Swallow class have been learning about heroes and people that help us this term. We were really lucky to meet a paramedic and got to go on an ambulance. We got to ask lots of questions and to try on the uniform. Joshua and Lakishia loved wearing the uniform. Pupils also got to meet a policeman and take it in turns to sit in the police car.



FOX CLASS



This term Fox class have been learning about different animals. We explored these topics through sensory play and used our favourite methods of learning to develop our skills further. Fox class also enjoyed using safety knives to prepare some food that our pets might enjoy. We were also lucky enough to have a meet and greet session with the yard guinea pigs!



CLASS UPDATES

CEDARWOOD CLASS



Some Cedarwood pupils performed a dance at the Stag Theatre in Sevenoaks at the Love 2 Dance show alongside pupils from Oxford Road in Beechwood and Oakwood classes. They practiced their routine during their weekly dance club on Fridays with one of the teachers from EDC, a local dance school. Our pupils did their personal best to memorise their dance routine and perform it twice in front of a big audience.

Every Thursday, pupils have continued to develop their home cooking skills and to be the best they can be to serve a delicious meal and a pudding every week.



The Bikeability team came to school and pupils participating felt proud of their progress and skills in cycling independently and feeling more confident on their bikes.



We celebrated Rohan's achievements in receiving his certificate for his ASDAN Life Skills Challenge

which he completed last academic year: a big "WELL DONE" to Rohan!!!



Pupils have continued to access the local community, to do travel training to town and to



use services and practice their communication skills with unfamiliar adults. Every week they visit Shepway library to choose and to help each other get new books and to ask for help. Pupils go shopping to buy their snacks and the ingredients needed for cooking their lunch on Thursdays. They also visited Maidstone market to talk to the



Cedarwood class is very proud of the positive attitude pupils are sustaining and of the progress made and skills they have achieved this term.



stall holders and to find out more about skills needed in their workplace and to reflect if they personally had such skills or qualities.

We wish our pupils and their families a very pleasant break and we look forward to seeing everyone in Term 5!!!



CLASS UPDATES

RED DEER CLASS



Red Deer pupils have had a great Term 4. We have thoroughly enjoyed learning about different animals and have explored this topic through a variety of activities including small world play, sensory exploration, art and reading stories. In addition, we created and wrote colour coded sentences. Red Deer class particularly love cooking! We made delicious cupcakes, monkey toast and fairy bread (an Australian snack)!



However, most of our pupils agreed their best day was celebrating birthdays and getting to sit in a police car and an ambulance! Dennie said "best day ever"!



Our pupils have been excelling in their learning and building friendships.

We have also recently introduced weekend news and photobooks to help our pupils with their communication skills and for the parents to see what we have been doing each week!



TURTLE CLASS

This term in Turtle class, we have enjoyed some football sessions with the coaches from The Stones Community Trust. Pupils worked hard to develop their footballing skills through drills and games. They used team work and communication skills to work well together.

Pupils also took part in a park reward trip. We began the term by learning all about road safety. We learnt about road signs and how to cross the road safely and recreated roads on the playground and role played being safe. To practice our safety skills, we walked to the local park where we all had a wonderful time playing with our friends and demonstrated staying safe in the community.

CLASS UPDATES

HEDGEHOG CLASS



This term in Hedgehog class our topic has been 'Health is Wealth'. We have been very busy making smoothies, exploring different types of fruit and vegetables and enjoyed activities linked to the story *Supertato*. We have also been enjoying our inclusive dance sessions.



ROE DEER CLASS

Roe Deer class have been exploring this term's theme of 'Animal Magic'. We have been looking at fictional stories and non-fiction texts in literacy all about animals and their environments; we have worked collaboratively to make fact files and posters about our topic as well as working on descriptive writing skills. We are very independent when following cooking instructions and have made some yummy dishes; the sweet ones are our favourites! During leisure we have been using IT devices such as coloured keyboards to help with typing skills and interactive games to work on our teamwork and sharing skills. This term we have also had assemblies with Hedgehog class and we have learnt about sharing our space with others and celebrating others achievements, as well as enjoying sensory exploration as a group.



CLASS UPDATES

PRIMROSE CLASS



Primrose pupils have made chocolate nest eggs which they ate during break time. They learnt to follow simple instructions, wait their turn and share their learning space.

Weekly, pupils have been taking part in sensory circuit activities sometimes in the outside learning area and in the hall.



Pupils have been using a communication board to tell adults which colour paints they want to use. During a clever finger activity, they independently peeled a banana and used fine motor skills to cut it into small pieces and eat it for snack.



Pupils have worked hard in numeracy, identifying big and small objects and also 2D shapes.

During free play, some pupils investigated how a battery drill worked and, with peers, placed shapes on the board and put small screws into the hole. Together, they used a screwdriver to tighten the screws.



ANT CLASS

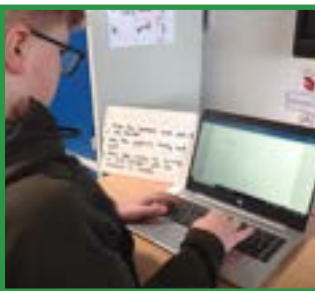
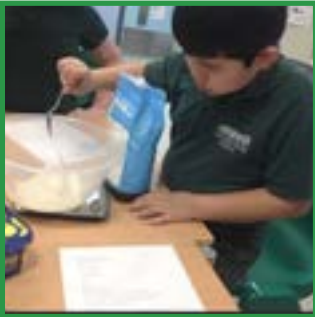
Ant Class have had a very busy term. They have loved learning all about the story *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* for World Book Day and enjoyed fruit tasting, threading pasta to make our own 'Hungry Caterpillar' necklaces and



creating our own caterpillars using the letters of our names. We have loved exploring outside and beginning to see the signs of spring using petals to make our own potions. We have also been working on our life skills, and have been making our own sandwiches and toast, spreading our own butter and choosing the fillings...Yummy!

CLASS UPDATES

PINE MARTEN CLASS



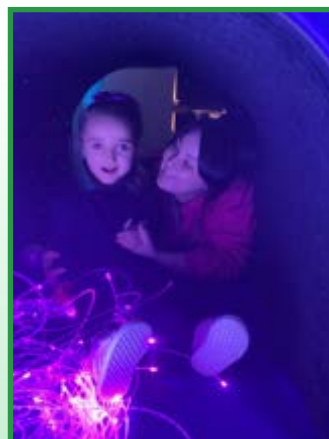
This term the children in Pine Marten have been learning through the topic 'Health is Wealth'. They have designed, made and evaluated their own smoothies and also written their recipes.

In addition, pupils have learned about healthy eating and the importance of sleep and exercise for health. They really enjoyed comparing exercise videos and even making their own for their friends to try.



BUMBLEBEE CLASS

Bumblebee class have had a lovely term exploring the topics 'Life on the Farm', 'Science Week' and 'Spring'. We have worked hard continuing to develop our mobility and communication skills and have built our visual orientation skills with our sensory lights.



CLASS UPDATES

WREN CLASS



Wren class had the amazing opportunity to engage with a paramedic and police officer who came into school in week 4. We focused on learning about how these people help us and we came out of our day with so much knowledge about how we can help each other and ask for help from people who help us in our community.



DORMOUSE CLASS

Dormouse Class thoroughly enjoyed our learning topic 'Animal Magic' during Term 4. We explored various types of animals such as mammals, farm animals, woodland creatures, and zoo animals. As part of our learning experience, we were fortunate enough to have a tortoise spend a day with us in class. The pupils learned how to properly care for the tortoise by feeding, bathing and providing him with the necessary space and time for exercise.

The children enthusiastically participated in cooking activities where they prepared treats such as hedgehog biscuits, cat and dog-shaped rice cakes, pig yogurt bowls, *Dear Zoo* biscuits and pigs and friends in mud (featuring Percy Pig and Angel Delight). Moreover, the pupils enjoyed engaging in a range of fine motor activities where they carefully followed instructions and used Play-Doh to create various animals.



CLASS UPDATES

WHALE CLASS

This term we have been learning all about rivers. We have found out about animals that live in our rivers, researched about the rivers Medway, Thames and Severn and created river paintings.

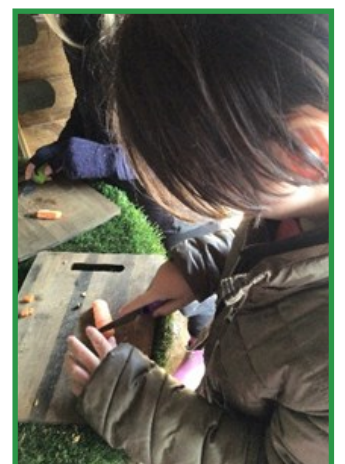
In Forest School we have been exploring the Forest School area at Palace Wood. Some of Whales have been spending time at The Yard, helping to care for the animals.



Some of our pupils have taken part in cricket and a girls' football events. They enjoyed learning new skills, playing together as a team and meeting children from other schools.



Whale class enjoyed their visit to Aunt Sally's Kitchen in Allington. We ordered and paid for our food independently. Back at school we used our café visit to develop our letter writing and maths skills.



CLASS UPDATES

LADYBIRD CLASS

Ladybird class have had a jam-packed term; we all had a fantastic Book Week looking at different stories, including some sensory stories where we could touch, smell and move within the story. We enjoyed the story of the *Gruffalo* and explored making Gruffalo crumble and decorating a Gruffalo with loose parts activities; everyone dressed up in fantastic costumes, and all had fun.



During this term, we have explored the theme Farms and engaged in activities not only with farm animals but also with fruit and vegetables. The pupils had great fun pretending to visit a farm shop with shopping baskets and paying for the items. The pupils have also been exploring mark-making and Write Dance and have enjoyed making marks with their hands and feet.

OTTER CLASS

Otter class have enjoyed their project of Health is Wealth. We have been making smoothies which pupils thoroughly enjoyed. Each pupil created their own recipe with step-by-step instructions, they chose the fruit they were going to use and were able to use both of these pieces of work to help them create their smoothie. Parents were invited in to re-create the activity and pupils enjoyed showing their parents what they have been learning and were able to independently create a smoothie.



We held a non-uniform day in order to donate long-life food to foodbanks, which again linked in with our termly project. Pupils were able to help sort the food items and pack them into boxes before working with another class to deliver the food. We have also been continuing to engage with shopping trips off-site. Next term our project will be Out in the Wild and we are hoping to hold an overnight stay at school.

CHERRY CLASS

In Cherry class, we have had another busy term. We have started reading another class book; *Matilda*. We have been learning about rivers which has been fascinating. We particularly enjoyed learning about beavers and classifying animals. We are going to go to the beach next term and cannot wait.



Pupil's have been enjoying spending time on the field, sensory garden and MUGA. We've been trying out lots of different games to

play and are looking forward to next term when we start to learn about World War Two. We'd love to see some of the things you are up to on Teams.



FUNDRAISING UPDATE

WALK AND TALK

Term 5 will hopefully bring lots of sunshine as well as the return of our 'Walk and Talk', which will take place at Mote Park, 2pm, on the following days:

Sunday 28th April

Sunday 19th May

Sunday 7th July

The aim of the walk is to bring families and our community together, to support one another, share knowledge and have the opportunity to meet new people who are on the same journey.

(Please note there is no 'Walk and Talk' in June and the July date has been brought forward due to the summer holidays).

We look forward to seeing you on the 28th April.



SPRING FAIR

The biggest thank you to our pupils and class teams for making such fantastic items to sell at this years Spring Fair. It was also great to see so many parents and families supporting the sessions.



FAW PEAKS CHALLENGE

Over Easter, 20 staff/volunteers will embark on a challenging adventure to climb the UK's four largest peaks in just four days! They will be climbing to the top of Snowdon, Scafell Pike, Ben Nevis and Slieve Donard to raise funds for our incredible Woodstock festival, which will take place this July.

The team have been training over the last few months, tackling the wind, rain, hail as well as a few falls in the mud! With the countdown now upon them, they are starting to pack the vital equipment needed (as well as the delicious snacks) ready to leave on Sunday 7th April.

This would not have been possible without the incredible support and sponsorship from JEM (Construction & Maintenance Ltd), Northern Commercials, Superfast Labels, NPC Electrical, Restoring Homes and Bodysym.

There is still time to sponsor the team, by clicking the link below.

<https://www.peoplesfundraising.com/fundraising/TeamFAWPeaks>

As always, thank you for your continued support; we cannot wait to share our journey with you! Make sure you are following the school's Facebook page for live updates.



SPRING FAMILY FUN DAY

It may have rained and hailed but it was wonderful to see so many of our pupils and their families at our Spring Family Fun Day. It was a fun-filled day with a variety of games including Spin the Wheel, Hex Bug racing as well as tombolas, raffles, an egg hunt, yummy food and refreshments and so much more. We were delighted to have the pleasure of Vision Signing Choir join us where they performed a variety of songs.

We want to thank all our staff, external stall holders, volunteers, families, and friends for their incredible support.

PSYCHIC NIGHT

On Friday 23rd February we held our first psychic evening which was an absolute triumph! We want to express our deepest appreciation to J&L Events, to everyone who attended, and our incredible stall holders who made the event extra special.

The evening raised a fantastic £511.97.



FUNDRAISING UPDATE

SHAUN THE SHEEP FUNDRAISER

Our sculpture, Five Acre Woody, that will be part of the Shaun in the Heart of Kent art trail, has been shepherded around Kent to receive his makeover and is now back with fellow 'Shaun's' ready to be put on display in the summer.

Heart of Kent Hospice provides free, specialist care and support for adults living with a terminal illness and their loved ones, so they can have the best quality of life. To support our fundraising for the Heart of Kent Hospice, we will be holding a fundraising day in school on Friday 19th April, where pupils will have the opportunity to come in non-uniform and take part in some baaa-rilant activities throughout the day.

Thanks must go to Graphic Designer, Kieran Diver, the team at Identity Wraps, and of course our staff and pupils who have all played a part in creating a lovely design that we are looking forward to unveiling.



FAW CHARITY FOOTBALL MATCH

Our charity football match is back for a second year where Five Acre Wood School will take on a team of players from Maidstone United FC and Stones in the Community. Thank you to everyone that has come forward to volunteer their time to train and be a part of what we are certain is going to be a fun evening!

Tickets will be available to purchase next term and a link will be shared via our Facebook page and Arbor. We will also be holding another fantastic raffle which will be £2.00 a ticket, with a

brand NEW Apple iPad 10th Generation confirmed as the first prize.

THE WILLOWS

Our Outdoor Learning Environment team are working on a very exciting project which will create an employability and skills programme we are naming The Willows. The Willows will be a building filled with a variety of hand tools and Personal Protective Equipment. This will create an environment that will give our pupils the skills they need to go on and gain employment after their time at school.



We have received incredible support from two local companies who have sponsored the build. We would like to give a huge shout-out for their sponsorship as this project would not have been possible without them.

The project will start at the beginning of the next academic year and we look forward to sharing regular updates on this exciting project.

FAWRIENT EXPRESS



Under the tarpaulin and scaffolding the incredible transformation of The FAWrient Express has begun! Our project manager, Jeremy, started the strip-out of the carriage in early February to allow the build of the kitchen, toilet, and entrance to take place.

Since then, both the wiring and electrics have been fitted, new flooring has been laid and an entrance to the carriage has been cut ready for the new doors to go in. In addition, a brilliant new design feature of the FAWrient Express logo has been carved onto a panel within the carriage.



Stay tuned for updates because this journey is just getting started!



THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone for supporting our School projects and fundraisers. Our pupils benefit so much from the opportunities we are able to provide from the funds raised and without your continued help, this would not all be possible.

- Hannah



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Term Dates with Diary Dates 2023/24

Date	Time	Event
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Term 5		
Monday 15 th April 2024	N/A	First day of term 5
Friday 19 th April 2024	N/A	Shaun the Sheep Fundraiser (non-uniform day)
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

