

24 May 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have reached the end of Term 5 and it is hard to believe that there is only one term left this academic year!

Pupils and Staff

We have had some new staff, and new pupils, Harry and Faris, joined this term. A warm welcome to them all. We also said goodbye to Adam who has been a pupil at Five Acre Wood for 14 years. We wish him all the very best for the future.

Parent Governor Election

I would like to thank everyone that stood for election as a Parent Governor and to everyone that voted. We would like to welcome Kristie Robinson and Stephen Rayner-Murray to our Governing Body.

Kathryn's Marathon Fundraiser

A personal thank you to teacher Kathryn, who ran the London Marathon in just 4 hrs and 16 minutes, and in doing so, raised funds to support our school. The biggest thank you to everyone who sponsored Kathryn and helped reach her target of £500. Well done Kathryn from all pupils and staff at Five Acre Wood School!

MOVE Award

In April, the school were awarded a Bronze Quality Mark for MOVE (Movement Opportunities Via Education). The MOVE Programme is an activity-based framework that enables disabled young people to gain independent movement and is coordinated by the charity MOVE Europe. The programme is about seeking and creating opportunities during the day for children to learn mobility skills and transforming the world around them by creating an accessible, interesting, and educational world full of opportunity and choice. Each MOVE pupil receives a personalised programme with activities linked to their individual goals which are incorporated by the class team and can also be used at home.

The team have already seen pupils make progress in their MOVE journeys and, back in February, Lioni became FAWs first MOVE graduate. Over a few months, Lioni learnt to walk unaided where previously he could only walk when holding an adult's hand or by cruising along furniture. This was such a fantastic achievement for Lioni and the team.

The training and support that MOVE provide to our team here at Five Acre Wood has been invaluable and we cannot wait to see how our pupils continue to gain in confidence and independence in the future.

Outdoor Learning Environment

Spring has sprung in the OLE with flowers blossoming and the arrival of some new animals. Billy, a staff member, gifted the yard with some ducklings named Marigold and Mabel when they were only three weeks old. They have been swimming on the duck pond and are currently living with the chickens before they get introduced to the ducks. The baby guinea pigs are also doing well and have adapted to being in their outdoor enclosure now the warmer weather has arrived. Nutkins the rescue squirrel spent a week being nursed back to health after losing some toes in a rat trap. He has now been released back into the wild.



Thanks to Kevin, one of our regular volunteers, there is now a handwashing sink with its own shower head making it ideal for those muddy boots! Kevin has installed a rainwater harvesting system with the BTEC group which will help water the trees and eventually fill the wildlife pond without using mains water. The pupils enjoyed learning how to carry out different plumbing tasks and even installed a gravity feed tap. Our Growing Times volunteers have also been busy installing a wildflower living roof on the croft at Apple Tree Yard, which we are hoping will increase our biodiversity and encourage more wildlife, as well as starting the construction of a pig barn. Other developments include building a wheelchair accessible path which will make the main route to the yard accessible all year round.

Recording our latest song

Pupils from our Loose and Palace Wood sites had the wonderful opportunity of heading to the recording studios to record our latest track "The Loud Mouse Song", originally sung by Idina Menzel. We are so proud of all our amazing singers and grateful to the fantastic Taryn

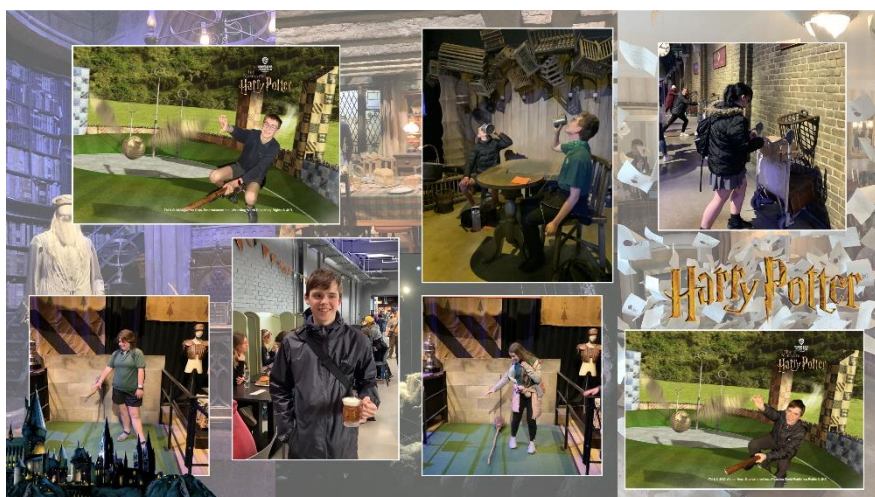
and Kevin for their support. We can't wait to release it....number one here we come! This is the first of two singles that we will be releasing this year – our second track will be a cover of Robbie Williams' "I love my life" and feature pupils from our Snodland, Oxford Road and St. Katherine's sites.



Trip to see The Lion King

20 pupils from years 10 and 11 had the amazing opportunity to visit the West End and watch a performance of the award-winning musical The Lion King. Pupils developed their understanding of travel training, journeying by train from West Malling to Charing Cross. Pupils will reflect on this experience as part of their course for The Arts Award Bronze Qualification. The amazing spectacle of costumes, sets, lighting, and special effects used will give the pupils a wonderful opportunity to reflect and develop their understanding of different aspects in the arts.

Harry Potter Studios Visit



Year 9's and some Year 10's from our Snodland site visited the Harry Potter Warner Bros. Studios. The trip supported their Drama topic 'Literacy Comes to Life'. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed their day, exploring sets and learning about the special effects used in the filming of the Harry Potter films. Thank you to the Drama and English Departments for planning the trip.

Inter Special Schools Termly Fixture

Sparrow class pupils took part in the inter special schools termly fixture at Abbey Court School in Strood. After a warm welcome, pupils made friends over a snack and then took part in a variety of competitions including 'Volcanoes and Craters', relay races, 'under and over' and a pasta dash. Everyone used their initiative and worked as a team. It was very close, but I am proud to say that Five Acre Wood managed to win the first Abbey Court Vs Five Acre Wood fixture.

Kent Move Festival

15 pupils from Practical KS3 classes attended the Kent Move Festival at Maidstone Leisure Centre. The festival was in preparation and to build momentum for the Paralympic games in Paris this summer. Pupils took part in archery, Boccia, visually impaired football, basketball, judo and dance and all represented the school exceptionally well, displayed the Paralympics values to great affect and thoroughly enjoyed the day.

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.

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 3rd June 2024.

Kind regards,

Peggy

Peggy Murphy
Principal

Updates from Hannah, our fundraiser:

Fundraising News - April-May 2024

It has been another fun-filled term, with a variety of events and activities taking place. In the final term of the academic year, we are looking forward to holding a school disco and our first external event with Gregg Wallace. More information on both will be shared very soon!

Donations

We were delighted when we were contacted by a pupil from Highworth Secondary school to say they would like to fundraise for us within their school community. Pupils organised a Teacher Talent Show where they sponsored the teachers performing. The event was a huge success, attracting a high turnout, with some brilliant performances and hundreds of pupils and staff supporting their fellow teachers. Highworth Secondary School raised just over £600, and we could not be more thankful for their amazing support and for choosing us.

Shaun in the Heart of Kent

The first week of term 5 saw pupils enjoy a non-uniform day with some Shaun the Sheep related activities taking place in classes. All sites had the opportunity to have a sneak peek at our final design, which was super exciting. We raised a 'baaa-riliant' £387.00. This was all in aid of supporting Heart of Kent Hospice who, in collaboration with Wild in Art, Aardman and Maidstone Borough Council, are putting on a free art trail which will feature 50 large Shaun sculptures and some little Shauns, like ours, that have been individually decorated and will be placed around Maidstone this summer. At the end of the trail, the larger sculptures will be auctioned to raise funds for Heart of Kent Hospice and our little sculpture will be brought back to school.

FAW Peaks Challenge

They did it! Our brave volunteers climbed the UK's four largest peaks in just four days during the school break at the beginning of April. They climbed Snowden in the wind and rain, Scafell Pike which added hail and snow into the mix, Ben Nevis which entailed a 5am start and poor visibility and if that was not enough, a fourth peak, Slieve Donard which fortunately brought some much-appreciated sunnier weather. They have raised mountains of money that will all go towards funding our annual Woodstock festival.

Thank you to the team which included the walkers, support crew and mountain leaders from Discovering Snowdonia for all their efforts, assistance, and determination. A huge thankyou to everyone that has shown their encouragement and supported the team and kindly donated to their cause. Without your continued support, and the efforts of all our volunteers, we would not be able to provide experiences such as these for our pupils so thank you.

FAWbulous projects

A retired freefall lifeboat and Airbus 319 fuselage were craned into place on the school field at our Loose site during the April break. These exciting spaces will be transformed into a counselling space and library, respectively.

The section of the plane, which we have named the 7FAW7, will be fitted with an access lift, some passenger chairs to provide a comfy reading nook, shelves that look like hostess trolleys for books, audio stations and a mocked-up cockpit. The lifeboat we thought was a fitting space for a counselling office, known for their sturdiness and duty of looking out for people's wellbeing. Named the FAWtilus, the vessel will be transformed over the coming months when port holes and sky lights are added to provide extra light, and the outside area to be resurfaced in blue and gold to represent the sea and beach.

Thanks must go to Ainscough cranes and JEM construction for overseeing their delivery and safely manoeuvring them into place. All these projects rely on various companies, teams and individuals to help turn these ideas into reality and we couldn't do this without them.

Charity Football Match

Last Friday (17th May), FAW staff and family took on staff and volunteers from Maidstone United FC and Stones in The Community and what a game it was! We played and managed 40 players and held our own against fantastic opponents. Our goals were celebrated with the FAW chants and 'buzz', and the game came to end with a 5-3 win for Stones in The Community. The man of the match was awarded to Tyrone Thorne who was stand out performer on the evening.

During May, we ran a competition in school whereby all pupils had the opportunity to design a flag. We received some incredible designs which were then whittled down to five for our staff to vote for their favourite. Buttercup class and a pupil from Willow class won the

competition. Huge congratulations to all pupils involved. Both designs were then printed onto flags which were available on the evening of our match.



We were so impressed by the dedication and support of the team, who have been attending weekly training sessions at school, led by our own staff. The biggest thank you to Will, Aaron, Alex, and Matt for providing these sessions. A special thanks to Street Soccer, Andy photos, Bish Bosh Bash Balloons, Kent Roller Disco, Morrisons, Beau Lashes, Fenn Bell Conservation Project and Massage by Toni who all supported the event.

This event would not have been possible without the tremendous support of our football team, staff, parents, families, our local community and not forgetting the incredible Stones in The Community. The evening raised a phenomenal £3,625 which will be used towards our brilliant weekly football sessions, provided by coaches from Stones in The Community across all sites.

Term Dates with Diary Dates 2023/24

Date	Time	Event
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<u>Term 6</u>		
Monday 3 rd June 2024	N/A	First day of term 6 for pupils
Friday 7 th June 2024	7.00pm	An Evening with Gregg Wallace
24 th June 2024 (week of)	Class times TBC	Sports days
Friday 5 th July 2024	All day	Transition day
Monday 8 th July 2024	3.45-6.45pm	'Meet the new teacher' parents evening
Monday 15 th July 2024	TBC	Secondary prize giving
July 2024	TBC	Secondary summer performance
18 th July 2024	All day	Sports day – FAW Snodland (for pupils and staff)
19 th July 2024	7.00-11.30pm	Leavers Prom
Tuesday 23 rd July 2024	All day	Woodstock '24 Festival for pupils and staff
Tuesday 23 rd July 2024	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.