



FIVE ACRE WOOD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2024

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY (Term 1):

Mon 2nd Sept	Staff training day
Tues 3rd Sept	Staff training day
Wed 4th Sept	Staff training day
Thurs 5th Sept	First day of term 1
TBC	School photos (individual) - al
Mon 9th Sept	Class coffee morning
Wed 11th Sept	Class coffee morning
Fri 13th Sept	Class coffee morning
Fri 20th Sept	Jeans for Genes Day
Wed 16th Oct	Autumn Festival (primary pupils)
Fri 25th Oct	Last day of term Spooky clothes day & spooky disco

A MESSAGE FROM PEGGY...

Welcome to the Five Acre Wood School Summer Newsletter. In this edition, we highlight the fantastic initiatives, events, and achievements that have taken place this term. A particular highlight of mine was a surprise birthday celebration for my 60th that consisted of everyone coming together to present me with a lovely keepsake video which pupils and staff had kindly organised. This is something that I will remember fondly forever and truly captures the spirit of our wonderful school community.

Other happenings this term have included our talented pupils being back in the studio recording not one, but two new singles, a special milestone for our Oxford Road site, sports days showcasing everyone's sportsmanship, our temporary swimming pool, and of course as we got closer to the end of term, saying farewell to our leavers, culminating with our Woodstock festival.

To our Year 14 leavers; Alisha, Benjamin, Buyiswa, Charlie, Dhurash, Eden,

Elena, Eloise, Eloise, George, Isabel, Jack, Jack, Joshua, Oliver, Owen, Sam, Simon, Tristan and Yasmina. As you approach the next phase of your lives, I wish you all the best and look forward to hearing about your future accomplishments and adventures.

This term we also say goodbye to Imran, James, Joshua, Isaac and Matteus who I hope enjoyed their time with us and would like to wish them well. One of our Assistant Heads, Matt Smith, will also be leaving us who we wish a fond farewell and good luck in his future endeavours.

To our new staff members that started this term; I would like to extend a warm welcome and I hope that your experience so far has been fulfilling and that you feel a part of the school family. I also look forward to welcoming our new pupils in September.

I must also say a huge congratulations to Jo O'Connor who will be the Assistant Head for Structured from September. Sam Hazle will be moving from Structured to Practical.

As the academic year comes to a close, I would like to thank all of our staff, pupils, parents and carers, and wider community for your contributions, dedication, and hard work that have made this year a success.

Wishing you all an enjoyable summer break!



Peggy

Parent/Carer Reminder:

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.

BACK IN THE RECORDING STUDIO

This term we have been busy recording two new singles with our friends at DeeVu Records.

The first track is a delightful cover of "The Loud Mouse Song," originally performed by Idina Menzel. This wonderful opportunity brought together pupils from our choir at the Loose and Palace Wood sites, who were joined by the incredible Taryn Charles, known for her stunning recent golden buzzer performance on Britain's Got Talent.



Our second recording is a heart-warming rendition of Robbie Williams' "I Love My Life," featuring choir members from our Snodland, Oxford Road, and St. Katherine's sites. They were accompanied by the fantastic Barney Holmes, a star from The X Factor and The Voice, who has worked alongside renowned artists like Jessie J, Tom Jones, and Ed Sheeran.

We're looking forward to filming the music videos for these singles in early September. Once completed, they will be released on our very own FAW Records label, reaching an impressive 120 media platforms across 240 countries worldwide! Stay tuned for the official release dates!



POOLS FOR SCHOOLS

We were thrilled to have a temporary swimming pool at our Loose site this term thanks to Elite Swimming's 'Pool for Schools' programme. The pool was put up during the half term, filled with 55,000 litres of water, heated, and protected by a marquee. Having a pool onsite has removed transport costs and logistical worries.



It has been fantastic to be able to teach swimming and water safety to our KS2 pupils this term and have enjoyed seeing them have fun in the water, while gaining in confidence and improving their self-esteem. The positive impact that it has had on our pupils led to us extending the lease for another week and we hope to bring it back next year to offer these opportunities to other Key Stages.

FATHERS DAY SHOPS



The pupils had a wonderful time exploring and purchasing gifts at our Father's Day gift shops, which were set up at each of our sites. A big



thank you to the TEAM for buying the items and managing the shops, and providing these opportunities for our pupils. These gift shops not only allow the pupils to practice making thoughtful choices, but also provide a wonderful opportunity for them to experience the joy of giving. We hope that everyone enjoyed both giving and receiving their gifts.

OXFORD ROAD—A YEAR ON

Our satellite site at Oxford Road opened last year to house some of our functional classes. Since then, everyone has been thriving at the new site and we even welcomed Copse Class half way through the year. Reflecting on Term 6 and the entire school year, pupils from Cedarwood and Beechwood Classes share their experiences and highlights:

HOW WE SETTLED IN

- **Quick Adaptation:** We quickly adapted to the routines at Oxford Road and feel a sense of trust within the school environment.
- **Orientation:** We swiftly learned our way around the school.
- **Local Exploration:** We enjoyed exploring the local area and using nearby services.
 - **Navigating the Area:** We found our way around and learned how to get to the town centre and Mote Park by bus, learnt how to cross roads safely, and gained enough confidence to return to school independently.

WHAT WE ENJOYED DOING

- **Extracurricular Activities:** Participating in weekly music, dancing, singing practices, and boxing clubs.
- **Socialising:** Spending time unwinding in the common room.
- **Gardening:** Designing and maintaining the front garden and reception area with colourful plants, taking care of the weeding and watering of the raised beds.
- **Community Engagement:** Visiting local parks, the library, and shopping at local shops and supermarkets.
 - **Local Community Involvement:** Collaborating with Greenfields Primary School on litter picking and gardening projects. Also, having a drink and a cake at St Martin's church when taking part in the weekly "Tea'n Toast" gathering, donating goods, bringing flowers to decorate the church and sharing homemade banana cupcakes with the community.
 - **Travel Training:** The highlight was travelling to town, visiting cafes, fast food restaurants, and the market.
 - **Christmas Shopping:** Engaging in festive and educational shopping trips.
 - **BTECs:** Enjoying our BTEC courses.
 - **Cooking:** Participating in cooking sessions and planning our weekly shopping around this.
 - **Work experience:** Gaining valuable real-world experience through work placements.

BEST MEMORIES

- Visiting the town centre.
- Going on the Shaun the Sheep trail.
- Recording a song at the recording studio.
- Having fun, laughing, and dancing in class.
- Playing board games with classmates and socialising.
- Participating in a residential trip (Year 12 + DofE).
- Becoming more independent throughout the year!
- Collaborating with Elmwood class to play out a murder mystery in English
- Comparing Shakespearean and modern-day language while acting out a scene from Macbeth.

This year at Oxford Road has been a journey of growth, exploration, and achievement. From settling into new routines and discovering the local area to participating in various activities and fostering independence, the experiences have been enriching and memorable. We look forward to September and another year of learning and fun at Oxford Road!



BTECS

SPORT

For BTEC Sports, we had the opportunity to collaborate with Maidstone Football Club, playing football matches and participating in football skills lessons alongside Cedarwood Class. The pupils also got to teach a PE lesson over at our Snodland site. They each had to do a lesson plan for the lessons they were teaching, including a warmup comprising of dynamic stretches, and a skill. The progress the pupils made in planning and teaching could be seen when they taught two other lessons to the Formal Secondary pupils. The BTEC Sport pupils also got to attend a session at the Core Gym in Maidstone where they completed a circuit session of all different skills in the gym.



MAINTENANCE



The pupils learning BTEC Maintenance have transformed the yard at the Loose site, cleared the meadow area, and built a new fence. Furthermore, the group has laid animal pen foundations as well as new paving areas. They have also built a water harvesting system to stop the meadow from flooding, have installed new guttering, water butts and taps. Foundations have also been laid for a new aviary which is very exciting. Pupils worked to Paul's specifications and high standards, wrote risk assessments, learnt how to use new power tools, developed their teamwork, improved their work skills and worked to deadlines.



ART

BTEC Art group went to Maidstone Museum for a self-led visit. It was a great chance to explore a mix of art and history exhibits. Pupils observed various artworks, took notes, and got inspired for their art



projects. It was all about enjoying the museum, sketching, and discovering new ideas for their BTEC Art coursework. Back in June, pupils took part in an art competition organised by KArtsCon where two of our pupils received second and third



place in the 12-18 category. The Mayor of Medway presented the prizes at the Sunlight Development Hall in Gillingham on Tuesday 09th July. This was a proud moment for the BTEC ART group, highlighting the talent and hard work of the pupils.

SPORTS DAYS

Thank you to all classes, pupils, parents and staff who helped in the engagement and smooth running of our Sports Days. EYFS enjoyed a stay and play session, Sensory classes were able to access activities in different classrooms, Whale and Turtle classes joined in with Palace Wood's Sports Day, and others participated in different activities outdoors.

We had a record amount of parent/carer support which goes to show the positive relationships that have been established to collectively celebrate our fantastic pupils.



EYFS SCHOOL COUNCIL

This term the Early Years had a School Council meeting with representatives from each class coming together to share their ideas. Sports Day was the focus and pupils were full of suggestions for activities they wanted to see on the day. It



was wonderful seeing the whole of Early Years enjoy throwing games, hopper racing and ribbon dancing. The School Council would like to say a special thank you to Abbie Evanson, a parent of one of the council members, for making the fantastic School Council t-shirts which were proudly worn by council members on the day. We are incredibly proud of our Early Years pupils and delighted to have made their Sports Day wishes come true.

'OUT IN THE WILD' SLEEPOVER

On Thursday, 20th June, some of the Secondary Structured pupils attended a memorable sleepover at school in the modular buildings. This event was the culmination of Term 5's project focus on 'out in the wild,' with an emphasis on camping, outdoor cooking, and surviving in the wild.

A total of 12 pupils participated in the evening, supported by a large number of enthusiastic adults. The adventure began at 7:30 pm when the pupils arrived, dropped off their bags, and headed out to the Forest School area where a campfire awaited them. The pupils gathered around the campfire, singing songs and interacting with the adults. The highlight of the evening was melting marshmallows and making smores. The pupils were safe and sensible around the fire and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

By 8:45 pm, the campfire was extinguished, and everyone returned to the modular buildings for a film. The pupils chose to watch Toy Story 3. Once the film had finished, it was lights out, and everyone settled down for the night. Despite some taking longer to fall asleep than others, all the pupils coped amazingly well, especially considering it was the first night away from home for some.

The following morning, pupils began waking up around 6 am but remained in their sleeping bags until everyone was awake. Breakfast was a lively affair with pupils choosing their preferred meals. A minor hiccup occurred when the fire alarm went off due to one pupil's fondness for burnt toast!

After breakfast, the pupils followed their morning routine to get ready for school. Pupils headed to their classrooms and then enjoyed a fun day with the rest of their class, which included a bouncy castle.



The overnight stay provided the pupils with a valuable experience, and the staff were incredibly proud of their achievements. Well done to everyone involved!

CLASS UPDATES

ANT CLASS

Ant Class had a fantastic start to term; we were the first to hand over the Olympic Torch as part of our Woodstock celebrations!

There have been so many



new words being said in class with Poppy saying her first word 'again', and Melissa saying lots of her peers names.

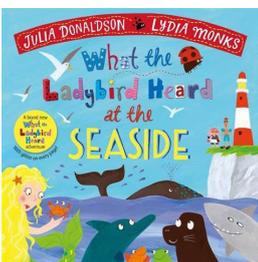
We have been working on building sentence structure using colourful semantics and have also been playing together beautifully using our social skills to take turns when playing games. We also had a fantastic Sports Day in the sunshine with the children enjoying jumping, balancing, running, and playing in the soft play and with the bubbles !



Ants, we are so proud of you!



HONEYSUCKLE CLASS



Honeysuckle have focused on the topic 'Seaside' this term. We have enjoyed our stories related to the beach; our favourite was *What the Ladybird Heard at the Seaside*. We have made lots of seaside artwork, including jellyfish, a Play-Doh mermaid, and a beach collage.

Sand play and our horticulture sessions have also been firm favourites.



CLASS UPDATES

SNOWDROP CLASS



Snowdrop Class have been exploring the topic 'Seaside & Under the Sea' this term. We have enjoyed lots of sensory based play including water and sand play and have explored different sounds which you'd find at the beach such as the sound of waves, birds & different sea life animals.

The class has also been working hard in our Therapy sessions, including Hydrotherapy, Rebound Therapy & Physio programs. Some of our pupils have started Aquatic Enrichment Lessons.

Pupils have really enjoyed Clubs this term. Each Tuesday afternoon, we have had the opportunity to explore new activities within the learning approach. We have a wide range of clubs to suit all our needs including, Movie Club, Music & Movement, Disco & Dance and Sensory Massage. We get to engage with different peers and staff whilst exploring new or favourable activities.

The Snowdrops have had the pleasure of one of our pupils returning this term after a long stay in hospital. Vinnie has defeated all odds and shown great strength and determination. Vinnie has returned to school and enjoyed interacting with all of his peers and staff.

The Snowdrop staff have been so impressed with all our pupils progress this year and cannot wait to see what next year has in store for them on their next step in their learning journeys.



CLASS UPDATES

VOLE CLASS

Vole Class have had a great term. We have been learning about different modes of transport including purchasing tickets and how to prepare for journeys.

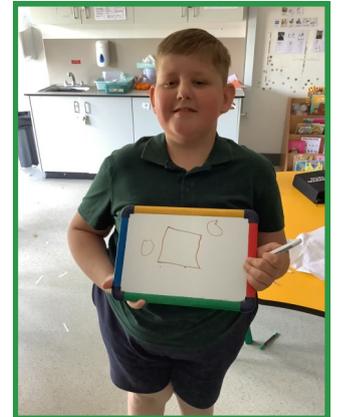
Pupils have also been learning how to handle data and how to put this information into graphs.

'Fun with Food' was most enjoyable where we have been exploring and trying different foods. Our off site visits to cafes and the park have also been enjoyed by all.



We also had our Secondary Structured Fun Day this term and Sports Day which was great fun; the bouncy castle was a big hit!

WREN CLASS



Wren Class have had a brilliant term engaging in a huge range of different activities in school including amazing engagements on our topic of 'Minibeasts' in forest school, swimming, and our football sessions with Maidstone Community Trust.



We have worked on non-fiction texts in Literacy, shape in Numeracy, and our independence in our cooking lessons.

DAISY CLASS

We have enjoyed going shopping, spending time out in the sensory garden, and visiting the farm this term. We have also been going to enrichment clubs once a week. Additionally, we have made lots of props for Woodstock which we are really looking forward to.



CLASS UPDATES

BUTTERFLY CLASS

Butterfly Class had a lovely end of term Sports Day/stay and play session. The children really enjoyed the activities and had fun joining in with the rest of the EYFS classes.



GRASSHOPPER CLASS

Grasshopper Class have had a fantastic term. We have enjoyed taking part in Sports Day and showcasing our skills in the different sporting activities. Throughout the term we enjoyed visiting the different areas we have available in school like: the sensory garden, field, soft play, Saplings and the MUGA. We have explored a range of topics including the 'Rainforest' and 'Holidays' which we are all looking forward to. It has been a pleasure teaching the Grasshoppers and we wish them a fun filled summer, and all the best as they move on into their new classes in September.



MAPLE CLASS

The Marvellous Maples were super busy last term. To support our topic of World War II, the Maples visited the Royal Engineers Museum. They took part in an investigation to find out who the suitcase could belong to... evacuee...army soldier...land worker etc. We then all designed and launched rockets ...some of them hit the roof!!

Later in the term, we went to play a game of rounders against another school. The Maple team are incredibly proud of the children and they represented both themselves and the school amazingly.

A well done also to George who achieved his grade 1 certificate and badge in Rebound Therapy! Fantastic work everybody.

CLASS UPDATES

OTTER CLASS

Otter Class have had a great term. We have been learning about 'Travel and Journeys'; considering what we would need to take on a journey and how to pack a backpack. We have also been learning about data, including bar graphs and tally charts.

Our weekly trips to horticulture sessions with Paul have also continued which pupils have thoroughly enjoyed.

Sports Day was a huge success for the pupils; they all engaged well in a range of activities. Well done Otters!



LADYBIRD CLASS



Ladybird Class enjoyed Sports Day this term. They loved showing their families all their skills within the different sports activities and sharing the fun with them.



We have had great fun exploring our topics of 'Rainforest', 'Holidays', and 'All About Me'. Again, we have continued to visit our outdoor learning environments, including the farm, Saplings, and field, and practice stopping at the zebra crossing and checking that it is safe to cross.

It has been a pleasure teaching the Ladybirds this year, and I wish them an enjoyable and fun-filled journey as they move on to their new classes in September.

NIGHTINGALE CLASS

Nightingale class have been very excited to learn about the Olympics! We have looked at lots of different sports, and tried some out ourselves on Sports Day.

We have also been learning about the country we are representing at Woodstock; Italy. We have enjoyed exploring lots of different aspects of Italy's culture, including lots of sensory play using pasta.

Our creative skills were put to the test when we made Olympic torches using droppers and blowing with straws to create a flame effect!



CLASS UPDATES

SPARROW CLASS



This term has been busy with trips to the Big Cat Sanctuary, the KsENT Olympics, and to see Five Acre Woody (our school sculpture that is part of the art trail in Maidstone this summer).

What an incredible opportunity we had to visit The Big Cat Sanctuary in Headcorn. Guided by Dan, pupils enjoyed an educational tour where they asked insightful questions and admired the cats. Every pupil exhibited exemplary behaviour.

We also visited the Hazlitt theatre after receiving an invitation from the Heart of Kent Hospice for our contribution to the Shaun the Sheep Art Trail. There were exciting arts and crafts activities laid on which pupils enjoyed, and they also had the chance to mingle with peers from other schools. Event staff praised our pupils for their politeness. We also got to find and visit our sculpture which is now part of the trail.

Seven pupils also attended the KsENT Olympics at Swallow Leisure Centre in Sittingbourne where they competed against 12 other schools and engaged in a variety of activities designed to spark interest in the upcoming Paralympic Games in Paris. Activities included: javelin, seated volleyball, Boccia, indoor golf, parachute games, basketball, judo and more. Pupils showcased their skills, teamwork and sportsmanship and collaborated with pupils from other schools.



LYNX CLASS

This term Lynx Class have enjoyed listening to different fairy tales and completing tasks based on the stories including lots of fun crafts! We have also explored sensory tuff trays for each of the different stories. We made our own sweet houses when learning about *Hansel and Gretel* and during *Goldilocks and the Three Bears* week we created bears on toast! After listening to *Jack and the Beanstalk*, we planted our own beans in small pots in the classroom. The following week Paul helped us to plant them in the gardening area! We have also enjoyed exploring Saplings.

For the last few weeks we have also been learning about Canada and preparing for Woodstock! We have all helped to create our Canadian flag pillowcase and our large sheet containing famous Canadian items.



CLASS UPDATES

FOXGLOVE CLASS



Foxglove Class have had a splashing term and have loved accessing the swimming pool every week!



We loved our topic of the 'Beach and Under the Sea' and have shown great exploration throughout our activities,



our favourite ones being painting with ice lollies and exploring the shapes and sounds of different sprinkles as we filled and poured them!

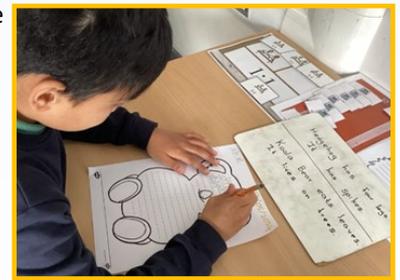


We also went on our first school trip this term; to the local park! The Foxgloves loved exploring all of the equipment and had a wonderful time!



HARE CLASS

For the past term we have focused on the topic 'Fantasy Land'. We have immersed ourselves in a magical world of make believe, and have incorporated this into our Literacy, Numeracy and key skills sessions.



We particularly enjoyed the sensory play experiences and cooking activities such as making our own porridge during the week of 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears'.

We have enjoyed our outside exploration, including meeting the donkeys at the yard and making our own waterfall in the horticulture area.

Recently, we have focused on our Woodstock preparations where we made our own decorations for the big day!



WILD BOAR CLASS

This term we have explored 'Fantasy Land' and stories such as *Little Red Riding Hood*, *The Three Little Pigs* and *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*. Practising our role play skills, we have dived deep into our imagination to make these stories come to life, really developing our expressive, social, and descriptive language skills.

In Art, we have built big bean stalks and castles following step by step guides, and even cooked hot bean soup and our own hot honey porridges.

We have also worked hard on our numeracy group work skills where we have built, written and read numbers up to 50! It's been a creative term and we have all enjoyed it so much! Pupils are looking forward to Woodstock and have been making lots of crafts for this to represent our country, Canada!

CLASS UPDATES

RABBIT CLASS



This term in Rabbit Class the pupils have been busy working on their Woodstock art; painting the trolleys and bedsheets.

We have thoroughly enjoyed participating in Sports Day and all the activities.

All the Rabbit's have loved learning about different fairy tales and re-enacting the stories.

BEAVER CLASS



"I made Big Ben"



"I loved painting & mark making"



"I enjoyed making a building"

WOODPECKER CLASS

This term Woodpecker Class have worked hard on emotional regulation; learning what methods support us the most effectively to help us deal with all of our emotions. Woodpeckers have found the following methods the most effective: yoga, bubbles, deep breathing, meditation and stomping our feet.

Woodpecker Class have also been working on developing their mental well-being. Every day pupils engage with their daily affirmations, reminding themselves of their incredible qualities and being proud of who they are.

We have also engaged with horticulture activities where pupils have been exploring and learning how to safely use new gardening equipment.



CLASS UPDATES

ROBIN CLASS



This term Robin Class continued to work on the progress built throughout the year. We have done many writing, reading and mark making activities, as well as continuing to build on our number and money knowledge.

We have enjoyed our weekly trips to Morrisons to get our cooking ingredients, going to Grow19 café,

as well as going on a bowling trip and to Wildwood zoo!



Being the last term of this academic year, we have been working hard on getting everything ready for our Woodstock festival. Pupils have created banners, paper chains, flags, and even their own tops for the day.

It has been a very busy term, filled with loads of fun and exciting activities, where Robin Class pupils have worked incredibly hard and learned a lot of different things!

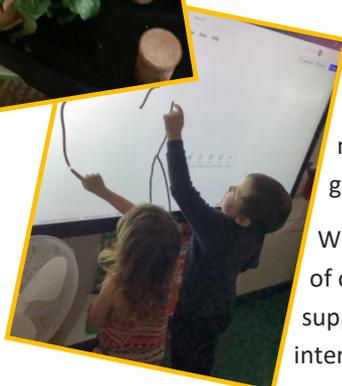


SNAIL CLASS

Snail Class have been looking at woodland animals. We had a fun engaging activity where we recreated rain using water spray bottles to simulate the animals getting wet.

We've also focused on 'Holidays and Transport' and 'Transition' this term, and have really enjoyed exploring role play; making tickets and pretending to pack and go on holiday.

We have also been working on sharing more of our space and resources without any adult support. The children have enjoyed using the interactive board for mark making.



HAWTHORN CLASS

Hawthorns have done incredibly well this term. Pupils have enjoyed following the Euros and designing their own shirts and medals showing great enthusiasm. Some of our pupils took part in their first Sports Day at Five Acre Wood and it was lovely to see everyone supporting each other.

The children have spent time in the outdoor learning environment looking for solids, liquids and gasses and have enjoyed being a part of cooking lessons this term, becoming more confident.

In History, the pupils were really surprised by how vehicles looked in the past.

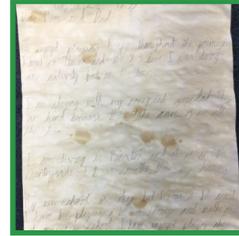
CLASS UPDATES

WHALE CLASS

This term Whale Class have been learning about World War II. We were really interested to learn about evacuees and rationing and in Literacy; we wrote a thoughtful letter from an evacuee.

We also found out about the places most affected by The Blitz. We visited The Royal Engineers Museum with Cherry Class to help us learn how the war affected families in Kent.

We have been going for walks around our local area whilst learning about road safety. We enjoy visiting the park and the library.



We have loved our swimming lessons, have improved our swimming skills and become more confident in the water.

Our adults were so proud of us all at the Palace Wood Sports Day and we especially enjoyed the inflatable races!



We finished off our busy year with a trip to Kent Life. We saw lots of farm animals, fed sheep and alpacas, looked inside a World War II house and had a tractor ride.



We have had another busy term which has included taking part in transition visits to our new classes at the St Katherine's site and continuing our learning about

World War II. We loved our visit to the Royal Engineers Museum in Gillingham and gave a collective 'WOW' when we saw the planes and tanks. They were huge.



CHERRY CLASS



We are looking forward to our end of year production of *Oh What a Knight* and having lots of fun at Woodstock.

We hope you all have an amazing summer.

BLACKBIRD CLASS

We have had lots of fun in term 6 and especially enjoyed using the swimming pool. Another highlight was Sports Day; we all worked hard to practice and enjoyed taking part with our families which was great, even though it was super hot!

This term we have explored and learned about our country for Woodstock which is Jamaica. We have worked together to be creative and decorate our sheet ready for our Woodstock festival too.

In Maths we have been exploring and learning all about 2D and 3D shapes, and we have also really enjoyed this term's stories.

CLASS UPDATES

BUTTERCUP CLASS



Buttercup Class have enjoyed taking part in the Olympic torch relay,

complete with our very own opening ceremony. We also enjoyed Sports Day with our families participating in different sports, where we all had such a lovely time.



The Buttercups have also had fun with our theme of Beach, where we have been cooking and doing different art activities.

RED DEER CLASS

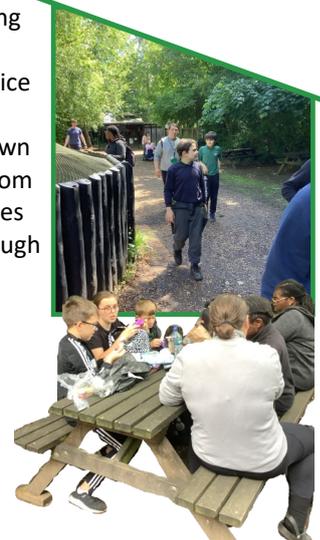
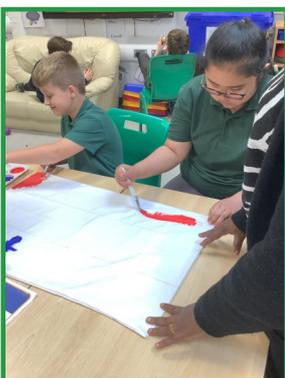


This term we have focussed on the topic 'Fantasy Land'. We have enjoyed exploring and learning about different children's stories like *The Three Little Pigs*, *Little Red Riding Hood* and Red Deer's favourite, *Hansel and Gretel*. The pupils favourite part was pushing the witch into the oven. The pupils have not only been reading the stories, but answering questions, sequencing the story, and taking part in activities linked to these stories e.g. cutting and sticking activities, puzzles, wordsearches, creating sentences and group games. During cooking, pupils created pizzas, ice cream milkshakes, and biscuit sweet houses (like the house from *Hansel and Gretel*).

In Art we have created the forest in *Little Red Riding Hood*, we have drawn a house free hand using shapes, and created the beanstalk and castle from *Jack and the Beanstalk*. We have also enjoyed exploring different textures and smells in the classroom environment and outside at playtimes, through sensory play, write dance, dough disco and Tac Pac.

Red Deer's enjoyed swimming this term and went on a school trip to Wildwood zoo! The pupil's had a great day finding all the different animals and exploring Wildwood; they even had a little time in the play area after lunch. The pupils did so well and were a credit to the school.

We are extremely proud of Red Deer class and their accomplishments this academic year!



CLASS UPDATES

CUCKOO CLASS

Cuckoo Class have been thrilled to have swimming and football sessions with Stones in the Community. We continued our learning about emotional regulation and as part of this, we visited the cinema to see Inside Out 2 with Sparrow Class.

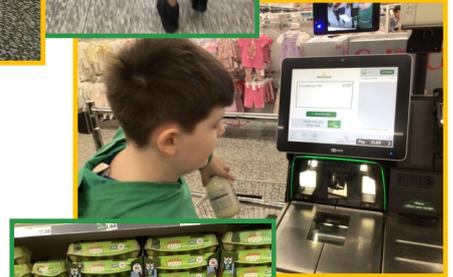


In Literacy, we have learnt about non-fiction texts and shape as part of our Numeracy.

We have continued to learn about independence

through our visits to the local supermarket where pupils have followed a shopping lists they had written to purchase items for cooking.

Well Done Cuckoo Class!



OSPREY CLASS

This term, we have been focusing on sporting events which has encompassed comparing the Euros to the Copa America. We have also focused on the Olympics; trying out different Olympic sports and seeing how we found each event. Personal favourites across the class were Boccia and handball.

We have also been preparing for Woodstock by learning all about our theme country, USA. We have been studying American monuments and have even attempted to make our own. We have also looked at American athletes and compared athletes from past and present.

In our horticulture sessions, down on the yard we have been helping to plant new plants and using things we can find around the yard to create a piece of art.

BAT CLASS

Bat Class embarked on their very first class trip to Adventure Kidz in July. We are incredibly proud of each and every one of them for the way they managed this new and different experience. From getting on and off the minibus seamlessly to their fantastic behaviour at Adventure Kidz, they were nothing short of amazing.

Well Done Bats!

CLASS UPDATES

CHAFFINCH CLASS



Chaffinch Class have had a wonderful and very busy final term. We thoroughly enjoyed practising for and competing in Sports Day.

We have been learning lots about mini beasts and Australia as part of our preparations for Woodstock.

Everyone enjoyed transition day and meeting their new teachers and classmates.

In Maths we have been looking at 2D and 3D shapes which the children have really got stuck into.

Most recently, we went on an end of year trip to Kent Life, where we loved seeing the animals, riding the tractor and exploring in the park. The staff were so proud of them as this was the first proper time they have been out this year and they did really well.

They are on track to get their picnic and playtime on the field before the end of term as a result of earning 100 good listening points! Well done for a fantastic year Chaffinches!



Bumblebee have had a wonderful final term, we have enjoyed getting ready for Woodstock, trying different ice creams and continued to develop our functional mobility skills.

The Bumblebee's have enjoyed lots of Woodstock themed arts and crafts and had a fantastic time showing the Olympic torch all the fun things we do in class.

We have had a lot of fun practising our functional mobility skills in a variety of different places, including the hydro pool, Sensory Garden and on the field.

It has been a fabulous and fun-packed year and we wish everyone a very enjoyable summer holiday!



BUMBLEBEE CLASS

CLASS UPDATES



JAY CLASS

Jay Class has had a bustling and enjoyable term, packed with exploration and hard work. We've focused on personalised targets tied to our current EHCP plans, ensuring lessons remain engaging through practical, hands-on learning.

Our topic's have included non-fiction books, 2D and 3D shapes, minibeasts, Olympics and Switzerland (our country for Woodstock) and we have used Clicker8 to complete digital literacy work.



This term, we made new friends, including donkeys that visited the yard. Additionally, we've been working on our independence skills, such as making our own snacks, practising emotional regulation strategies, and contributing to cleaning and tidying the classroom.

Jay Class have also accessed the school communities and environments by participating in road safety learning while transitioning.

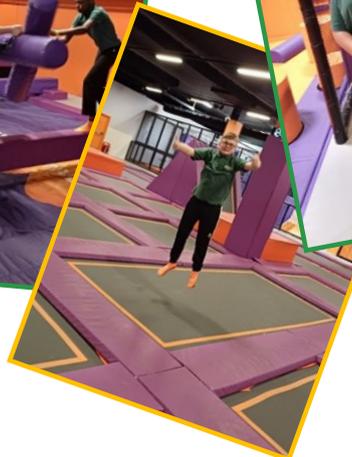
PINE MARTEN CLASS

Pine Marten had a wonderful end of year trip to Gravity and McDonalds. All the children were well behaved and played well together. They made us proud.

"It was fun and I jumped a lot and went in the cool play area"

"After all the jumping I was hot and exhausted"

"It was very good"



CLASS UPDATES

FIVE ACRE WOOD SNODLAND

YEAR 10 END OF YEAR TRIP

Year 10 from the Formal Approach visited Bedgebury Pinetum towards the end of term. They had a wonderful time climbing, running, and playing on all the different obstacles and equipment.

The adventure continued at Buttercups Goat Sanctuary where pupils had the opportunity to feed and pet the goats! It was brilliant!

Despite the rain, year 10 enjoyed their day out and getting to spend time as a year group with their friends and staff!

PFA GROUP WORK IN THE OLE

Our PFA (Preparing For Adulthood) groups have been working hard on a new footpath in the OLE. We are proud of the amazing job that they have done and have received many lovely comments about how nice they look. Well done to everyone involved.



NUMBER HEROES COMPETITION

National Numeracy ran a competition called Number Heroes that challenges entrants to illustrate how they would use numbers in a dream job or hobby.

For the second year in a row, one of our own pupils won in their category. Massive congratulations to Ethan in Oak Class who demonstrated how maths is

essential for positioning, sizing, and coding in game development.



PLAYGROUND MAKEOVER

Our playground has been beautifully transformed with a vibrant design featuring crowds of famous characters.



The process of bringing this artwork to life was a true community effort with the talented team who designed and painted the outlines. The pupils and staff then painted the design on sunnier days. They were also joined by Maidstone United Football Club who generously volunteered their time and enthusiasm to help. We can't wait to see the final result!



REDWOOD & BIRCH CLASSES

Year 7 went on a trip to Herne Bay where they played in the arcades and had chips and ice cream on the minibus as it was too rainy to go on the beach.

We also loved reading *How To Train Your Dragon* and predicting future events in the story. Pupils also practised transitioning to their Year 8 classes and can't wait to be on the main site next year.

LEAVERS ASSEMBLY & BBQ

On the last Friday of term, our whole Sixth Form joined together to celebrate our amazing leavers. After our assembly, the sun came out making it a perfect day to celebrate the end of an era where we all enjoyed burgers perfectly cooked by Phil and Iestyn.



NEW SUNSHINE COACH

On Friday 12th July, Synecore Limited raised £40,000 at its annual Charity Golf Day. The



money raised has purchased a Variety Club Sunshine Coach and we were selected as the lucky beneficiaries. Our heartfelt gratitude to Synecore Limited and Variety Golf for their incredible support and generosity.

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

FAWRIENT EXPRESS

If you've visited the Loose site recently, or read the local news, you will have seen the noticeable renovations on the train carriage. It has undergone a transformation from its former dusty old blue hue to a stunning burgundy that glistens in the sun, proudly displaying its name.



The interior has also been revamped with fresh wooden flooring, elegant panelling, a timeline of pictures, and a deep royal blue paint. The kitchen feels spacious and has been equipped with coffee machines supplied by Costa, and the cupboards are being stocked with tea and coffee beans.



Since the carriage arrived last August, Jeremy from Restoring Homes has done a fantastic job of managing the project and we are extremely grateful for his vision and expertise. There are a few things to be finalised before the grand opening in October, including the installation of a lift. However, the end is in sight, and there is much excitement throughout the school.

Thank you to everyone who has donated and supported us throughout this project. Without their contributions, none of this would have been possible. Barista training is already underway for our managers, and we cannot wait for our pupils to learn the skills involved in running this exciting café.

FAWBULOUS BUS

Not long after the arrival of the train carriage, you may remember us receiving a generous donation from NuVenture of a double-decker bus back in November. While the bus has been parked next to the playground at Loose, there has been some discussion about a name. In-keeping with our other projects, we had to use our acronym and have finally found a fitting title for it; the FAWbulous Bus.



Most of the bus will be turned into a soft-play facility while retaining the cab area in order for pupils to learn how to board a bus. After meeting with different vendors, SEC Works, who specialise in bus conversions, will be taking the bus away during the summer to start part one of the renovation works.

This project has taken time to get going, but thanks to generous donations over recent years, fundraising efforts and backing from volunteers, the bus is moving again! Stay tuned for more updates!

AN EVENING WITH GREGG WALLACE

Early June blessed us with a sunny evening perfect for an unforgettable gathering at The Queens Head in Sutton Valence. We were delighted to host a Q&A session with Gregg Wallace, renowned for his role as presenter on *MasterChef*. Gregg, whose son attends Five Acre Wood School, generously offered his support for our soft play bus project by approaching the school and dedicating his time to the cause.



Joined by Marc Cananur, Detective Sergeant and star of the reality series *Hunted*, they entertained us with humorous anecdotes, fitness tips, and recounted stories from Gregg's remarkable life journey. Of course, he couldn't resist indulging in some truly scrumptious desserts! Congratulations to Emma for winning the dessert competition with her Spanish almond and orange cake—it sounds delicious!

We are thrilled to announce that the event was a sell out and raised over £1234.51 for our cause. This achievement wouldn't have been possible without the generous support of Gregg, Marc, and the warm hospitality of Penny and Rob and the entire team at The Queens Head. Thank you for hosting us in such a picturesque setting overlooking the Weald. We are eager to organise more events like this in the future.

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

SHAUN IN THE HEART OF KENT ART TRAIL

The Heart of Kent's Shaun in the Heart of Kent Art Trail is now live, and our Five Acre Woody sculpture has been unveiled and taken residence somewhere along the trail nestled among a flock of little sheep designed by other local schools and community groups. 50 large Shaun sculptures can also be found around the parks, town centre and river walks throughout Maidstone.



The finished sculpture features pictures of our yard animals, designed by some of our pupils. All pupils enjoyed colouring or drawing an animal and got a sneak peek of the final design in April when we held our non-uniform day fundraiser. Thank you to everyone that donated, to our pupils, to the team at Identity Wraps, and to designer Kieran Diver.

Both the non-uniform day and school disco held at the beginning of July contributed significantly to our



fundraising goals. The latter was a fun filled evening of incredible dance moves, face paint and glitter tattoos! Thanks to Boogie Nites

Disco and our staff who supported the event without which it would not have been possible. A special thanks goes out to one of our talented pupils who helped to design the poster. We are already planning our next disco which will look a little spooky. More details will be shared at the beginning of the year.

FIND ME IN A BUILDING WITH MANY BOOKS



We hope that you find time to explore the Art Trail which is on until August 30th and discover the creativity and talent of our local community. Keep an eye out for our Five Acre Woody!

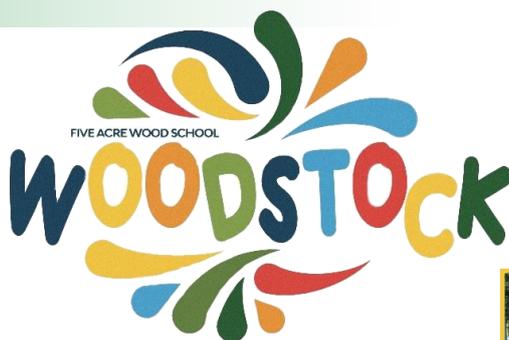


THANK YOU

The biggest thank you to Canterbury and District Welsh Society who recently made a donation which we will put towards purchasing new books for our exciting new library space.

Thank you to everyone for your unwavering support this year. Our fundraising efforts wouldn't have been possible without our school community, staff, and wider community. We can't wait to see what we can achieve together next year!





This year's Woodstock event had an Olympic theme and was another spectacular event that showcased the incredible talents of our pupils and brought our school community together in celebration.



The festival featured an impressive line up of stage and arena acts. Our very own FAWs Got Talent Performers and Choir dazzled the audience, alongside remarkable individual performances by **Lily Beck**, **Ellen Blane**, **Barny Holmes**, **Fred Clark**, **Nikita KC**, and **Taryn Charles**. We were also treated to fantastic shows by **Elementz Ent**, **Jack Rose**, **Lee Rose**, and **DJ Pink Panda**. The entertainment continued with the amazing **Crazy Legs** and **The Bubble Wizard**, ensuring there was never a dull moment.

The Woodstock activities were a huge hit, offering something for everyone. **Funtime Hire**, **Nikita KC's Creative Workshops**, and **archery sessions with Alex and Tina** kept our pupils engaged and entertained. We're grateful to **George and Friends Animal Assisted Therapy and Pony Parties**, **Kelly's Donkeys**, **Moonbeam Theatre**, and **Justin Austin** for his fantastic photobooth. The **Walderslade Judo Club**, led by **Caz and Eddie**, provided exciting



demonstrations and workshops, while **Soap Events'** ball pit and **Xcentric events'** foam party were crowd favourites. **Kent Perfect Parties** and **Caitlin Murphy** added a touch of glamour with their face painting and glitter bar.

No festival is complete without delicious food, and our catering team, led by **Helen Brunton**, outdid themselves. The incredible **RRT** and **Roger Graymead's** ice creams were the perfect treats for a summers day.



This wonderful event wouldn't have been possible without the generous support of our fundraisers and donors. Special thanks go to the **FAW Peaks Challenge Team** and their sponsors, **Friends Of Five Acre Wood School**, and **JEM Construction** for providing our security fencing. We are also honoured to have the continued support of music industry professionals, including **Lee & Michelle Rose** from **DeeVu Records**, and **Danielle Knights** from **Live & Love Music Agency**.

Last but not least, a big thank you to



James Holland and **Katie** from **Gravity AV** for their hard work and support throughout the day and to **Dave Ong** and **Eamonn Evans** from **Panache Audio / StageACE** for the incredible mobile stage that they provided.

We would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to our dedicated **committee members** and **Site Team** for their tireless efforts in making Woodstock a reality.

Woodstock was a testament to the spirit of our school community, and we're already looking forward to next year's festival!



Term Dates with Diary Dates 2024/2025

Date	Time	Event
Term 1		
Monday 2 nd September 2024	N/A	Staff training day (pupils not in school)
Tuesday 3 rd September 2024	N/A	Staff training day (pupils not in school)
Wednesday 4 th September 2024	N/A	Staff training day (pupils not in school)
Thursday 5 th September 2024	N/A	First day of term 1
TBC	All day	School photos (individual) – All sites
Monday 9 th September 2024	TBC	Class coffee morning
Wednesday 11 th September 2024	TBC	Class coffee morning
Friday 13 th September 2024	TBC	Class coffee morning
Friday 20 th September 2024	All day	Jeans for Genes Day
Wednesday 16 th October 2024	TBC	Autumn Festival (primary pupils)
Friday 25 th October 2024	N/A	Last day of term Spooky disco and spooky clothes day

Term 2		
Monday 4 th November 2024	N/A	First day of term 2
Friday 15 th November 2024	All day	Children in Need
Monday 2 nd December 2024	TBC	Winter performance
Tuesday 3 rd December 2024	TBC	Winter performance
Friday 6 th December 2024	All day	Christmas jumper day
Saturday 7 th December 2024	TBC	Winter Wonderland
Tuesday 10 th December 2024	10.00-11.00am	Winter Fair – Session 1
	1.30-2.30pm	Winter Fair – Session 2
Wednesday 18 th December 2024	Lunchtime	Christmas dinner
Thursday 19 th December 2024	Various	Class Christmas parties and Christmas clothes day
Friday 20 th December 2024	N/A	Last day of term

Term 3		
Monday 6 th January 2025	N/A	First day of term 3
Friday 14 th February 2025	N/A	Last day of term Own clothes day

Term Dates with Diary Dates 2024/2025

Term 4		
Monday 24 th February 2025	N/A	First day of term 4
Thursday 6 th March 2025	All day	World Book Day
Monday 10 th March 2025	N/A	Staff training day (pupils not in school)
Tuesday 11 th March 2025	N/A	Staff training day (pupils not in school)
Friday 14 th March 2025 (TBC)	All day	Comic Relief Day
Friday 21 st March 2025	All day	Socks for World Down Syndrome Day
Saturday 29 th March 2025	TBC	Spring family fun day
Wednesday 2 nd April 2025	10.00-11.00am	Spring Fair – Session 1
	1.30-2.30pm	Spring Fair – Session 2
Friday 4 th April 2025	N/A	Last day of term

Term 5		
Tuesday 22 nd April 2025	N/A	First day of term 5
Monday 5 th May 2025	N/A	Bank holiday (pupils and staff not in school)
Friday 16 th May 2025	TBC	FAW charity football match
Friday 23 rd May 2025	N/A	Last day of term

Term 6		
Monday 2 nd June 2025	N/A	First day of term 6
June 2025	TBC	Sports day
June 2025	TBC	Sports day – FAW Snodland
Friday 4 th July 2025	All day	Transition day
Monday 7 th July 2025	3.45-6.45pm	'Meet the new teacher' parents evening
TBC	TBC	Secondary summer performance
TBC	TBC	Secondary prize giving
Tuesday 22 nd July 2025	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.