



FIVE ACRE WOOD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2024

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY (Term 3/4):

Mon 6th Jan	First day of term 3
Fri 31st Jan	School disco
Fri 14th Feb	Own clothes day Last day of term 3
Mon 24th Feb	First day of term 4
Thurs 6th Mar	World Book Day
Mon 10th & Tues 11th Mar	Staff training days (pupils not in school)
Fri 21st Mar	Comic Relief Day
Fri 21st Mar	Socks for World Down Syndrome Day
Sat 29th Mar	Spring Family Fun Day
Wed 2nd Apr	Spring Fair
Fri 4th Apr	Last day of term 4

A MESSAGE FROM PEGGY...

Welcome to our latest newsletter! This issue is packed with festive cheer while also highlighting the many exciting events that have taken place this term.

Firstly, I would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest pupils and families and hope you have enjoyed your first couple of terms here with us. Similarly, welcome to our new staff members.

I'd like to share with you how pleased I was to hear that we maintained our Flagship School status, awarded by the Inclusion Quality Mark (IQM). This award recognises schools who have held IQM Centre of Excellence status for at least three years and played a strong leadership role in developing inclusion best practice across a network of schools. I must thank all of our dedicated staff for making this possible.

This term has been filled with wonderful celebrations. From the Children in Need activities at the start of the term to the festive Christmas jumpers and elf outfits towards the end, the atmosphere has been joyous.

Our usual Christmas door challenge has brightened hallways, and it has been lovely to see pupils get involved in the Christmas crafts, wonderfully showcased at our Winter Fairs.

It would be remiss of me not to congratulate our site team and fundraiser for organising our first Magical Grotto event. This allowed pupils and families to engage in various activities and spend time with Santa in his fabulous grotto; all crafted by our very talented staff. Thanks also to all of the volunteers who supported this event.

Our OLE team have also worked tirelessly this term, caring for poorly animals overnight, and assisted staff with preparations for Christmas celebrations. While we missed our usual Winter Wonderland celebration, they have definitely made the most of the outside space which has been looking especially festive of late.

It has also been exciting to see the FAWrient Express open to the public, providing

new opportunities for our pupils. We have also seen the addition of our new games bus and life lodge this term which you can read more about in the following pages.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a wonderful Christmas and New Year and look forward to seeing you back in school on Monday 6th January.

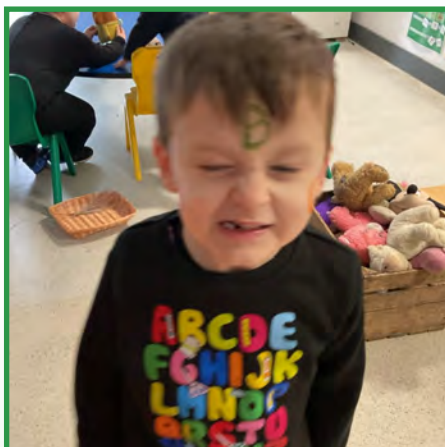


Peggy

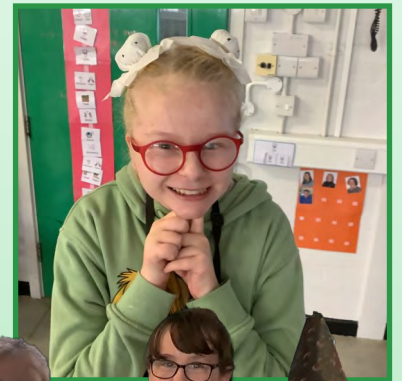
Parent/Carer Reminder:

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.

HALLOWEEN



HALLOWEEN



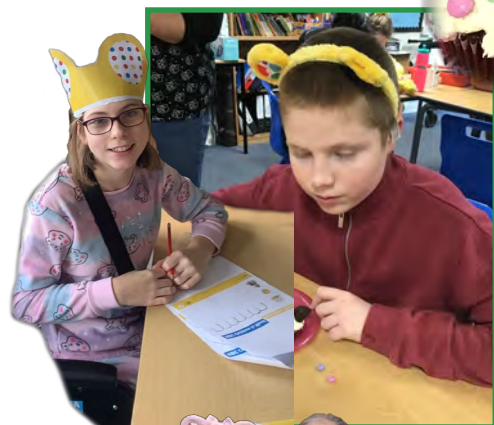
CHILDREN IN NEED

On Monday, 15th November, the school was transformed into a vibrant display of yellow and spots as we celebrated Children in Need. Pupils and staff came to school in their own clothes—with some even sporting pyjamas!

A big shout-out to Hazlitt Class, who reflected on how the money raised would help so many people and eagerly got involved in supporting the cause. They decorated biscuits and cakes to sell to children, parents, and at the tuck shop, raising an amazing £85! Along the way, they honed valuable life skills, such as calculating change for customers, all while serving with big smiles. What a fantastic team effort—well done, Hazlitt Class!

Tolkien Class had a blast decorating their own Pudsey Bears, which they cut out and raced across the hall by flapping them. They also made Pudsey-themed cakes. Other activities included a Pudsey-themed bean bag toss challenge, a blindfolded Pudsey pairs painting game, and a Pudsey treasure hunt.

Thank you to everyone who donated—we raised just over £400 for such a fantastic cause!



FAWRIENT EXPRESS

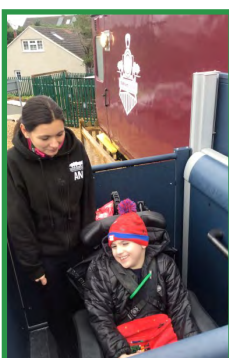
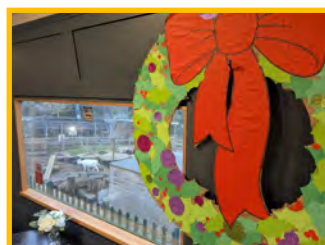
After celebrating the completion of the FAWrient Express training academy last term, it has been lovely to open its doors to the public. The train café has welcomed staff, parents, and members of the community, all of whom have been delighted by its unique and charming atmosphere. Pupils from Sixth Form and other approaches across the school have done a wonderful job refining barista and other employability skills which they have done with great enthusiasm. We are extremely proud of their hard work and are thrilled to share that the café secured a 5-star hygiene rating during their recent visit from the Environmental Health Officer. All our customers have been really positive about their experience, with some becoming regular visitors.

It is working well as a training academy and classes have had the opportunity to access the space, with pupils enjoying interaction with new faces, furthering their personal development skills in a real-world setting. For many of our pupils, accessing a space such as this might not ordinarily be possible, making it a lovely addition. Staff have also found it a perfect spot to unwind during lunch breaks, adding to the sense of community it fosters.

While Manager Clive and his fantastic baristas perfect the drinks, the café offers an array of delicious food, courtesy of The Hawkhurst Bread Shed and Nom Nom Nibbles. From fresh salads, sandwiches, and wraps to indulgent sweet treats, there's something for everyone to enjoy! Looking to the future, plans for the FAWrient Express include additional catering facilities and the addition of a roastery.

We're so proud of everything our training academy café has achieved so far and can't wait to see what the future holds.

Be sure to follow the FAWrient Express on Facebook ([FAWrient Express](#)) and Instagram ([@fawrient](#)) for updates!



Aviva Community Fund

We are delighted to share that our application to the Aviva Community Fund was successful and fundraising is already underway to raise money for our next visionary project – The FAWrient Express Roastery. This initiative will be located onsite, integrated with the FAWrient Express.

This will create a unique, inclusive learning environment that equips our pupils with practical skills and work-ready experiences. By operating a roastery within the school, we will provide pupils with hands-on training in coffee roasting, packaging, quality control, and customer service, all underpinned by a structured curriculum tailored to nurture independence and confidence.

We are overwhelmed by the incredible support we have received so far and we are so grateful to everyone for their generosity and encouragement.

If you would like to contribute, please visit the below link to make a donation:

<https://www.avivacommunityfund.co.uk/p/the-fawrient-express-roastery>

EXCITING DEVELOPMENTS

We are thrilled to share some exciting news about our latest projects that aim to enrich the learning experiences of our pupils and foster a love of reading and creativity.



The Transformation of the 7FAW7

We are currently re-purposing the 7FAW7, the front 10-metre fuselage section of a retired Airbus A319 that previously flew with Air Portugal under the name of Antonio Sergio. This unique project will transform the aircraft into a cutting-edge, fully inclusive library, designed to cater for the diverse needs of our pupils.

Features of the New Library:

Diverse Learning Materials: The library will be equipped with a variety of resources, including books, audio stations, sensory story sacks and films, all aimed at enriching the reading experience.

Sensory Story Sack Den: We are excited to announce the conversion of the luggage hold into an immersive 'sensory story sack den' that promises to inspire awe and wonder among our pupils.

This innovative project has been made possible thanks to the incredible generosity of the Mark Benevolent Fund. We are also grateful to JEM Construction Ltd and Restoring Homes for their expertise in repurposing the aircraft, and we have several other exciting potential sponsors lined up!

We can't wait to open this pioneering space in the New Year, as it will provide our pupils with an inspiring environment to explore and enjoy literature.



Introducing the FAWtilus

In addition to the library project, we are proud to introduce the FAWtilus, a retired 10.15-metre freefall lifeboat, weighing approximately 10 tonnes. The name FAWtilus is derived from our school's acronym (FAW) and draws connections to maritime themes, represented by "The Nautilus," while embodying qualities such as fortitude.

About the FAWtilus:

Emergency Lifeboat: This self-sufficient watercraft was designed to provide a means of escape for up to 45 people from ships and offshore platforms during emergencies. It was built to withstand harsh sea conditions, ensuring a safe evacuation process.

Recent History: The FAWtilus was based in the North Sea and was last in service around 2022, with its engine run for approximately 300 hours from new.

Transportation and Repurposing: The lifeboat was transported from Aberdeen on April 4th, 2024, and craned onto the Loose site the following day. With the generous support of The Cobtree Charity Trust, JEM Construction Ltd has transformed it into a distinctive and playful counselling space for our staff and pupils.



These projects represent our commitment to creating enriching and supportive environments for our pupils at Five Acre Wood School. We look forward to sharing more updates as we progress and are excited to unveil these innovative spaces in the near future!

RECENT UPDATES

FAWlife Lodge

We are thrilled to share the fantastic news about the transformation of a three-bedroom caravan into the FAWlife Lodge, an extraordinary space designed to help our pupils develop essential life skills.

This innovative addition to Five Acre Wood School offers a real-world environment where pupils can learn and practice everyday skills, such as hoovering, making beds, preparing meals and even hosting a dinner party. These invaluable experiences are vital in helping our young people prepare for adulthood and fostering greater independence.

The creation of the FAWlife Lodge has only been possible thanks to the generosity and support of many incredible organisations. We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to J.E.C Electrical Contractors, PSM Plant Hire, and The Fascia Place, whose contributions have turned this dream into reality.

The FAWlife Lodge is more than just a building—it is a bridge to brighter futures for our pupils, offering them the tools and confidence to thrive as adults. Thank you to everyone who played a part in making this project possible!

Posh Bus

The "Poo Bus", the oldest minibus in our fleet, was on the brink of being decommissioned. Affectionately named by one of our pupils due to its condition, this vehicle was cherished by the pupil, who proposed to Peggy, our Principal, that it be repurposed into a fully accessible games room.

In response to this inspiring vision, The Variety Golf, along with the exceptional teams at HTC and Stanford Coachworks, stepped in to turn this dream into a reality. These companies are renowned for designing and building luxury minibuses for high-profile clients, creating bespoke vehicles that feature premium products and the latest technology. Through their dedicated efforts, the "Poo Bus" was transformed into the exquisite "Posh Bus" games room, equipped with all the modern amenities one could expect, including a PlayStation 5 and Apple TV!

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Jess Rider from Stamford Coaches and Justin Seal from HTC for their incredible generosity. Their commitment to going above and beyond has profoundly impacted the lives of our pupils. The "Posh Bus" returned to our site to much fanfare and excitement on November 22nd and has been in constant use ever since!

Over the past two terms, a group of Sixth Form pupils have embraced their creative potential by participating in Vocational Art or engaging in Art Enrichment activities.

In Vocational Art, pupils have embarked on various projects designed to enhance their artistic skills, critical thinking, and understanding of the art world. Inspired by renowned artists like Andy Warhol, Alma Thomas, and Mondrian, they created stunning pieces that reflect their growing appreciation for and openness to the arts.

In Enrichment Art sessions, pupils experienced different medium such as collage, paint, chalk and charcoal and completed gorgeous pictures which they proudly took home.

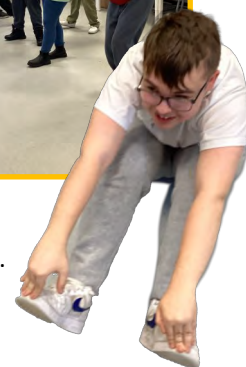
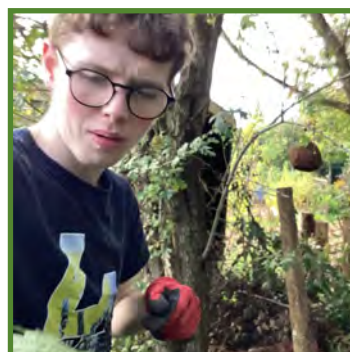
Pupils have also been busy participating in vocational gardening and construction projects, making a significant impact on the school environment at Oxford Road. Recently, bulbs and shrubs have been planted and we cannot wait to see the daffodils flowering in the Spring! Pupils also put up the Christmas tree!

Plans are in place for the warmer months to develop a vegetable garden and plant fruit trees, adding even more life and purpose to the space.

As part of their ASDAN work experience with the OLE team, pupils gained valuable practical skills, including organising tools at the tool station, following instructions, supporting one another to meet deadlines, and ensuring tasks were completed to plan.

Some pupils have been exploring their creativity and developing their performing arts skills with Rebecca from EDC. The sessions have included a variety of activities such as acting, dance routines, and exploring steps from pantomimes, musicals, and diverse music genres.

Pupils have shown incredible teamwork, honed their memorisation skills, and displayed remarkable confidence by expressing themselves and even creating their own dance moves!



CLASS UPDATES

ADLINGTON CLASS

In Adlington class this term we have worked on a whole range of different skills. We have accessed a range of environments including; trips out shopping, to the cinema to see Spiderman, to the OLE for gardening and forest school, and also a trip to the new games bus which is an amazing new addition to our curriculum.

Our topic for Numeracy this term has been addition and subtraction and understanding number value and in Literacy we have been focusing upon the book of 'Wonder by R J Palacio'.



The children have done us proud with preparing for Christmas by decorating the classroom together with beautiful colouring and decorations.

We are so proud of all their contributions to class this term.

ADEPITAN CLASS

Adepitan class has been working incredibly hard this term, earning our much-anticipated reward of attending the Pantomime (Oh yes, we have!). Alongside this, we've embraced the festive spirit by participating in a variety of Christmas activities, including the Winter Fair, designing Christmas-themed doors, writing letters to Santa, and crafting beautiful Christmas cards.

It has been a very long term and the pupils have been very well behaved throughout.

Have a great Christmas!



CLASS UPDATES

APPLEGATE CLASS



Applegate class has been busy getting into the Christmas spirit with a range of festive activities! They have been very busy creating beautiful ornaments to sell at the Winter Fair, learning new Makaton signs for Christmas songs, and making cards for those around them. They loved using their fingerprints to make fairy lights for our WOW wall!

BABE CLASS



We have had lots of fun in Babe class this term! We started the term with lots of activities based around Halloween, Diwali, and fireworks, including making edible sparklers!

We enjoyed lots of singing during Nursery Rhyme Week and took part in some exciting experiments during Science Week. More recently, we have taken part in lots of Christmassy activities! We are looking forward to having lots more fun in the new year.

ENNIS-HILL CLASS



Ennis-Hill class had a fantastic time dressing up for Halloween! The pupils enjoyed playing team games, creating Halloween-themed drawings, and even watched a spooky film together. In ASDAN, we have been working really hard on our life skills and independence. One of our recent focuses has been learning how to make hot drinks; we have even been making them for friends and staff.

CLASS UPDATES

CHOPIN CLASS

What a busy and enjoyable term we have had in Chopin Class! Our theme for this term was "Wonderful Winter Festivity," and the children have been thoroughly engaged in exploring a variety of exciting topics.

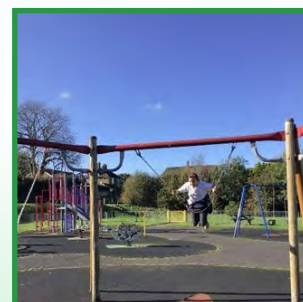
The children have been learning about fireworks and a special festival: Diwali. We have been identifying different weathers and seasons and what would be appropriate clothing to wear. We have also been looking at what animals and objects we would find in hot and cold climates, and especially during the Winter season.

A highlight this term has been our many visits to our Sapling Garden, where we observed the seasonal changes taking place. Recently, we had a special visit from our school guinea pigs.

Charley, Lisa and the team wish you a lovely break and we look forward to seeing you in the New Year.



HAZLITT CLASS



This term we have enjoyed continuing our learning outside of school and loved going on trips. Our adventures included a visit to Poplar Park, a trip to the cinema, and a pantomime.

We learnt about why we have Children in Need Day and decided we wanted to raise money, so we decorated LOTS of cakes and biscuits and sold them to Palace Wood pupils, staff and parents.



CLASS UPDATES

ELSA CLASS



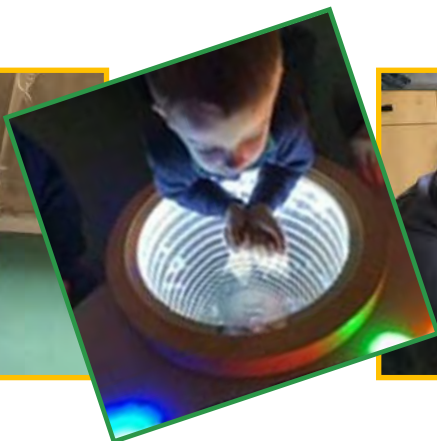
Elsa class has had a busy term exploring fireworks, Diwali, nursery rhymes, winter, and Christmas. We have enjoyed experiencing lots of activities based on these topics within our rotations. Also, we continue to access the areas around the school, including Saplings, the field, MUGA, and soft play.



The pupils have embraced the sensory activities on offer, finding joy in our sensory light sessions and the exploration of various sensory lights. Our 1:1 and

workstation activities, designed to encourage communication and choice-making, are also a hit with the pupils, who relish these opportunities. The class love for sensory learning is evident in their engagement in these activities throughout the day.

Elsa class is brimming with excitement as we extend our warmest wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone.



MARLEY CLASS



This term in Marley class we have particularly enjoyed spending time in horticulture as we worked together to help build a new fence with Paul. Additionally, we have started the exciting project of constructing a mud kitchen for our class garden, which we are looking forward to completing

in Term 3. We have also been focusing on our fine motor skills and have enjoyed lots of cooking and trying new foods.



CLASS UPDATES

PICASSO CLASS



We all enjoyed our first visit to the FAWrient Express café; the children savoured their snacks and took pleasure in interacting with the public.



HOLMES CLASS

This term has been a very busy one for Holmes class!

We celebrated and learnt about Children in Need, Thanksgiving, Kwanzaa, and we are currently learning all about Christmas!

During Literacy, we continued to work on our sentence building skills and perfecting our writing, as well as working on developing our phonics knowledge.

In Numeracy, we have enjoyed counting and adding different amounts. This has helped us to be more independent during our weekly outings to Grow19 and shopping!



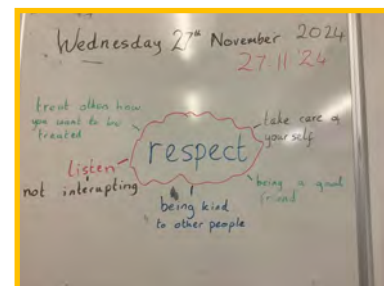
CLASS UPDATES

POTTER CLASS



In Potter class we have been busy learning, playing and singing. During anti-bullying week, we learnt about respect and tried our best to be respectful to each other, our families, and our environment. We agreed that being respectful could include:

- saying hello/good morning/good afternoon;
- tidying up after ourselves and others;
- treating others nicely (how you would want to be treated);
- listening;
- being kind and a good friend;
- taking care of yourself and others.



We also learnt about the purpose of parliament and how to vote. We voted on a range of things to organise our day as well as recording votes in tallies and pictograms. In addition, we used our artistic talents to create the Houses of Parliament from clay and junk modelling materials.

We learnt to play some games from the past including Blind Man's Bluff and string telephones.



As we got closer to Christmas, the glitter made a very significant appearance and we made some amazing decorations! We also learned to sign and sing *I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas* and *We Wish You A Merry Christmas*.



RAVEL CLASS

Ravel Class have had an exciting term! We have been focusing on our Home and Community Safety project which has included learning about safe and unsafe actions, warning signs, and planning our winter event. We have continued to enjoy our Horticulture sessions, where this term we have engaged with turfing, planting, outdoor painting, and creating a path of bark.

We have enjoyed going out on the bus for travel safety training and have recently started to go to Sainsbury's on Friday afternoons. In Literacy, we have been focusing on our individual targets as well as sentence building, and in Maths, we have been working on Shape, Space and Measure. We are finishing the term with a trip to Gravity and McDonald's!



CLASS UPDATES

THULA CLASS

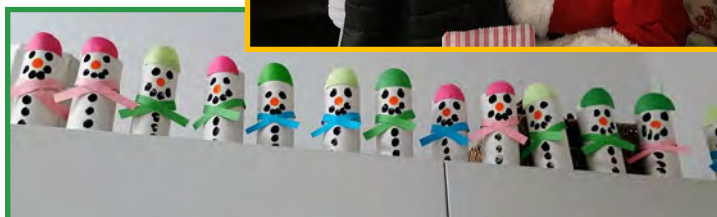


We really got into the Christmas spirit at our EYFS stay and play. Father Christmas had taken over Saplings and we visited him in his grotto.

Everyone loved the hot chocolate, marshmallow toasting, and biscuit decorating.



We were very proud that all of our snowmen sold at the Winter Fair!



ZIMMER CLASS



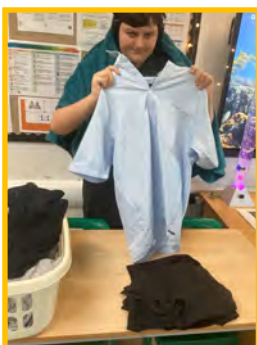
The children settled back in after half term beautifully and have made strides of progress with their communication skills and are using PECs to make their requests.

We enjoyed having a special visit from the yard team with the lovely guinea pigs and learnt how to gently pet and stroke them.

We were also lucky enough to have been donated some lovely recycled instruments which the pupils absolutely loved! They have also enjoyed preparing for Christmas and spreading Christmas cheer through Christmas songs and tinsel!



VERDI CLASS



Verdi class has had a great term with our project being Home and Community Safety. We have been learning how to safely use digital devices and how to keep ourselves safe online.

In horticulture sessions, we have developed new skills, including learning how to safely use a drill. Alongside this, we've been exploring concepts of shape, measure, and capacity, helping to build our understanding in practical ways.



Life skills have also been a big part of our term. We've been practising folding and hanging clothes correctly and every week, Verdi class has taken part in shopping trips to buy ingredients for cooking lessons and snacks of their choice, further building independence and decision-making skills.

We also had a great day out at the cinema which all of the pupils thoroughly enjoyed!

CLASS UPDATES

FARAH CLASS



Farah class have had a lovely term, learning about the *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* in Literacy and practicing their times tables in Maths. They have started to visit the café whilst shopping where they have enjoyed choosing delicious treats such as pancakes, sausage baps, and more! At the end of term we enjoyed our first proper trip out bowling and for a meal together. All the children made us proud and we are looking forward to more trips in the future. We wish all our children and families a restful break and look forward to seeing you all in 2025!

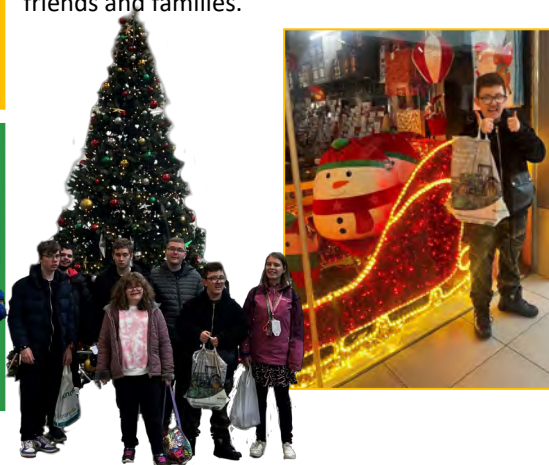


EDISON CLASS

Edison class went to town on the public bus from Oxford Road. They pupils carefully planned their route and checked the timetable for the bus beforehand. Armed with prepared shopping lists, they headed out to buy presents for their families.

At lunchtime, they all ordered and paid for their McDonald's. Upon returning to school, they wrapped up their presents and made their own labels out of old Christmas cards.

As part of their ASDAN course, Edison Class helped out at the Christmas Shop at Snodland and sold lots of presents to the pupils for their friends and families.



WRIGHT CLASS

Amongst many other things which we would like to celebrate, pupils in Wright class have been doing their work experience for their ASDAN accreditation and have been supporting the team of volunteers to run the weekly Tea'n Toast community event at St Martin's Church in Shepway.

Our pupils have been developing their communication skills as well as many of their soft and functional skills, such as speaking, problem-solving, teamwork, and leadership. They have been daring to communicate with unfamiliar people from the local community and to organise themselves in small groups to welcome visitors, to ask them what they want to eat and drink, to serve them, to go and speak to them and check if all is OK, to clean tables, wash up, and use the dishwasher.

As part of their involvement with their local community, our pupils have completed some gardening work at the OLE, painted fences, and cleared up the Japanese mini dense forest. They also helped out with the Christmas wrapping for the Christmas shop at Greenfields Primary School, made some Christmas tree decorations and props for the FAW Christmas Grotto, and took part in the BIG CLEAN UP event run by Golding Homes to prepare Shepway area to be ready for the festive season by doing litter picking. Looking ahead, more work experience is planned next term at the FAWrient Express.



CLASS UPDATES

FIVE ACRE WOOD SNODLAND

HISTORY CLUB

(UPDATE FROM DUNCAN FRYER)

Another term at History Club has wrapped up, and what a journey through time it's been! We unravelled the secrets of Egyptian mummification



(turns out, ancient embalming is a *wrap*), cheered Nelson's Trafalgar heroics, survived the chaos of Norman invasions), and uncovered the explosive details of the Gunpowder Plot. Then there were the Tudors, whose marital escapades made Henry VIII the original dating app



disaster, and a certain Virgin Queen who reigned supreme while dodging more proposals than Taylor Swift!

We closed the term with a

Christmas Party that was less "Bah Humbug" and more "party like it's 1599," complete with fun, games, and the timeless spirit of history lovers everywhere! Next term, we're planning to cover more royal scandals, ancient debates over democracy and perhaps even a guest lecture from Julius Caesar on the fine art of crossing the Rubicon.

Here's to another term of historical hijinks and a future where history is always a party!

ELIOT CLASS

This term in Eliot class has been a whirlwind of excitement, creativity, and

achievements! From mastering fractions to exploring Tudor history, our pupils' curiosity and determination have been inspiring. Cookery lessons turned into mini MasterChef challenges with perfect pizzas and dreamy desserts, while gardening projects saw our young green thumbs transforming the outdoor area with dreams of homegrown veggies.

Our visit to Loose Farm was unforgettable, with hands-on animal care and farm chores leaving us with funny stories and new knowledge.



Extracurricular activities included the Signing Choir, History Club, and Parliament Week, during which the classroom transformed into a mini House of Commons, complete with passionate speeches and serious deliberation. Meanwhile, they shone at the Aylesford sports challenge, proving their brilliance both in mind and body.



As the term wound down, we hit peak festivity with the Santa Dash. Dressed to sleigh (see what we did there?), the children dashed through the school grounds with the kind of energy that would make Santa himself proud. They

radiated holiday cheer with every step, leaving behind a trail of laughter and festive spirit. What a way to cap off an extraordinary term!

WINTER FAIR



As always, it was lovely to welcome families to our Winter Fair and Edison class enjoyed representing sixth form;



selling phone charms and Christmas candle jars and they sold them all!

SANTA DASH



On the 6th December, classes took part in an interhouse Santa Dash competition whereby pupils took part in a 200m, 400m, or

800m race. Congratulations to Rochester House who won the competition!



FUNDRAISING UPDATE

FROM OUR FUNDRAISER HANNAH

As we deck the halls and spread the cheer, we are thrilled to share some exciting updates on our fundraising efforts.

FIVE ACRE WOOD MAGICAL GROTTO

This November we held our first Five Acre Wood Magical Grotto; pupils and their families had the opportunity to enjoy toast with the elves, engage in various festive activities, and even meet Santa himself in his enchanting grotto.



We are extremely grateful for the invaluable support of every single member of staff who helped bring this event to life. Their dedication, creativity, and hard work made this magical experience possible for our pupils.

We have received some fantastic feedback from parents, here's what just one parent had to say; 'I just wanted to say a huge thank you to the people who organised and took part in running this event. We have tried taking the children to see Santa in previous years in various locations but it has always been a very overwhelming experience for them with all the lights, sounds and don't get me started on the waiting!

The event we attended yesterday was absolutely perfect for them. They were able to be themselves, no one minded that George didn't want to sit at the

table and would rather wander around the room investigating all the decorations, there were no crazy lights or loud music and the fact that all the children went into the grotto at the same time to prevent any waiting was a genius idea. I really hope you do this again over the next few years, we will be first in line for tickets!

We look forward to continuing to create more unforgettable moments for our pupils in the future. Thank you to everyone who made our first magical grotto event a resounding success!



WINTER FAIRS



As always, it was a delight to host our annual Winter Fair and see so many of our families. Our pupils thoroughly enjoyed making some festive treats and items to sell.



CASHPOT FOR SCHOOLS

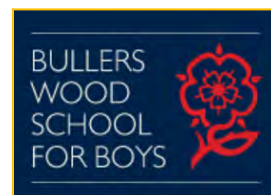
Asda's Cashpot for Schools initiative that ran throughout November helped raise funds for Primary schools nationwide. Thank you to everyone who thought of us when shopping in Asda recently. This amazing initiative raised £463.82 for our school.

SOFT PLAY BUS

We are pleased to share we have received further funding which will support the next phase of transforming our double decker bus into a soft play space for pupils. This amazing news means our bus can stay with the renovation company and return in the new year, fully refurbished. We can't wait to share this phenomenal transformation with you.

THANK YOU

We were over the moon when Bullers Wood School for Boys reached out and informed us that every year they raise money for both a national and local charity and this year they had chosen us! Every pupil in years 7-10 took part in a sponsored run during their PE lesson within the same week. Staff set the pupils a time limit of 45 minutes and pupils had to see how many laps they could do in the allotted time. The effort was amazing, and some pupils nearly ran 10k! They raised an incredible £800 for our charity, which will support the final stage of double decker bus renovation project. We cannot thank them enough!



CHRISTMAS EVENTS

CLASS CELEBRATIONS

Different learning approaches held various celebrations including Stay and Play events, Winter Performances, and a Sensory Snowball. It was heart-warming to see the joy on the pupils' faces and the fantastic turnout from families. Thank you to everyone who attended and made these celebrations so special.

EYFS STAY AND PLAY



A collaborative effort by EYFS and the OLE team, saw pupils and their families welcomed to the Saplings and new Brambles area, where they could dance in the snow, decorate biscuits, roast marshmallows and enjoy a warming hot chocolate.

A highlight was being able to visit Santa in his grotto, sit in his sleigh and make food for his reindeer.



These sessions, held over three afternoons, allowed our pupils to explore a wealth of learning opportunities including developing social skills and being able to share experiences with their family in a safe and familiar environment.

Thank you to the OLE team: Paul, Nicole, Laura, Holly and

Zack, who visits the OLE on work experience.

We also have to thank the PFA group from Snodland, who played a crucial role in building the new Brambles area, especially for our event in such a short time.

Everyone's dedication and hard work are truly appreciated.



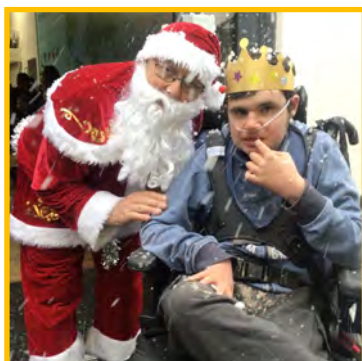
SECONDARY STRUCTURED STAY AND PLAY

Secondary Structured pupils have been working hard to complete their project this term which was focused on Home and Community Safety. Pupils have been learning about risks, recognising safe and unsafe actions and choosing activities to engage with when planning their event. Pupils chose to have two sensory trays, a wreath making station, a wool ornament station, and a snowball throwing and a marshmallow snowman station. Pupils had lots of fun and enjoyed engaging with their parents.



CHRISTMAS EVENTS

SENSORY SNOWBALL



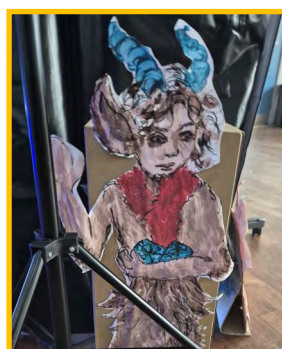
The Sensory Learning Approach recently hosted their annual Sensory Snow Ball, and this year was truly magical! The hall was transformed into a breathtaking Narnia Wonderland, where pupils strolled through an enchanted forest of Christmas trees, danced beneath a shimmering disco ball, and explored the magnificent Ice Queen's Palace—a space filled with lights and wonder.



The children and their families gathered together for a very special moment with Santa and his elves, enjoying a signed sensory story of *'The Night Before Christmas'*. The event also featured an array of sensory, winter-themed curiosity activities designed to captivate and engage every child.



The morning was filled with joy, laughter, and heart warming moments, culminating in a delightful surprise—a snowy photo opportunity with Santa!



CHRISTMAS EVENTS



CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY



'ELFRIDGES' CHRISTMAS SHOPS



Our 'Elfridges' Christmas shops, run by TEAM Family Support, were a great success. It was so lovely to see the excitement on the children's faces as they picked their gifts for family members and people at home. Thank you to all those who sent money for the gifts and made it possible for our children to have this special shopping experience. Thanks also must go to Edison class who helped out at the Snodland Christmas shop. We are sure the children are very excited to give out their gifts and we hope you thoroughly enjoy them.



CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION

Each year pupils are invited to design a card for our Christmas card competition. We are pleased to announce that the winning designs from last year—created by George, Gabriella, and Noah—are featured on this year's school Christmas cards which have been sent to staff, pupils and external contacts. Well done to you all!



Noah—Tolkien Class



George—Ennis-Hill Class



Gabriella—Wright Class



CHRISTMAS EVENTS

LAST WEEK OF TERM

On Monday 16th December, we were delighted to welcome a very special guest—Santa himself! Dressed in his finest red suit, he spent the day delivering presents to all the classes across the school. Despite a packed schedule, Santa managed to visit everyone—proving once again that he truly is magic!

If only he had visited a couple of days later however and he would've seen our hall a hive of activity, with lots of Christmas dinners being served and even a karaoke session led by our Headteacher, Tim, at the Loose site.

By the end of the week, the festive spirit was in full swing, with lots of elves and Christmas parties bringing cheer and excitement across the school. From everyone here, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Term Dates with Diary Dates 2025

Term 3

Monday 6 th January 2025	N/A	First day of term 3
Friday 31 st January 2025	EYFS & KS1 – 5.30-6.30pm KS2 & KS3 – 6.45-7.45pm	School disco (at Loose site)
Friday 14 th February 2025	N/A	Last day of term Own clothes day

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 21 st March 2025	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
Friday 4 th July 2025	EYFS & KS1 – 5.30-6.30PM	Summer disco (at Loose site)

	KS2 & KS3 – 6.45-7.45PM	
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.