



FIVE ACRE WOOD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2025

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY (terms 5–6):

Tues 22nd April	First day of term 5
Mon 5th May	Bank Holiday
Fri 23rd May	Last day of term 5
Mon 2nd June	First day of term 6
TBC—June	Sports Day Loose
TBC—June	Sports Day Snodland
Fri 27th June	FAW Charity Football Match
Fri 4th July	Transition Day
Mon 7th July	Meet the new teacher—parents evening
TBC—July	Secondary Summer Performance
TBC—July	Secondary prize giving
Tues 22nd July	Last day of term 6

A MESSAGE FROM PEGGY...

Welcome to the Spring 2025 Newsletter! It is always a pleasure to reflect on the incredible progress our pupils have made, the wonderful events enjoyed by both pupils and staff, and the various activities and opportunities that have put smiles on our pupils' faces. This newsletter is a fantastic opportunity to share these achievements, upcoming events, and important reminders with you.

We are particularly excited to share with you our new radio station project! This initiative provides our pupils, volunteers, and community groups with the chance to learn how radio works. Pupils have already enjoyed listening to their song requests and hearing our signing choir's new single release on the airwaves. It has been an exciting addition

to our school, and we cannot wait to see how it develops! Our talented staff have also been hard at work this term, showcasing their creativity in decorating classroom doors for World Book Day. In addition, Laura and Lola have reached an exciting milestone – they have had their very own book published! This is a fantastic achievement and one we are incredibly proud of.

As always, I would like to say thank you to international expert Emily Rubin for her ongoing assistance (annually) and delivering her excellent SCERTS (Social Communication, Emotional Regulation and Transactional Support) workshop to staff this month. This year, we are excited to offer the SCERTS workshop to parents on 1st May via Zoom.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone a restful and enjoyable spring break. I look forward to welcoming our pupils back to school on Tuesday, 22nd April.

Peggy



Please can I remind all parents/carers that in the interest of your child's health and safety, it is your responsibility to ensure all information on Healthcare Plans is kept up to date. As always, if you have any issues accessing any Apps, Portals or just need general assistance, please email office@five.acre.kent.sch.uk and someone will get back to you.

WORLD BOOK DAY PHOTOS



WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY/RED NOSE DAY

Friday 21st March was World Down Syndrome Day and pupils and staff were invited to wear their craziest socks combo to raise awareness of Down syndrome. This year, World Down Syndrome Day coincided with Red Nose Day, so there was an extra splash of red around the school as we also supported Comic Relief. A huge thank you to everyone for their generous donations. Thanks to your kindness, we raised £212.82 for Comic Relief, making a real difference to those in need.



GIRLS FOOTBALL TRIP

In celebration of International Women's Day, a group of our primary-aged girls had the incredible opportunity to take part in the Biggest Ever Girls Football Session. It was a day full of fun, challenge, and new experiences!

The pupils stepped into an unfamiliar environment and, for over 90 minutes, took part in a variety of football activities. From passing and control to communication and, of course, shooting, the girls worked hard and had a blast. The session was broken up into eight different activities, giving them the chance to develop a range of skills.

The adventure began with the pupils independently making their way onto the bus, excited for their trip to Legends Sports in Gravesend. After arriving at 11:30, they enjoyed their lunch in the pavilion before diving into the action.

Although the session left them a bit puffed out, the smiles and positive energy showed just how much the pupils enjoyed their day. It was an amazing experience to be a part of such a large event, and we would like to say a huge thank you to PASS for organising such a fantastic day for so many pupils!



MOTHERS & OTHERS DAY SHOPS

A huge thank you to TEAM Family Support for organising the wonderful gift shops for our pupils across all our sites this term. These gift shops gave our pupils the chance to choose special gifts for their mothers, or other loved ones, as a way to show their appreciation. It is always lovely to see the joy and thoughtfulness that goes into each gift selection.

This year, we were also lucky enough to have Paul from Maidstone Radio FAW All record some beautiful Mother's Day messages, which were played live on air on the special day. What a wonderful way to add a personal touch and make the occasion even more memorable for our families!

RUGBY TRAINING & FUNDRAISING

We were fortunate to receive a fantastic donation of a signed Marcus Smith (England and Harlequins rugby player) rugby shirt and were able to host a rugby-themed raffle to celebrate the Six Nations and raise money for an important cause – our new sensory garden. With the support of local rugby stars, and our school patron Ade Webster, we managed to secure an incredible collection of prizes, including two tickets to the Harlequins Big Game amongst other things. To top it off, we had words of encouragement sent to us from famous rugby figures like David Flatman and Chris Robshaw, adding an extra layer of excitement the event.

Thanks to the generosity of our community, we raised an amazing £579, all of which will go towards creating our new sensory garden – a space that will provide a peaceful, stimulating environment for all our pupils.



Alongside this, we were thrilled to welcome Maidstone Rugby Club to our school for some PE sessions with the children. The sessions were a massive hit! We were joined by Maidstone Youth coach and player Kelvin Baxter, along with players Jack Brown and Harri Slaughter. The children eagerly participated in the drills and enjoyed the chance to meet these talented rugby players, learning valuable skills in the process.

It was a fantastic day of sport, community spirit, and fun, and we

could not have done it without the support of everyone involved. A huge thank you to our rugby partners, volunteers, and of course, all those who bought raffle tickets to help us reach our fundraising goal.



WELL DONE REUBEN



We are incredibly proud to celebrate the amazing achievement of Rueben, who recently completed 4 lengths (100 metres) at Mote Park in aid of Demelza House—all unaided! What an outstanding accomplishment!

Not only did Rueben raise the most money for this incredibly worthy cause, but his enthusiasm, determination, and hard work are truly inspiring. His dedication to learning such an important life skill at his swimming school, Just Keep Swimming, is a testament to his commitment to personal growth and giving back to the community.

Rueben, your efforts and energy are truly commendable, and we couldn't be more proud of

you. Keep up the fantastic work, and we look forward to seeing you continue to achieve great things in and out of the pool!



EYFS EASTER FARM ADVENTURE & MEADOW PICNIC



This term, our EYFS children had the wonderful opportunity to join the Outdoor Learning Environment (OLE) for a truly memorable family visit to the farm – and what a afternoon it was!

The sun was shining as pupils, staff, and families came together to enjoy a fun-filled afternoon of farmyard adventures and a relaxed picnic in the Meadow. We enjoyed an exciting sensory story based on our new farm-themed book, *Where is Wilba?* – a big hit with both children and adults alike! The interactive elements of the story had everyone engaged and laughing as we followed Wilba's journey around the farm.



One of the highlights for many of the children was feeding the goats and pigs, as well as watching the animals in their homes. Their faces lit up with joy and curiosity as they got up close with these friendly farm residents.

The Easter spirit was in full swing with a lively Easter egg hunt, various outdoor games, and themed sensory trays that offered hands-on fun and exploration. From squishy textures to colourful surprises, the trays were a big success and added an extra festive touch to the afternoon.



The event ended with a lovely picnic in the Meadow, allowing everyone to relax, chat, and soak up the sunshine. It was heart-warming to see the EYFS community come together to celebrate springtime joyfully and meaningfully.

A huge thank you to everyone who joined us – it truly was a special day that created lasting memories for all.



APPLE TREE YARD'S VERY OWN BOOK



Towards the end of March, we celebrated the launch of our very first children's book, *Where is Wilba Pig?*, based on one of our beloved animals here at the yard. This delightful story is the result of a wonderful collaboration between two of our talented members of staff—Laura, who wrote the story, and Lola, who brought it to life with her beautiful illustrations. The book is a heart warming example of teamwork and creativity, and we are very grateful to all involved from creation through to publication. We hope that the children connect with the story and enjoy the book as much as we do.

The story

Where is Wilba Pig? is all about one of our pigs in the Yard, who Laura cares for daily. It follows him as he finds himself without having had his breakfast one day, and so goes in search of delicious food to fill his hungry tum. Where will Wilba find a feast fit for a pig?

Supporting Apple Tree Yard

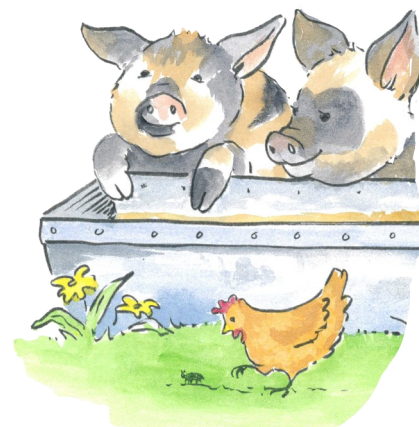
All proceeds from the sales of the book will go towards supporting Apple Tree Yard, where our incredible pupils learn and thrive alongside our amazing animals. The funds raised will help us continue to provide the best possible learning experiences and care for our animals, ensuring both our pupils, and Wilba's tummy, stay happy!

Thankyous

We would like to extend a big thank you to everyone who helped support this project. A special thanks to Laura for writing not only a wonderful story but a keepsake that will stay with our school for years to come, and to Lola for her stunning illustrations. We also appreciate Jess for her dedication in getting the book published, OSTRAA for funding the project, Friends of Five Acre Wood for sponsoring the bookmarks, and our fundraiser Hannah for all her hard work. This truly has been a team effort!

How to get your copy

You can currently buy a book, or bookmark, from Reception (Loose), and on the FAWrient Express. There are also copies available at Pleasant View Garden Centre and Buttercups Goat Sanctuary. They are priced at £7.99 and 50p for a bookmark.



UPDATES

FIVE ACRE WOOD OXFORD ROAD

WORK EXPERIENCE



Pupils have taken part in a work experience placement at The FAWrient Express. As part of the ASDAN accreditation, they have to experience the world of work in

a variety of placements, and they have been given the opportunity to work at The FAWrient Express; our pioneering hospitality training academy.

Our pupils learnt everything there is to know about making hot drinks in the barista style and very much enjoyed working under the wonderful guidance of Clive demonstrating and involving them in serving customers.

Since their taster sessions at the FAWrient Express, many of our pupils have showed a great interest in working in this field of work. Clive is not short of people wanting to come aboard the carriage to work alongside him!



BTEC COFFEE MORNING

The BTEC Business group's coffee morning was all planned by pupils, including deciding on budgeting for and making cakes and decorations. They showed great teamwork on the day,

taking full responsibility of their own roles to set up effectively ready for guests to arrive. It was a great success with lots of guests attending and enjoying the morning. The cakes were a big hit, especially the Oreo cake! Thanks to everyone that came to support our pupils!



STAG THEATRE PERFORMANCE

A group of pupils spent two terms learning the dance routine and perfecting their dance moves to perform at the annual Love 2 dance event at the Stag Theatre in Sevenoaks.

On 25th of March and in front of a full audience, our pupils performed their dance "Revoltin' Children" from the Matilda musical and gave their best while smiling and enjoying the crowd clapping as they delivered their creative piece which they knew so well.



We are very proud of the sustained effort they showed in memorising the dance, of the quality of their work, and of their performance. They enjoyed themselves immensely and we look forward to seeing them again soon showing off their talent at the coming Showcase event in school.

WRIGHT CLASS

In Wright Class, pupils created their own stories and used their creativity to design the front cover of their book and to illustrate a page of their story.

Some pupils talked about their favourite book or character as well as presenting their own story to the rest of the class.

Their work was put together and displayed on the board for all to see.



ASDAN



As part of their ASDAN *Going Places* and *Understanding Money* modules, our pupils took a trip to Maidstone using the public bus, gaining valuable experience in independent travel. Once there, they explored local shops, budgeted for their lunch, and purchased ingredients for their upcoming cooking lesson.

The trip also gave pupils the opportunity to interact with the community, build confidence, and develop essential life skills. They all achieved their goals and more, while having a fantastic time!



MAIDSTONE RADIO FAW ALL



On 24th February, we had the exciting soft launch of our very own radio station, Maidstone Radio FAW All, and we are thrilled to watch it grow into an integral part of school life here at Five Acre Wood School. A more formal launch with invited guests is being planned for the spring.

Currently, the station is streaming 24/7 on www.radiofawall.co.uk, primarily playing music. However, we are excited to expand the content in the coming weeks, adding more spoken word segments, and getting input from both pupils and volunteers. We have already had a few one-hour shows, aired at 08:00, 12:00, and 15:00, and during the early evening, ensuring there is something for everyone to listen to.



A special highlight was our World Book Day show on 6th March, which featured short interviews recorded at the Snodland site. The pupils were absolutely thrilled to hear their voices on the radio! We also had fun recording some Mother's Day messages and pupils chose songs to dedicate to their mothers and loved ones.

In addition to spoken content, we are continuing to expand our music library, which now includes tracks from the 'Hall of Fame' and 'Beautiful', both recorded by FAW Records, as well as the new single, 'The Loud Mouse Song'.

To further involve our pupils, we have invited all classes to submit a list of their favourite songs, which will be turned into a scheduled playlist. These will be played on the radio at times when specific classes are able to listen.

In other exciting news, we have had visits to the studio from local charity Dadspace, and representatives from Valley Park and Lenham schools, all of whom are interested in getting involved with the project. We cannot wait to see how the radio continues to evolve and bring our school community together! Stay tuned for more updates and exciting broadcasts.



NEW SINGLE RELEASE

We are thrilled to announce the release of our brand-new single, 'The Loud Mouse Song', now available on our very own record label, FAW Records! This fun and uplifting anthem is all about embracing individuality and expressing yourself with confidence and pride. It's a true celebration of being unapologetically YOU!



We could not have made this happen without the incredibly talented Taryn Charles, who has joined forces with us once again, after working with us on our first-ever single back in 2023. You may have seen Taryn on Britain's Got Talent, and she has also performed alongside music legends like Kim Weston, Gwen McBrae, and Candi Staton. A huge thank to Taryn, and DeeVu Records, Kevin Thorpe, ETB Audio Visual, and Old MacDonald's Farm for their support in bringing this project to life!

This is just the first of TWO exciting singles we have got lined up! The second track, set to be released just in time for Father's Day, will feature another incredible collaboration with the amazing Barney Holmes. We cannot wait for you to hear it!

To show your support and help us reach the number 1 spot in the charts, let's make 'The Loud Mouse Song' the biggest hit it can be! You can listen to the track on the Five Acre Wood Records YouTube channel and it is also available on all well-known streaming and download platforms. Thank you for your continued support in making our voices heard far and wide. Let's get the word out and keep the music playing!



UPDATES

FIVE ACRE WOOD SNODLAND

LOVE 2 DANCE

On March 25th, pupils from Snodland and Oxford Road had the fantastic opportunity to participate in the annual Love 2 Dance event at the Stag Theatre in Sevenoaks.

Pupils performed a Wizard of Oz street dance medley not once, but twice, for audiences in the afternoon and evening. Well done to everyone involved!



MATHS

It's been a fantastic term in the Maths Department at Snodland! Some of our Year 10 and Year 11 pupils have been completing their Functional Skills Entry Level Maths assessments, and we are incredibly proud of their achievements.

We are also looking ahead to National Numeracy Day on May 21st. We have proudly won the Number Hero competition for the past two years and are hoping to make it three in a row this year!

You can find more information about the National Numeracy charity and how to support your child with maths by visiting their website <https://www.nationalnumeracy.org.uk/helping-children-maths>

YEAR 7 END OF TERM TRIP

For the end of term trip, Year 7 went to Gravity and McDonald's and had a brilliant day. The staff saw the pupils working together to complete the obstacle course, as well as good natured

competing in jumping races. Well done to all the pupils who represented our school so well.



DRUM SESSIONS WITH DRUMWISE

This term, pupils interested in drumming had the fantastic opportunity to develop their drum skills with Tom from Drumwise.



Pupils have been growing their knowledge of drums and their skills playing grooves and drum fills.

We are looking forward to our upcoming showcase in which pupils will be able to demonstrate their amazing journeys.

A MAGICAL SCHOOL TRIP



Year 9 classes Bronte and Joyce had the opportunity to visit the Warner Bros Studio Tour to support their Drama topic 'Literacy Comes to Life'. Pupils thoroughly enjoyed the trip and were impressed by the incredible art and effort in creating the Harry Potter films.



Following their exciting trip to the Warner Bros Studio, in class, pupils have been making wand props and exploring green screening and special effects making pupils disappear!



UPDATES

FIVE ACRE WOOD SNODLAND

PE

Pupils in years 7, 8, 9 and 10 have been attending Meadowfield school for football fixtures each week this term to meet with other schools and have some small-sided games. The pupils enjoyed working with pupils from other schools.

As part of a tournament with teams from six other schools, our pupils had the chance to show off their talents and earn medals for their participation and excellent teamwork. The focus of the event was to promote inclusive football, ensuring that all pupils, even those who might find sport overwhelming, had the opportunity to gain confidence and enjoy the game.

Additionally, we have had football workshops with Maidstone United this term which is shared between the different classes. These sessions have helped improve football skills while emphasizing the importance of working together as a team.

To celebrate International Women's day on 7th March, we ran a girls football inclusion event for our pupils and had a good turn out with some of our year 9, 10 and 11 pupils mentoring and running activities which was brilliant to see. The girls all had a fantastic morning and we are going to have more of these events in the future.

Lots of excellent opportunities in PE for pupils so far this term and many more to come for next term!

BOONE CLASS TRIP

At the beginning of term, Boone Class took a trip to Rochester Cathedral to see Mars: War and Peace, a stunning seven-metre-wide sculpture by Luke Jerram, featuring detailed NASA imagery of the Red Planet.

The pupils were fascinated by both the artwork and the rich history of the cathedral. They even had the chance to

chat with The Rev'd Canon Sue Brewer, who spoke to the pupils about her job in the church.



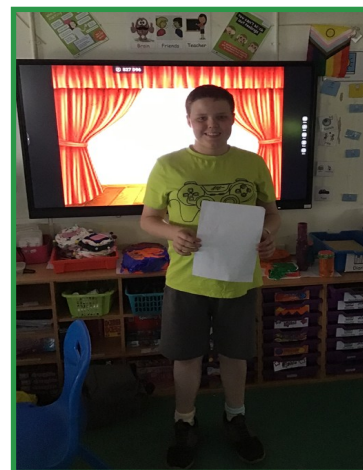
TOLKIEN CLASS

Term 4 has flown by, filled with a variety of exciting activities! We've had so much fun writing and performing our own jokes for Comic Relief, weaving coasters, and creating beautiful flower pots for Mother's Day.



We also explored the continent of Africa, learning about its diverse countries and cultures. Alongside these special

projects, we continued with our regular activities, including Numeracy, Literacy, Cooking, and shopping. It has been a busy and rewarding term!



BRONTE CLASS

Pupils in Bronte Class have had an exciting and productive term. One of the highlights of the term was our World Book Day celebration where pupils truly embraced the spirit of the event. We were treated to a fantastic range of costumes, with some particularly impressive and personalised outfits that showed just how much effort the pupils put into bringing their favourite characters to life.

In addition to the fun of World Book Day, we have also had a pupils working hard on developing their practical skills on the FAWrient Express. Two of our pupils have been actively involved in serving customers, managing transactions, and providing excellent service—all while building confidence in their communication skills, and has provided them with practical knowledge they can apply in future roles.

We are excited to see how they will continue to thrive and build on these wonderful experiences into the next term!

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

This term has certainly been egg-citing! A huge thank you to our pupils, families, and staff for your ongoing support. Let's take a look at everything we've been up to and some exciting things to watch out for over the next few terms!

Hannah, Fundraiser

FAWBULOUS BUS

Our double-decker bus will be making its grand return this Easter half term—fully converted and more exciting than ever!

We're keeping the final design under wraps for now but trust us—it's going to be amazing! There are still a few finishing touches to be done once it arrives, and we'll be sharing details of the official opening very soon.

A huge thank you to everyone who has been involved and supported this incredible project—we truly couldn't have done it without you!

SPRING FAMILY FUN DAY & SPRING FAIR

We hope all our families and staff who joined us for our Spring Family Fun Day had a fantastic afternoon!

It was a fun-filled day with games, activities, crafts, a fantastic egg hunt, and a variety of stalls—including some wonderful external vendors.

A huge shout-out to everyone who made the day possible, especially our amazing staff and stallholders. We couldn't have done it without you!

Our Spring Fair was once again an absolute joy. Our pupils had a wonderful time creating items



to sell and running their own stalls. It was amazing to see their hard work and enthusiasm in action. A huge thank you to the pupils at Oxford Road for their incredible support in making the decorations—it added such a lovely touch to the event!

CHARITY FOOTBALL MATCH

Our Charity Football Match has been rescheduled and will now take place on the evening of Friday, 27th June—so be sure to save the date!

Ticket information and further details will be shared soon.

HADRIAN FAWALL CHALLENGE

The end of term 4 can only mean one thing – in 10 days' time (13th-17th April) we will be waving off a team of staff and volunteers who will be trekking 84 miles across Hadrian's Wall from East to West in just four days to raise funds for our much-loved annual festival, Woodstock.

To support our fundraising efforts, we are giving you an exclusive opportunity to check in with our team—LIVE!

To purchase a ticket and find out more information about joining the team online for a fun-filled catch-up at 6pm on Tuesday, 15th April, please scan the QR code below.



When you purchase a ticket, you will have the opportunity to send in some questions and the team will do their best to answer them on the night!

If you are unable to join the live check-in with the team but would still like to support, you can sponsor them here: <https://www.peoplesfundraising.com/fundraising/TeamHadrianFAWall>

We are absolutely blown away by the support we have received so far. Thank you for your generosity and enthusiasm—we cannot wait to share this journey with you! A special mention to our corporate sponsors – JEM, Southeast Water, CSIS, SEC Works, Your Teaching, Mason Lodge, Dial-a-flight, and Hurst Technology. Thank you for your phenomenal support.

Keep an eye out on our social media for a countdown to the challenge and regular updates from the team!

THE BRAMBLES

We love having a meaningful story behind everything we do. That's why we're excited to announce that the Willows Project has had a name change! The site where this project is taking place was once a bramble patch and thanks to the hard work and determination of our pupils and staff, the area is already transforming into something amazing. The name *The Brambles* just seems like a perfect fit for the project!

Our team has been hard at work to get the first phase of the project completed before our opening in May. Our pupils, with the help of Gallaghers and Kent and Sussex Concrete Pumping Services, have successfully laid the concrete slab. The building is taking shape with support from our BTEC pupils, and the roof is now being fitted thanks to our wonderful volunteers.



PFA pupils have been busy levelling the area and removing waste, and we are now ready to start laying down the temporary bark chipping surface. We can't wait to see the transformation and share this exciting new phase of the OLE with you.

CLASS UPDATES

ADEPITAN CLASS



This term, Adepitan pupils have had fantastic opportunities to access the community regularly. Our weekly trips to Grow 19 have helped us develop essential money and communication skills, while visits to Morrisons allowed us to gather ingredients for our Wednesday cooking sessions. A particular highlight was our exciting trip to the cinema, where we enjoyed watching *Sonic the Hedgehog 3*!

We are incredibly proud that four pupils from Adepitan have been entrusted to work on the FAWrient Express, gaining valuable work experience that will support them in their futures. This hands-on opportunity has provided them with real-world skills and confidence in a professional environment.



To tie into our class topic, "Our World Alive," we had the amazing opportunity to visit the Big Cat Sanctuary. As part of our studies on recycling and its impact on wildlife, this trip allowed us to see first-hand how conservation efforts help protect these incredible animals. It was truly inspiring to get up close to some amazing big cats!

ADLINGTON CLASS



We have had an amazing term! We have engaged with our understanding of how to use literacy in our wider world and worked on time and measure in Numeracy. We underpinned our learning with experiences using these skills in environments outside the classroom.

We finished the term with visiting the Big Cat Sanctuary with Adepitan Class and had the most amazing time learning about the different big cats they work with and their conservation efforts all around the world. Tyler especially loved the Lions and Macie's favourite was the white Tiger.



APPLEGATE CLASS

This term, Applegate Class has been busy with a range of exciting activities! We celebrated World Book Day by dressing up as our favourite book characters and sharing stories with our friends. For Red Nose Day, we took part in fun activities to raise money for charity while learning about the importance of kindness and giving. In Numeracy, we have been exploring measurement, using rulers and scales to compare lengths, weights, and capacities. It's been a fantastic term filled with learning and laughter!

CLASS UPDATES

ALLINGTON CLASS

This term we have read *Duck in the Truck*, *Jack and the Beanstalk*, and *The Tiny Seed*. Children love retelling the story in their own words improving confidence, oral literacy, and communication skills. They have also produced some amazing sentences using lovely describing words!

Within Maths, we have deepened our knowledge in 2D shapes, fractions, and capacity. Children love learning through play and we always incorporate practical activities to make learning fun like number tracing in sand.

Allington Class has loved learning about dinosaurs, and took part in a science experiment learning what plants need to grow strong and healthy. The children have loved having the Stones teaching them cool football tricks and were super excited when the Mother's day shop came to Palace Wood.

BABE CLASS



We have had another brilliant term in Babe Class! We have continued to visit different areas around the school; we love the Trim Trail and the FAWrient Express!

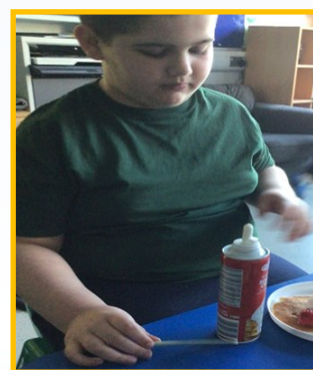
This term we have been having Music and Movement sessions with Millie which we have really enjoyed. In class, we have been doing lots of planting and digging. We even planted our own sunflower seeds for the EYFS sunflower growing competition!

We are looking forward to having fun in the sun during Term 5!



BEETHOVEN CLASS

Beethoven Class have had a very busy term learning about the environment, plants, and minibeasts to name just a few. We really enjoyed playing with mud and worms – it was a good job the mud was made out of hot chocolate and the worms were spaghetti!



Our favourite lessons this term were Art and Cooking. We especially enjoyed making pancakes with strawberries, cream and chocolate sauce, and pizza wraps. In Art, we made our own minibeasts and butterflies using our handprints. We have been engaging in our Teach rotations and our teachers are really proud of how hard we have worked.

This week, we had our Easter Stay and Play in Saplings. We got to do an Easter Egg hunt, tree rubbings, and experiment in the mud kitchen. We were happy that some of our mummies and daddies could join us!



CLASS UPDATES

BRITTEN CLASS



Britten Class has had an exciting and enriching Term 4! Our learning journey has taken us outside, exploring the wonderful nature around us. We have had the chance to study saplings, hunt for insects, and dive deep into the fascinating world of bugs. One of the highlights has been having our very own caterpillars in the classroom! We have been watching them grow and transform, eagerly observing their progress.



Our Easter egg hunt in Saplings was a definite favourite, filled with joy and teamwork. It was a great opportunity to learn collaboratively, strengthen friendships, and develop our transitioning skills as we navigated our environment. We've had such a fun and educational term, and we can't wait for what's to come next!

CHOPIN CLASS

Wow – what a fun-filled term we have had!

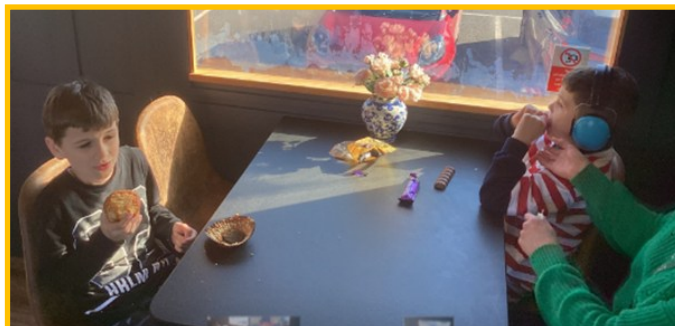
This term, we have enjoyed learning about 'Sunshine and Flowers'. Chopin Class have been learning how to stay safe in the sun, identifying important items that we need during those sunny days. We have spent time exploring our local environment, with our Sapling insect hunts and learning about them – we particularly enjoyed reading books linked to insects e.g. *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*. The highlight of our life-cycle exploration has been watching our very own cress and sunflower seeds grow and transform right before our eyes!

In addition to our nature studies, we've been practicing road safety awareness and understanding the importance of staying safe on the roads. We also had a chance to experience the FAW Trim Trail, and we have been safely transitioning around the school.

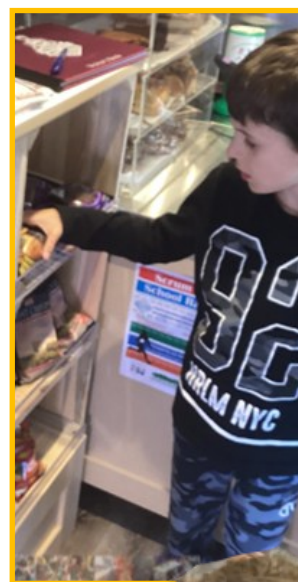
We enjoyed picking out presents at our Mothers and Others Gift shop, took part in our Stay and Play in the Saplings Garden, and we have taken part in our Spring Fair – this has been a great opportunity to build friendships and work together. Our teamwork and sharing skills have really improved this term, and we have loved every moment of it!

Charley, Lisa, and the team wish you a lovely half term break and we look forward to seeing you in Term 5.

DEBUSSY CLASS



This term, Debussy pupils have started transitioning to the Fawrent Express. In class, we have been encouraging our pupils to sign "I want" before making their snack choices daily; our visits have allowed us to extend our skills to a public place. We have also been working on making requests using our visuals, gestures and by our words. The Debussy pupils have sat beautifully on the train carriage and enjoyed their snacks – some have even requested unfamiliar foods and enjoyed those too!



CLASS UPDATES

ELGAR CLASS

Term 4 for Elgar has been focused on life around us and small creatures. We have been learning how to stay safe in the sun and have been fascinated by the wonderful world of insects, bugs, and other tiny creatures. We have studied their habitats and life cycles, gaining a greater understanding of the natural world.

We have celebrated World Book Day, Red Nose Day, and Easter through our stay and play. Our learning has extended beyond the classroom with visits to the FAWrient Express and the gaming bus, where we have been working on improving our communication skills. These activities have provided new opportunities for development and teamwork.

On top of this we have spent lots of time focusing on independence in life skills and cooking a variety of new fun things including mini egg brownies and pizza paninis.

Happy Easter from all of Elgar Class!

FARAH CLASS

This term, Farah Class has had a fantastic time learning about wild animals through our study of *The Jungle Book*. We've been comparing the classic book by Rudyard Kipling with the Disney film, discussing the similarities and differences between the two. We also created fascinating fact files on the real-life animals featured in the movie, expanding our knowledge of wildlife!

Additionally, we've continued to enjoy our visits to the café and shopping trips. However, we're sad to announce that after half term, we will be visiting a new café as Sainsbury's cafés are closing down. We'll certainly miss our regular stops, but we look forward to exploring new places together.

ELSA CLASS



What a fantastic and fun-filled few weeks we have had in Elsa Class! The children have been busy exploring, creating, and developing new skills through a wide variety of activities.

We have been getting active during our PE sessions, focusing on ball skills like passing and rolling with increasing control. The children particularly enjoyed moving around a mini obstacle course led by an external provider—there were lots of smiles and giggles as they climbed, balanced, and jumped their way through! Pancake Day was a big hit! The children had a wonderful time exploring a range of toppings, from juicy fruits to sticky syrups. One of the highlights was squirting cream onto their pancakes – a sensory treat and lots of laughter too!

As we welcome the new season, we have been learning all about spring. The children have loved exploring soil, seeds, and a collection of flowers and petals. We planted our very own sunflower seeds and can't wait to watch them grow!



We've continued to enjoy our time in the outdoor areas, including the field, Saplings, and soft play. These spaces provide endless opportunities for turn-taking, communicating choices, and playing with or alongside peers. The children are growing in confidence and independence as they navigate these shared spaces and develop their social skills.



CLASS UPDATES

FLIPPER CLASS



Flipper Class have had a great term this spring. We have been looking at developing our independence skills and working together as a class to enjoy the topic of bugs, spring, and garden life. We have been having weekly sessions with the sensory lights and enjoying developing our understanding of cause and effect.

We have been doing a lot of exploring with different mark making and using an effective grip to control the tools; we even did mark making with feathers and leaves.

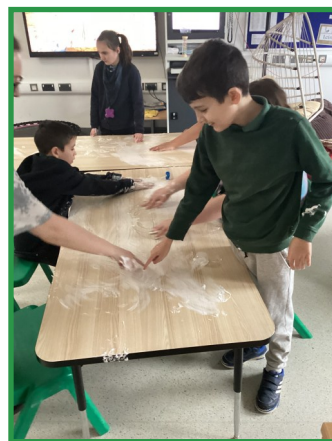


We have had weekly music sessions to develop our understanding of rhythm, beat, controlling the volume and speed of the instrument. We have looked at different insects where they live in the garden and what different insects look like. Flipper class is developing our own garden, and we have begun to plant different plants for fruits and vegetables. We have looked at ponds and explored songs about pond animals, 5 speckled frogs is one of our favourites. It has been busy term and we have loved learning about this topic.



GERSHWIN CLASS

This term Gershwin Class has been focussing on our project: Independent living. We have looked at a number of skills based learning including; making healthy choices and food exploration, practicing our early writing skills with write dance, and trialling new games and resources to expand leisure pursuits and interests.



The pupils have also enjoyed going to visit the FAWlife Lodge and exploring the different rooms as well as practicing life skills chores such as making the bed, washing up, and sorting cutlery into the correct drawer.



CLASS UPDATES

GRIEG CLASS



Grieg Class has had a fantastic term filled with exciting learning opportunities and experiences. The pupils have embraced a wide range of activities, demonstrating growth in their skills, confidence, and engagement.

A highlight this term has been their exploration of the Outdoor Learning Area and Saplings. Pupils have thoroughly enjoyed using the space to enhance their lessons, particularly in subjects such as Mathematics. Applying subtraction in nature has been an engaging and hands-on way to develop numeracy skills, reinforcing their understanding of taking away through real-world examples. This approach has not only supported their academic progress but also encouraged teamwork, communication, and sensory exploration.

Additionally, the pupils have started accessing The FAWlife Lodge to further develop their independent living skills. They have particularly enjoyed making beds, showing great enthusiasm and perseverance in mastering this important life skill. These sessions have provided valuable opportunities to build independence, follow step-by-step instructions, and gain confidence in everyday tasks.

Grieg Class continues to make great strides in cooking. They are expanding their culinary skills while working on a food learning journey PowerPoint, which not only showcases their practical cooking abilities but also enhances their digital literacy skills. This project has allowed them to document their progress, reflect on their learning, and develop their confidence in using technology. Once completed, copies of their work will be made available to parents/carers so they can share in their achievements.

Across the curriculum, Grieg Class continues to demonstrate positive progress in communication, social interactions, and independent learning. They have engaged well with structured activities, using a variety of strategies to support their individual needs, including visual aids, sensory tools, and hands-on experiences.

As we approach the end of the term, we celebrate each pupil's achievements and look forward to building on this success in the next term. From the Grieg Class team, we wish you all a very happy and restful break!



HAZLITT CLASS

This term, Hazlitt Class have been interested to learn about the Vikings. We have found out where they came from and how they invaded. We researched Viking families, homes, and food, and we made Viking longboat models.

In Science, we carried out an investigation to find out what is needed for plant growth by growing cress in different conditions.

We took a trip to the cinema where we watched Sonic 3, and then walked to McDonalds for lunch. We chose, ordered and paid for our food which are important life skills.

Jack and Harry from The Stones Community Trust have continued to coach us and develop our football skills.



CLASS UPDATES

HEDWIG CLASS



Hedwig class has had an exciting term! We loved our visits from the yard, where we met a lovely guinea pig. It was wonderful to stroke her and choose tasty treats to feed her.

We have also been practicing our transition to the field and back, building confidence along the way. While on the field, we have enjoyed a variety of games, including football, catch, and parachute games, which have been great fun.

Another highlight this term has been the arrival of our brand-new swing, which has quickly become a favourite!



HOLMES CLASS

Holmes Class has had a fantastic term filled with learning, exploring, and fun! We've discovered new ways to count, turning it into exciting games and taking turns along the way.

Our sensory exploration sessions have been a highlight, allowing us to learn through hands-on experiences with different textures and materials. Gardening has continued to be a favourite activity, made even better by the sunshine. We've also loved spending time outdoors, playing with both our classmates and friends from other classes. It's been a wonderful term of growth, discovery, and joy!



CLASS UPDATES

HOLST CLASS

In Holst class this term we have been working on our independence skills by completing chores in the class, washing up, drying up, cleaning the tables and floor, and making sure our classroom is tidy.

We have also been practicing our basketball and football skills with Demi, perfecting our throwing and catching skills, passing skills, and working as a team.



KOKO CLASS

Koko Class have been having fun with sensory activities that engage all the senses. From exploring textures with sand and water play, to experimenting with colourful paints and natural materials, our little ones are learning through touch, sight, and sound.

As the temperatures rise, we are spending more time outside, enjoying the fresh air and sunshine. Whether it's playing games, running around the playground, or simply observing nature. We have been taking trips to the FAWrient Express, being able to have a drink and a biscuit whilst sitting with our peers.



CLASS UPDATES

LASSIE CLASS



This term, Lassie Class has been buzzing with excitement as we explored the fascinating world of minibeasts! Our focus was on engaging with these tiny creatures through a variety of sensory experiences. The children loved working with sensory trays and creating mini environments to mimic the habitats of different minibeasts, offering a hands-on way to learn about nature. These sensory activities, which included both dry and wet elements, have been a highlight, helping to foster engagement, improve fine motor skills, and support sensory processing in a fun and stimulating way.



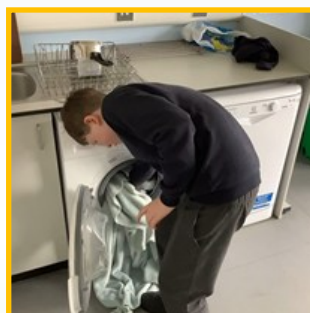
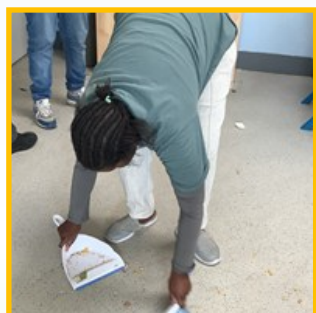
We also had a wonderful time celebrating World Book Day, where the children enjoyed dressing up as their favourite book characters. This sparked creativity and brought plenty of joy to our classroom.

In addition to these activities, we are thrilled to see continued progress in our transitions around the school. The children are gaining confidence and becoming more independent as they move between different activities and spaces.

It's been an exciting and productive term, filled with learning, growth, and plenty of minibeast adventures!

LISZT CLASS

Liszt Class has been learning independence skills and practising them in class.



This term the children have been making the most of the lovely weather and have been practising play skills out on the Trim Trail. It has been lovely to see so many of the pupils sharing the trampolines and swings with each other.



The children had an amazing time at the launch of 'The Loud Mouse Song'. We all waved the flags we had made along to the music and enjoyed a piece of cake afterwards.



CLASS UPDATES

O'KEEFFE CLASS



We have been exploring colder temperatures and have loved feeling the texture of noodles and jelly!



We love our hydrotherapy sessions and have been using our therapy equipment well!

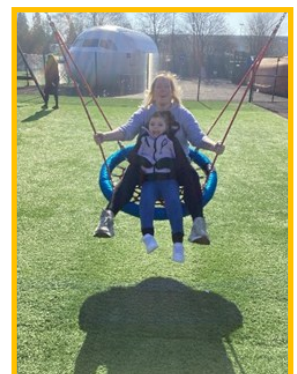


O'Keeffe class have been loving exploring all our outdoor learning environments in the warm sunshine! We have been enjoying our horticulture sessions where we have been planting seeds!



We have been working hard exploring different reflections both in the MSE room and within our tuff tray.

We have been making new friendships in class and have been sharing our toys well!



CLASS UPDATES

POLLOCK CLASS

This term, Pollock Class have been incredibly busy! First and foremost, we have been working hard on our Physio targets, accessing Hydrotherapy, and using our equipment to support our learning.

We had a fantastic time celebrating World Book Day with *Tabby McTat* as our chosen book. We even decorated our classroom door using our feet to paint!

For Red Nose Day and World Down Syndrome Day, we got creative by decorating our own Red Nose cookies using switch-adapted equipment. We also joined in the fun by wearing something red and odd socks!

Our cooking sessions have been a highlight this term. We have explored making sandwiches and mini cheesecakes—smashing up the biscuits for the base was definitely a class favourite!



Each week, we have continued our much loved sessions with the guinea pigs, which always bring lots of joy to our classroom.

A standout event this term was our Spring Ball! We transformed the hall with beautiful flower decorations and disco balls. Our families joined us to celebrate, and we danced the morning away to the amazing music of Katie May.

We also had the incredible opportunity to attend the Music Premiere for Five Acre Wood's "The Loud Mouse Song" record release. As VIP guests, we managed to get front-row seats and had a fantastic time waving the flags we decorated especially for the occasion.

All of Pollock Class have made fantastic progress this term, and Team Pollock could not be prouder!



CLASS UPDATES

POTTER CLASS

We have been super busy this term. Our topic has been focused on plants, including their needs, different types, and how they protect themselves from predators. We have recycled items from home and around school to make amazing planters and we sold our potted creations at the Spring Fair. We have also really enjoyed our plant/growing themed stories including *Jack and the Beanstalk*, and *The Tiny Seed*.

Maths has been jammed packed with different groups of learners concentrating on fractions, money, time, and using new terminology. We are also starting to access the resources that we prefer to use to help us.

We had an amazing rugby session and have teamed up with another class for regular PE sessions. Our aim is to get better

at catching and throwing accurately.

The Potter salon is fully booked Monday to Fridays with the children getting their hair brushed or just popping in for a nice head massage.

We have also been learning about our "No No Square" and have coloured a diagram to indicate where we are happy for people to touch us and what we should do if somebody tried to touch us in places we are not comfortable with.

We also learnt that the Potters have an amazing taste in music. We have a request session normally after lunch and we have had not only some amazing song choices, but the dancing...WOW, just WOW.

Happy Easter half term from The Potters.

PICASSO CLASS

Picasso Class has had a busy term working on our EHCP targets. We have enjoyed a lot of cooking, art, and we have begun gardening to get the garden ready for the sunshine. The children really enjoy the new mobiles in the garden with the sunshine reflecting on the disco balls. They have planted herbs to be able to have sensory experiences outside within their daily sessions. Some of the children have enjoyed being in their standers and pacers out in the sunshine. We are looking forward to spending more time outside as it gets warmer. Pupils have enjoyed their hydro and rebound sessions.

We also had a visit from Andrew Keeping who captured a film of 'a day in the life of our pupils' of which these shots are captured from.

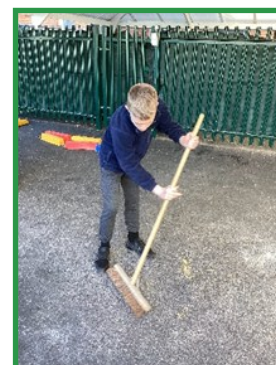


CLASS UPDATES

RAVEL CLASS

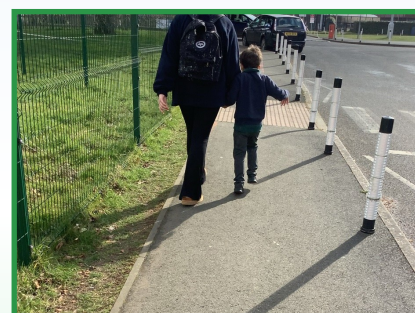
Ravel Class has been focusing on 'Independent Living' this term and have been completing a variety of skills linked to their project. Pupils have been learning how to fold clothes, hang clothes on an airer and on a washing line, change bedsheets and pillowcases, sweep, Hoover, clean surfaces and use the washing machine. Pupils have been highly engaged with these activities and some pupils have started to complete some 'chores' at home.

In Literacy, we have continued to focus on our independent targets as well as sentence building, writing and reading. In Numeracy, we have been focusing on number including doubling, halving, multiplication, and division. We have started to go to the park once a week and pupils have thoroughly enjoyed this learning experience!



SKIPPY CLASS

Skippy Class has had a fantastic term. We have been working on our transitions and have all visited the FAWrient Express, and enjoyed a lovely snack and drink whilst aboard. We have also started our perimeter walks learning about safety outside of the classroom.



We loved creating our own toppings for pancakes for Pancake Day, and had lots of fun enjoying our Valentine's sensory tray and disco, as well as exploring in the mud kitchen and making the most of the start of spring, planting cress and sunflower seeds for our EYFS sunflower competition. We can't wait for another term of fun and learning.



CLASS UPDATES

STRAUSS CLASS

What an exciting term it has been for Strauss Class! We have been lucky enough to take part in weekly PE lessons with the company PASS.

Strauss Class impressed their teachers when it was pancake day; they explored new tastes, new flavours, and textures.

The children enjoyed taking part in dressing up for world book day and comic relief.

We also enjoyed attending the launch of FAW's new single and made flags to celebrate their friends.

Lastly, the children have been amazing in welcoming a new peer to the class and have included her in lots of their play.



THULA CLASS

Thula Class have been loving the dance workshops this term! We have all enjoyed getting down to the funky disco beat!

We have been walking around the school practising our road safety skills, waiting at crossings and staying together as a group.

Everyone enjoyed World Book Day, we all had 'Alphablock' hats as we are very good at phonics in our class.

VERDI CLASS

This term Verdi Class has been very busy! We have been working hard on our 'Independent Living' project, where we have been learning about how to take care of ourselves, our home, and our friends. We have been learning about making healthy snacks in our cooking time; we made some apple doughnuts which were delicious. This term, we are held a sponsored walk to raise funds towards our term 5 and 6 trips! We are hoping to raise enough to visit Gravity trampoline park and Howletts.

TOTO CLASS

Pupils enjoyed icing biscuits and exploring a variety of sensory tactile activities, making the day both engaging and interactive. Alongside the excitement, we have also been diving into our spring topics using the Curiosity Approach—encouraging hands-on discovery and exploration of the changing seasons. From nature inspired play, to thought provoking discussions, we are embracing the wonders of spring in a creative and meaningful way!



Term Dates with Diary Dates 2024/25

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 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
Tuesday 10 th June 2025	All day	Father's Day shop (Palace Wood)
Wednesday 11 th June 2025	All day	Father's Day shop (St Kath's/Snodland)
June 2025	TBC	Sports day – FAW Snodland
Friday 27 th June 2025	TBC	FAW charity football match
Friday 4 th July 2025	All day	Transition day
Friday 4 th July 2025	EYFS & KS1 – 5.30-6.30PM KS2 & KS3 – 6.45-7.45PM	Summer disco (at Loose site)
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