

NEWSLETTER

TERM 3 2026



Our Cover Stars:

Peggy's FAWtique now open (turn to page 3)

Inside this issue:

- Sporting Successes
- FAW Paws Corner
- School Trips
- Primary Formal & Sensory Class Updates

Dates for your diary:

Monday 23rd February — First day of term 4

Monday 2nd March — Parent Consultations (for pupils who do not have an Annual Review meeting in Terms 3 and 4)

Thursday 5th March — World Book Day

Monday 9th & Tuesday 10th March — Staff training days (pupils not in school)

Tuesday 10th March — SCERTS Parent/Carer Session

Friday 20th March — Comic Relief Day & Socks for World Down Syndrome Day

Saturday 28th March — Spring Eggstravaganza

Wednesday 1st April — Spring Fair

Thursday 2nd April — Last day of term 4

Loose Boughton Lane, Maidstone, Kent ME15 9QF Telephone: 01622 743925

Snodland The Wolfe Building, Malling Road, Snodland ME6 5HS Telephone: 01634 566890

Oxford Road 29 Oxford Road, Maidstone, ME15 8DF Telephone: 01622 392205

Peggy's Message

Welcome to our Term Three Newsletter—half way through the academic year already! While this term has been quieter than the last, there has still been so much to celebrate and share with you – from individual and group achievements, to enriching learning experiences, and the important planning that continues behind the scenes to support our pupils and school community.

We have seen some exciting developments this term, including a change to our charity name and the launch of its new website. This gives families and supporters a clear insight into how funds are spent and the difference they make – thank you, as always, for your continued support. We are also delighted that our school shop, Peggy's FAWtique, at our Loose site, is now open for business. Further information can be found on page 3, and shortly, online via the shop's website.



It has been wonderful to see our school radio station continuing to grow its audience, but more importantly, to see our pupils benefitting from valuable work experience opportunities. Pupils have been confidently using the equipment to interview others and create their own features, building communication skills and independence along the way. You can read more about this on page 10.

You will also find highlights throughout this newsletter celebrating some of the specialist provisions we have in place for our pupils, such as our hydrotherapy pool, and the positive impact these have across the school community (page 5). Always looking ahead, we are pleased to share that the building works at our Loose site are progressing well and are scheduled for completion in September. Once finished, it will provide fresh new creative and supportive spaces for our pupils and staff.

Another new space we are excited about is our new gym, which we are currently fundraising for with the support of Core the Gym – thank you to them and to our dedicated fundraising team. Once complete, this space will provide our older students with further opportunities to build life skills, confidence, and independence. We are also continuing to raise funds for the play therapy bus, responding to the growing need for accessible mental health support for children and young people across our wider community.

With spring on the way, there is much to look forward to next term, including our Spring Eggstravaganza and the ever-popular Spring Fair. I am also looking forward to seeing staff and pupils take on the 24-hour cardio challenge, raising vital funds for our new gym. There will be non-uniform days to enjoy too, including World Book Day – I can't wait to see the creativity that goes into decorating classroom doors once again.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support. I hope you enjoy reading this term's newsletter and celebrating all that has been happening across our school.

Peggy

Peggy's FAWtique: Learning opportunities

At Five Acre Wood School, we are proud to provide meaningful opportunities and experiences that our pupils might not otherwise have access to. Across the school, a range of carefully designed projects are helping pupils to develop real-life skills beyond the classroom, supporting independence, confidence, resilience and preparation for adulthood.

From learning how to order independently in a café at the FAWrient Express, to roasting and bagging coffee at Platform FAW, making beds at The FAW Life Lodge, taking part in football and gym sessions, or developing cooking and hospitality skills, each experience is designed with one clear goal in mind: to equip our pupils with practical skills that will support them in everyday life and future pathways.



Our Loose site is now home to the Preparing FAW Adulthood Hub, bringing many of these projects together in one accessible space. We are delighted to share that the hub's latest addition is Peggy's FAWtique – our brand-new school shop.

Peggy's FAWtique provides pupils with the opportunity to develop valuable employability and life skills in a real-world setting. Through hands-on experiences, pupils are learning about money handling, stock control, customer service and sales techniques, while also practising communication, decision-making and problem-solving skills. Importantly,

the shop is open to the public, offering pupils the chance to engage with customers beyond the school community and experience a genuine working environment.

This term, some pupils have already embraced the shop with enthusiasm, working alongside Liz, our shop assistant, who has been supporting them as they learn the ropes. The shop sells a range of items, including stationery, clothing, mugs and gifts, many of which celebrate the school's projects and pupils' achievements. This gives pupils a strong sense of pride and ownership, as they can see, sell, and purchase items that reflect their own work and the wider school community.

Bringing these facilities together in one place means that pupils can access a variety of work-based learning opportunities in a familiar and supportive environment, without the need to travel too far afield. This approach helps to build confidence gradually, while still offering meaningful exposure to the skills and expectations of the world beyond school.



Looking ahead, we are excited about the future of Peggy's FAWtique. Plans include extending shopping experiences to younger pupils, allowing them to practise choosing items, handling money and interacting with shop staff in a fun and supportive way. As the shop continues to grow, we hope to expand pupil roles, introduce new products, and offer even more opportunities for pupils to develop independence and confidence at every stage of their journey through Five Acre Wood School.

ADHD, Hyperfocus, and Waiting for Spring

If you missed Matt's first article, *'How Being Helpful Helps Me'* last term, I'd encourage you to go back and take a look. In it, Matt explains how his connection with the school came about and how, in adulthood, he is gaining a deeper understanding of himself and his ADHD and autism.

This term, he offers another insightful look into his ADHD, focusing on hyperfocus — which I'm sure you'll find just as engaging and thought-provoking as I did. Enjoy reading!

Michelle Aslett, Communications Officer

As I write this, it's a quiet Saturday night in the middle of January. It's pitch-black outside, the rain doesn't seem to want to stop, and the house feels that little bit cosier because of it. Earlier today I headed out to one of my angling club's rivers in the hope of catching a Chub. No fish this time — but standing by the water with my 15-year-old son, Jacob, facing the wind and rain together, still felt like a win. I'll share more about fishing as we move into spring, when the days get a little longer and the banks feel a little less icy!

Like many people with ADHD, this time of year brings out a very familiar pattern for me. Once December passes, the short days and long nights seem to flick a switch. Suddenly, I have a renewed determination to lose weight and focus on my health. But even more noticeably, my ADHD hyperfocus kicks into gear. I find myself diving head-first into the things I love — usually fishing — and before I know it, I'm watching endless YouTube videos, reading articles, and preparing all my gear as if spring were arriving tomorrow.

Hyperfocus can be wonderful, but it can also be challenging. When something captures my attention, I want to learn everything about it. I get completely invested, convinced it's the *best thing ever*. And for a few weeks, it really is. But ADHD can be unpredictable, and sometimes that excitement drops away suddenly. One moment I'm all in, and the next I'm wondering why I bought so much kit and how on earth I got carried away so quickly.

That's usually when the difficult feelings appear — regret, frustration, and sometimes shame. It can be a tough spiral to break out of. But I've learned over time that the way out is through support, patience, and a bit of self-kindness. Taking a step back, listening to those who care about me, and allowing myself the space to calm down helps me reset. Having someone gently question what I'm doing — not to challenge me, but to help me think — makes all the difference. Those small acts of understanding can quieten the noise inside my head.

Sleep has never come easily to me. I often joke that sleep and I parted ways years ago! People with ADHD can be more sensitive to light, and I've definitely noticed that. As soon as the sun rises, so do I — even if that's 4am. Recently, I've started taking a magnesium supplement, and after two weeks I *think* it's helping... but I'll reserve judgement until we're in the middle of June and the sun is trying its best to wake me at an unreasonable hour.

Because of all this, I try not to use my phone or laptop too much in the evenings. (The irony isn't lost on me as I type this!) Screens overstimulate me and make it harder to unwind. Giving myself quiet, tech-free time helps me settle and actually feel present.

Despite the dark, wet winter days, I'm already looking toward spring. I love that moment each year when everything bursts back into life — the flowers, the wildlife, the warm sunlight, the longer days. It always feels like a fresh start.

So, as we move through these last weeks of winter, I'd love to ask you:

What are you and your family most looking forward to this year? See you next term, **Matt**



NEWS FROM AROUND THE SCHOOL

Hydrotherapy



Hydrotherapy is a water-based therapy, where exercises and programmes are carried out in a pool with a temperature of 34 degrees Celsius. The warm water helps muscles to relax, ease pain, and increase range of motion by reducing pressure placed on joints.

Our hydrotherapy pool is used by a wide range of pupils, with programmes tailored to support physiotherapy, sensory needs, and improving communication and interaction skills. Sessions last around 20 minutes and are supported by trained staff, with sensory lighting, a variety of floats, and engaging toys available to enhance each programme and keep pupils motivated.



It has been wonderful to see so many of our pupils benefitting from this facility since it opened in 2021, and we are proud to share some of their success stories. Michael began hydrotherapy following a recommendation from the speech and language therapy team to support his communication. Since starting sessions, Michael has made fantastic progress and now confidently vocalises words to staff while in the pool, particularly when requesting his favourite toys.



Ethan follows a physiotherapy programme whilst in the hydrotherapy pool. The warm water helps to relax his muscles and support exercises that build strength and stability. Ethan has been demonstrating his sit to stand exercise whilst reaching for toys, developing both his stability and core strength.

Other pupils use the pool to meet their sensory needs through combined occupational therapy and speech and language therapy programmes. Activities such as a 'push and glide' provide deep pressure through the legs and across the body as pupils glide backwards through the water, supporting regulation and communication. Well done to all of our hydrotherapy stars!

Tuck Shop

Tuck shop is always a highlight on a Friday at Loose. This term, pupils in Thompson Class have enjoyed helping run Tuck shop with the TALP team. Well done to George and Poppy who worked really well together to run the shop!



NEWS FROM AROUND THE SCHOOL

Pupil Spotlight



Well done to Albie who attended school for the first time this term since March last year!

Travel Training

A visit to Snodland Station gave students a valuable opportunity to build confidence and independence in real-life travel situations.

Despite the damp weather, the group were enthusiastic and engaged in discussions about travelling safely, including the importance of valid tickets and staying clear of the tracks. With the support of Southeastern staff and Gary from the Kent Community Rail Partnership, students explored accessibility features, signage, and help points, recognising elements such as ramps, tactile paving and clear platform markings. Students remained engaged and curious throughout the visit, and it was great to see them gaining confidence in their knowledge of travel as they explored the station.



Sporting Successes



This term has seen a number of pupils take part in a range of sporting competitions and activities. At the end of January, pupils enjoyed participating in a variety of games, and a bench ball tournament.

Williams Class returned to Abbey Court School to take part in a range of sports games and races. These activities encouraged teamwork, problem-solving, hand-eye coordination, balance, and the development of gross motor skills — all while having lots of fun. This event is always a highlight of the sporting calendar.

The bench ball tournament was hosted by Snowfields Academy, with Five Acre Wood School entering two teams. Both teams performed brilliantly, finishing in a very respectable 3rd and 4th place. Everyone had a fabulous time and represented the school with enthusiasm and pride.

Further school games and sporting events are planned for upcoming terms. A big thank you to our PE Lead, Will, for organising and supporting these opportunities for our pupils.

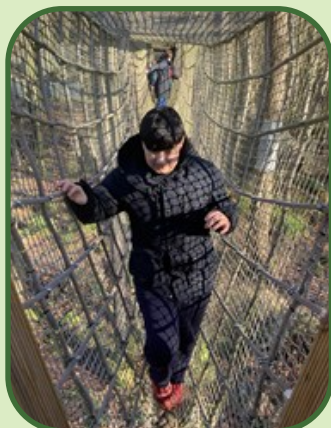


NEWS FROM AROUND THE SCHOOL

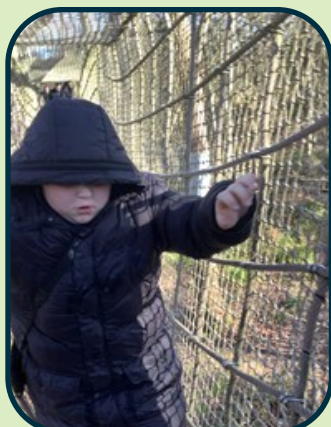
Wildwood Trip



Ravel Class enjoyed a fantastic trip to Wildwood, where pupils loved walking around and spotting the different animals—some even impressing the adults by correcting animal names when they were wrong!



Pupils had great fun splashing in muddy puddles and bravely crossing a rope bridge that *should have* had bears underneath us (although we couldn't spot any!).



The day ended perfectly with some well-earned time in the play park before lunch and our journey back to school. We are extremely proud of everyone in Ravel Class for their enthusiasm and excellent behaviour throughout the trip.

Bike Workshop

Our Year 8 and 9 students recently took part in an exciting and highly engaging hands on workshop with the VeloBuild team, exploring the world of cycle mechanics. Students discovered how bikes work, how simple repairs are made, and why these skills matter in everyday life.

After a lively introduction, students explored tools, parts and maintenance techniques, with plenty of opportunities to ask questions and get stuck in. Throughout the workshop, they put key life skills into action, listening carefully to demonstrations, using teamwork to support one another, and practising problem solving as they investigated common mechanical challenges.

Students could choose to take part in practical tasks or simply chat with the team, making the workshop fully inclusive and allowing everyone to participate in a way that suited them. The

VeloBuild staff brought brilliant energy, encouraging even the most hesitant students to join in. Their infectious enthusiasm helped create a buzzing atmosphere, and our students thoroughly enjoyed the experience.



NEWS FROM AROUND THE SCHOOL

Goat Sanctuary Trip



During the final week of term, pupils and staff from our Secondary Structured provision enjoyed a fantastic visit to Buttercups Goat Sanctuary as a celebration and reward for their hard work. A total of 118 pupils and staff attended the trip, which perfectly linked to our learning throughout the term about animals and how to care for them.



Despite the wet and muddy conditions, pupils arrived prepared with wellington boots and waterproof jackets, ready to embrace the experience. Everyone loved getting up close and personal with the goats. Many pupils confidently stroked the goats, and a small handful were even brave enough to feed them, which was a real highlight of the day.

We are incredibly proud of all pupils for their excellent engagement, behaviour, and for being such positive ambassadors for Five Acre Wood School. For many pupils, this trip marked their first experience of taking part in an off-site visit during their time at Five Acre Wood, making the achievement even more special.

Well done to everyone in Alcalá, Bridgetower, Grant-Still, Grieg, Holst, Mozart, Price, Ravel, and Verdi. A huge thank you to all the staff in each class for their support and dedication in making this such a valuable and memorable experience for our pupils.

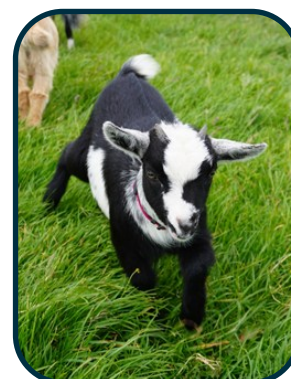


FAW Paws Corner



We are pleased to report that, following a restructure of our Outdoor Learning Environment, we have decided to reintroduce animals into our new FAW Paws Corner. FAW Paws Corner is a small, dedicated therapeutic area designed to provide a calm and nurturing environment for pupils. This quiet space will feature gentle animals that support emotional regulation, reduce stress, and promote a sense of wellbeing.

To begin with, we will shortly be welcoming four kids (baby goats) into their dedicated goat enclosure. The expectant mums, Biscoff and Oreo, who are expecting twins, are currently at Frampton's Farm, where they are being cared for by the wonderful staff, who have kindly allowed us to follow their maternity journeys. We cannot wait for the kids to be born and to welcome them into their new home. Stay tuned for updates on our Facebook and Instagram pages!



NEWS FROM AROUND THE SCHOOL

Light Up Maidstone



Some of our secondary students at Snodland took part in a creative workshop with three visiting artists, where they designed and made their own illuminated sculptures.

If any of you attended the Light Up Maidstone Festival on 6th February, you may have spotted some of our students' with their illuminated butterfly and snowdrop models.



Hundreds of schoolchildren and community groups carried their lanterns through Maidstone town centre alongside street entertainers. If you missed it, a lantern trail is running throughout February where you can see our students' fantastic work.

Supporting the Community at St Martins Church



A group of students from Wright Class took part in valuable work experience opportunities at St Martin's Church, supporting the local community in a variety of ways.

Students helped with the setup of the church's monthly food bank event by emptying donation crates and carefully organising cans and other non-perishable items on tables to support the volunteers. They worked brilliantly as a team to get the job done in time with everything ready, before clearing away and recycling the empty packaging ahead of the hall opening.

In addition, another group of students enjoyed taking part in a flower arranging activity alongside a team of volunteers responsible for decorating the church hall. Following the guidance of church staff, students carefully arranged flowers in vases, taking pride in making the space look colourful and welcoming. They thoroughly enjoyed learning this new skill and are already looking forward to doing more flower arranging in the future.



NEWS FROM AROUND THE SCHOOL

Radio FAW All



Maidstone Radio FAW All is our school radio station and has now been up and running for just over a year. During this time, classes have thoroughly enjoyed recording content both in the studio and out on location using our mobile mixing desk and microphones. Students



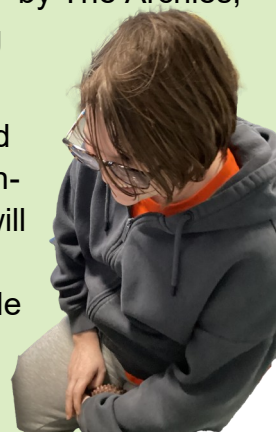
have loved choosing songs for playlists, creating jingles, producing their own shows, and learning how radio works behind the scenes. Listener hours have increased significantly over the past year, reflecting the growing enthusiasm and engagement across the school community.



This term, Edison Class visited Leeds Castle as part of a community partnership between the castle, the school, and Involve Kent. During the visit, students recorded interviews focusing on the castle's new accessibility features. Work placement students from Oxford Road also spoke with representatives from the Lower Thames Crossing tunnel project and the Making a Difference Maidstone charity.

Wright Class continued their popular recipe segment as part of their work experience ASDAN accreditation. For this term's show, they shared a warm, sweet, comfort-food favourite with listeners: sticky toffee pudding! To give their first radio show of 2026 a rich, cosy, and celebratory feel, students carefully selected tracks to match the theme. The class voted for the modern, energetic "Sugar" by Maroon 5, followed by the sweet nostalgia of "Sugar, Sugar" by The Archies, before finishing the show with the warm, sing-along energy of "Sweet Caroline" by Neil Diamond.

Finally, we are delighted to share that our dedicated internet line has now been installed, with the 'switch-over' scheduled for 10th February. Once live, this will open up even more opportunities for people to present radio shows, including those who are unable to visit the studio in person.



FAWfilling Futures

Since our last newsletter in December, what a month (or two!) it has been. The new term has come racing in, full of energy, excitement, and no shortage of big moments. You may have seen or heard the news about our new charity name, which we are incredibly proud of and very excited to share with you as we move forward.

Formerly *Friends of Five Acre Wood and Grow 19*, we are now FAWfilling Futures, the charitable arm of Five Acre Wood School. Our new name reflects our shared vision and purpose: To create more opportunities and enrich the learning journeys of every one of our pupils.

And with our new name, I am delighted to share our brand-new website with you. The site brings to life the incredible projects, trips, and experiences that your support and our local community make possible and celebrates the impact that generosity has on our amazing pupils. This will be the go-to place to learn more, see updates, and follow the difference we are creating together.

Our new website also shares lots of simple and meaningful ways you can support us, including signing up to our parent lottery and purchasing an item from our Amazon wish lists. Each item has been carefully chosen by our team in collaboration with our Learning Approach Leads, ensuring all items are purposeful and directly benefits our pupils. To find out more and see how you can get involved, please visit:

<https://www.theparentslottery.org/school/five-acre-wood-school1762428118>

<https://fawfillingfutures.co.uk/get-involved/wishlists/>



The Core@FAW 24

Not long to go until pupils, staff, and friends take on an amazing challenge to support a brilliant new project.

We are teaming up with the Core The Gym, Maidstone for Core@FAW24 — a 24-hour cardio challenge with one powerful goal: raising funds for a fully adapted fitness space at our Oxford Road site. We are especially excited that pupils from our satellite sites will be taking part during the school day, making this a truly inclusive event that brings our whole school community together.

Our vision is a bespoke, fully accessible gym created from a converted shipping container, giving pupils access to:

- Tailored movement and therapy sessions
- Work experience and independence opportunities
- A safe, inclusive space to build confidence, wellbeing, and life skills

Core The Gym already delivers sessions for some of our pupils, with a focus on strength, confidence, and skill-building — and now they're helping us take this vision even further.



You can support the team by visiting the below link:

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/core-at-faw24>

Visit www.fawfillingfutures.co.uk to learn more about our current and past events and projects, understand how the money raised directly impacts our pupils, learn how you can help fundraise through various platforms, or maybe even find some inspiration to take on your own personal fundraiser!



Walking for Woodstock – West Highland FAWay

Get ready for an amazing adventure as a group of staff and volunteers from Five Acre Wood School embark on an incredible trek along the West Highland Way — a breath-taking 96-mile journey from Milngavie to Fort William in Scotland, completed over just five days — to raise funds for our much-loved Woodstock '26 Festival.



This event gives our pupils the chance to attend a live, spectacular 'out of this world' event that they may otherwise never experience. It's exactly the kind of festival that many of us take for granted, but one that can be difficult to access for children with significant needs. Your support can help us make this festival unforgettable. You can follow the team's journey and support this inspiring challenge today by clicking on the donate link below:

<https://www.peoplesfundraising.com/fundraising-group/TeamWestHighlandFAWay>

Training has begun and boots are being worn in — best of luck to everyone involved and thank you for your amazing support. There's still time to donate.

A huge and special thank you to our corporate sponsors so far: Humidity Response, JEM Construction, Superfast labels, and Mobile Pools UK. We are truly blown away by their generosity, support, and commitment to our school.

Spring Eggstravaganza

We are delighted to announce our upcoming Spring Eggstravaganza, taking place on Saturday 28th March at our Loose site, and we can't wait to welcome you! This fun-filled spring event promises a lovely day out for families, with plenty to enjoy.

The day will include games, a traditional egg hunt, a meet-and-greet with the Easter Bunny, and even a visit from a pony! The cost is £15 per child, which includes activities and the egg hunt. Booking is essential and can be made via the form sent out on Arbor. Refreshments will be available to purchase on the day.

Beau's Fundraiser

We are delighted to share some truly lovely news from our wider school community. Beau, the sibling of one of our pupils, has been raising money for our school charity throughout February as part of her Life Skills project at school. As part of her project, Beau chose to raise money for a charity by committing to an exercise activity every day — and what an incredible effort it has been! Beau set herself a target of £200 and has already exceeded it, raising almost £700 so far. We are so grateful for Beau's kindness, determination, and generosity. To find out more about Beau's story and to show your support, please visit:

https://www.justgiving.com/page/tori-goble-1?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL

A huge thank you, Beau, for choosing to support our school.

Hannah, *Fundraiser*

**Donate
Today**

Primary Formal and Sensory Learning Approaches

Sensory Learning Approach

This term has been filled with curiosity, connection and meaningful moments across our Sensory Learning Approach. Our learners have explored a wide range of sensory activities and immersive sensory stories, using lights, music, textures and shared experiences to bring learning to life. Positive eye work has continued to support visual engagement, helping pupils connect more confidently with people and their environment.

Trips to the Lodge have provided valuable opportunities to develop cooking and life skills, encouraging independence, choice-making and exploration through real-life experiences. Pupils have also worked incredibly hard on their physiotherapy and occupational therapy programmes, building body awareness, comfort in movement and improving access to learning throughout the day. Some pupils have accessed hydrotherapy to support their individual plans.

Wellbeing remains at the heart of everything we do. Through curiosity-led activities, intensive interaction and calm sensory spaces, learners are supported to feel safe, regulated and ready to engage.

We have also loved seeing pupils take part in inclusive opportunities across the approach, joining other classes for shared sessions, enrichment activities and social experiences that build familiarity, confidence and connection.

Every small step this term has been meaningful, and we are so proud of the joy, resilience and progress our learners show each day.

Primary Formal Learning Approach

Our Primary Formal Learning Approach supports children in their primary years of education, up to and including Year 7. Across the approach, we place a strong emphasis on developing independence, building key life skills and fostering resilience. Above all, we aim to instil a natural love of learning.

Pupils join us from a range of educational provisions at different stages in their journey. . Our classes are based across the Loose site, St Katherine's Primary School (adjoining our Snodland satellite), and the Wolfe Building at Snodland for Year 7. Year 7 follows a primary model and acts as a transition year, preparing pupils for their move into different classes from Year 8 onwards. We carefully plan and support all transitions between sites, gradually introducing pupils to new environments during Terms 5 and 6 to ensure they feel confident and secure.

In our younger classes, there is a strong focus on developing foundation skills in communication, reading, writing and mathematics, alongside creativity, social interaction and an introduction to the world around them through structured and exploratory learning.

We focus on four key areas: Language and Literacy, Numeracy and Problem Solving, Knowledge and Understanding of the World, and Personal, Social and Emotional Development. These areas are supported through a range of individual and group activities, trips and engaging experiences.

Alongside this, all pupils work towards their individual targets as outlined in their EHCPs and therapy plans, ensuring that learning is personalised, purposeful and meaningful.

Sensory Class Updates

Da Vinci Class

Da Vinci Class have been enjoying FAWrest School sessions this term, exploring the outdoor space and enjoying The *Gruffalo* story at the end of each session.

We have also made some amazing scones in the Lodge and Evie particularly enjoys having hers with a cup of tea in the afternoon!



using her walker, which has been lovely to see.

Katie-Marie has returned to school following a long absence, and it has been wonderful to watch her reintegrate with her peers.



Pollock Class

Pollock Class have had a fantastic term and have made some wonderful progress. We would like to give the following shout-outs:

Hamza has begun initiating contact when requesting "more" using the Makaton sign. This is a significant step forward in his communication, and we are all incredibly proud of him.

Jack has made incredible progress with his physiotherapy plan and now often enjoys sitting cross-legged on the floor with staff.

Mia has started walking again



We have also enjoyed a visit from Kent Police, taken part in lots of group interactions through tuff tray activities, and loved our inclusion sessions with peers from other learning approaches.

Sensory Class Updates

Monet Class

Pupils have been busy exploring, engaging and developing key life skills through a wide range of meaningful experiences. We have made the most of our inclusion time with O'Keefe Class, supporting the development of social skills such as shared attention, turn-taking and being alongside others in a purposeful way.

A strong focus has been placed on regulation, with daily access to sensory circuits and calming strategies to help pupils recognise what their bodies need and feel ready to learn. We have also developed our independence by learning to safely navigate our environment, both in class and around the school and identifying emotions through songs, visuals and interactive activities.

Cooking sessions have given pupils opportunities to explore tastes and textures, discover likes and dislikes, and practise simple independence skills.

Throughout the term, pupils have been encouraged to choose their favourite activities, with plenty of opportunities for messy play and sensory exploration, supporting curiosity, communication and enjoyment in learning.



O'Keefe Class

O'Keefe Class have had a wonderful term and have loved our topic of frozen touch! We have been loving exploring different temperatures where our favourite lessons were mark making with angel delight and painting with ice lollies! We have also enjoyed inclusion time in our outside spaces with Monet, our buddy class! O'Keefe's have also been loving taking part in cooking this term where we have made pancakes and pita bread pizzas!



Sensory Class Updates

Picasso Class



Just before Christmas, Picasso class were lucky enough to welcome a very special visitor — Dude, the gentle therapy pony from Mini Horse Heroes. The experience was carefully tailored to support our pupils, providing a rich sensory opportunity that captured pupils' curiosity and engagement.



Pupils were calm, captivated and fully present as they explored Dude through touch, sound and shared intensive interaction with staff. Many pupils enjoyed the soothing sensory experience of softly stroking his coat, feeling his warm breath on their hands,



and the comforting moments when he gently rested his head on their laps. These meaningful interactions supported anticipation and emotional connection, allowing pupils to engage at their own pace in a safe and nurturing way.



Experiences like this go beyond enjoyment — they support wellbeing, body awareness and communication through real, lived sensory moments. It was a truly magical visit that created smiles, calm engagement and lasting memories for everyone involved. We are very grateful to the Acorn trust for supporting us to have this experience!



Primary Formal Class Updates

Seuss Class

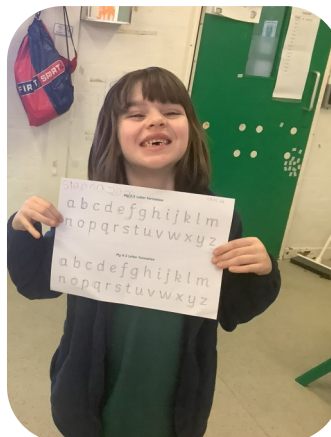


Seuss Class have been enjoying lots of learning beyond the classroom. Trips and visits have included the cinema, the theatre and many visits to the local area. Recently, we have been exploring Snodland and particularly enjoyed trips to the library, bakery and Leybourne Lakes.

In Terms 1 and 2, we all took part in weekly swimming and forest school lessons. When inside the classroom, we enjoy working collaboratively and practically to learn new skills across the curriculum.



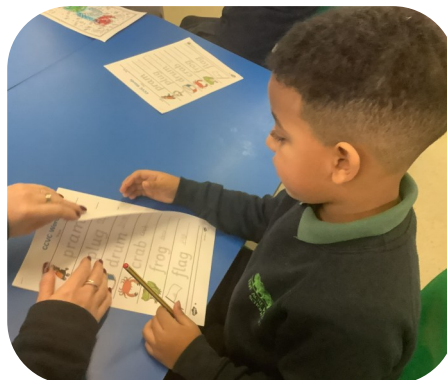
Potter Class



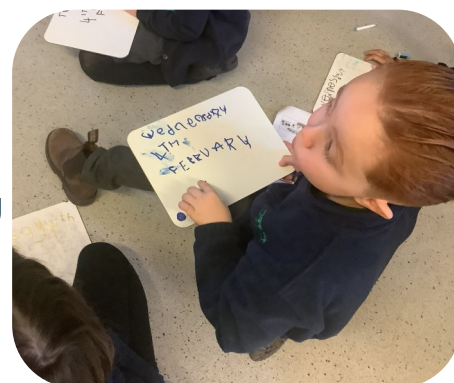
Potter Class have had a very busy term. They spent four weeks over at Oxford Road, which they dealt with really well, and were amazing at coping with the change. The class enjoyed being at Oxford

Road and liked the classroom we were based in while we were there.

They have been busy learning about road safety and how to travel safely, who helps us in our community, and healthy eating — including which foods are good for us and which are not. They also enjoyed trying new foods during a food tasting session.



The children have enjoyed their phonics and maths sessions and particularly looked forward to free choice on Friday afternoons. We returned to Loose at the beginning of this week, and pupils were very glad to be back in their usual classroom and routine. They have been very helpful and have adjusted well. They have also enjoyed their Trim Trail sessions this week and having lunch back in the hall.



Primary Formal Class Updates

Carroll Class

Carroll Class have had a very busy year so far. In Terms 1 and 2, we loved learning all about the St Katherine's site. We particularly enjoy our weekly swimming sessions and joining St Katherine's pupils for some amazing workshops — including a puppet show and, most recently, an incredible beatboxer!

This term, we learnt all about the Ancient Egyptians and have also been developing our ICT skills by creating our own PowerPoint slideshows. We can now independently change images, text and backgrounds.

We have also loved our trips out into the community. We have been lucky enough to visit White Horse Wood in Detling and the cinema. This term, we have visited the FAWrient Express to order our own drink and

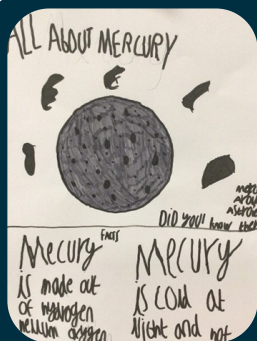
snack, as well as the 7FAW7 Library and snug. We are looking forward to visiting Maidstone Museum and the cinema next term.

Next term, we will be learning more about the country of Egypt and are excited to begin our Forest School sessions.



Dahl Class

Dahl Class have been enjoying learning about the Solar System as part of our science topic this term. Working with a learning partner, we chose a planet to research and created posters and PowerPoint presentations to share interesting facts we discovered.



We have also learned about Neil Armstrong and were fascinated watching videos of his first steps on the moon. We love Forest School at St Katherine's, especially building dens and cooking s'mores.



Primary Formal Class Updates

Lewis Class

Term 3 has certainly kept Lewis Class on their toes! We began the term based at Snodland, before spending time at The Lodge, and most recently settling into Oxford Road as our new base. While that's a lot of change for anyone, our pupils have embraced each move with impressive adaptability and resilience. It has provided them with valuable, real-life insight into how change is a natural part of life — and that they are more than capable of navigating it successfully.

Throughout the term, the class have met many new people, forming friendships and creating special memories along the way. We are particularly proud of Oliver, who has begun working on The FAWrient Express. Oliver has shown real dedication and commitment to his role — a fantastic achievement!

In the classroom, Lewis Class have travelled back in time to Ancient Egypt. Their enthusiasm has been infectious as they explored pharaohs, mummies and hieroglyphics (we are fairly certain a few secret messages may now be circulating around school!). Their curiosity and engagement have made this topic a real highlight of the term.

At the end of term, we took part in Children's Mental Health Week. The pupils demonstrated remarkable insight when discussing how they can support both themselves and others. Their honesty and openness when approaching such an important and sometimes challenging subject is a true testament to the strong, trusting relationships they have built with one another and with the class team.

A huge well done to Lewis Class for a term full of growth, courage and curiosity. We are incredibly proud of you all!

Verne and Dickens Classes

Year 7 have had a very busy term. One of the highlights has been exploring Forest School every Tuesday. Students are really enjoying the mud kitchen and other outdoor resources, including tree swings, dens and digging holes.



We have also been busy cooking, making a range of dishes including fajitas, brownies and spaghetti bolognese. Swimming sessions take place on Monday afternoons, where students have been developing their confidence in the water.



In English this term, students have been reading *The Iron Man* and completing character studies focused on Hogarth. They have made some brilliant predictions about future events throughout the story. In maths, we are continuing to build on key skills, with students working on multiplication and division while making connections with their previous learning.



THANKS FOR READING



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.