



FIVE ACRE WOOD SCHOOL

Growing and Learning Together

NEWSLETTER

TERM 4 2026



Our Cover Stars:

Raising money for a new gym (turn to page 3)

Inside this issue:

- Work Experience
- World Book Day
- SEND and Inclusion Reforms
- Structured Secondary Class Updates

Dates for your diary:

Monday 20th April — First day of term 5

Monday 4th May — BANK HOLIDAY (pupils not in school)

Monday 18th May — Parent Consultations (for pupils who do not have an Annual Review meeting in Terms 5 & 6)

Friday 22nd May — Last day of term 5

Monday 1st June — First day of term 6

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

I have been particularly proud to see the continued success of our work-experience programme at Oxford Road. Watching students grow in confidence, develop real-world skills, and build meaningful connections within the community is truly inspiring. Stories like Adam's remind us of the importance of nurturing individual ambitions and ensuring every young person is supported to reach their full potential. These experiences are not only building skills for the future but also fostering independence and self-belief.

Beyond the classroom, this term has been full of energy, creativity, and celebration. From the imagination and enthusiasm shown on World Book Day to the generosity demonstrated during Comic Relief, our staff and pupils have embraced every opportunity to learn, give, and have fun. The determination displayed during the 24-hour gym fundraiser was truly remarkable, and I have been blown away by the individual and collective fundraising efforts across the school. Our spring events have once again brought our whole community together, creating moments of joy, pride, and connection that we will remember for a long time.

Thank you to our dedicated staff, supportive families, and valued community partners for everything you do to enrich the experiences of our pupils. Your continued support plays a vital role in making these opportunities possible.

Most importantly, well done to our pupils, who continue to impress us every single day with their resilience, enthusiasm, and willingness to try new things. They are at the heart of everything we do, and their achievements never fail to make us proud.

As always, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to international expert Emily Rubin for her ongoing support and for delivering her excellent SCERTS (Social Communication, Emotional Regulation and Transactional Support) workshop to staff and parents. Her expertise continues to have a meaningful impact across our school community.

I would also like to wish our West Highland Way walking team the very best of luck as they take on their incredible 96-mile challenge this bank holiday. Their commitment—giving up their time, training tirelessly, and pushing themselves physically—all in aid of raising funds to provide the very best opportunities for our pupils, is truly commendable.

Finally, I wish you all a restful and enjoyable spring break, and I look forward to welcoming our pupils back to school on Monday, 20th April.



Peggy

The Core@FAW 24—24 Hour Gym Challenge



At the beginning of this term, our school community came together for an extraordinary challenge—24 hours of non-stop cycling, rowing, running, and determination—all to raise vital funds for an exciting new project.

Five Acre Wood School partnered with Core The Gym to host *The Core @ FAW24*, a 24-hour cardio challenge with one powerful goal: to create a bespoke, fully accessible gym for pupils at our Oxford Road site.

Over a full 24-hour period, pupils, staff, friends, and members of the local community took turns on cardio

equipment, ensuring the challenge never stopped—day or night. From the very first push of the pedals to the final stride on the treadmill, the atmosphere was one of teamwork, encouragement, and shared purpose.

So, why are we fundraising?

This project will transform two shipping containers into a fully adapted gym space, specifically designed for pupils with profound, severe, and complex learning difficulties. The gym will provide:

- Tailored movement and therapy sessions
- Opportunities for work experience and developing independence
- A safe, accessible environment to build confidence, wellbeing, and essential life skills

Not every pupil can access a mainstream gym safely or comfortably, which is why this project is so important. This space will ensure that all of our pupils have the opportunity to move, grow, and thrive in a way that meets their individual needs.

The event itself was nothing short of incredible. Pupils proudly kicked off the challenge, setting the tone for what would become an inspiring 24 hours. Throughout the event, staff and volunteers showed outstanding commitment, with some taking on up to five hours on the equipment and even staying overnight to keep the challenge going.

We were delighted to welcome special visitors, including local police officers and the Mayor, who came along to show their support and cheer participants on. Their encouragement helped to boost morale and highlighted the strength of our wider community.

As the challenge drew to a close, staff members, alongside our Philanthropy and Events Officer Hannah, finished the final hour with determination, energy, and huge smiles. It was a fitting end to an unforgettable event.

We are incredibly proud of everyone who took part, supported, or donated. We smashed our £6,000 fundraising target and are well on the way to making this vision a reality, with the total—including individual giving and corporate donations—now reaching almost £14,000.

Together, we are making a real difference and taking a huge step towards creating a space where our pupils can continue to build confidence, independence, and lifelong skills.



A Season for Growth and New Opportunities

Matt Barnicoat, a Service Engineer and valued volunteer at Five Acre Wood School, has written this term's article focusing on challenges, something our gym fundraising enthusiasts know all about, and growth. Following his recent diagnosis of ADHD and autism, Matt reflects on how embracing change and stepping into the unfamiliar can lead to new and exciting opportunities.

Michelle Aslett, Communications Officer

Spring has finally arrived - a time often associated with fresh starts, new energy, and the chance to grow. As the days get longer and brighter, and I find myself with even more time to pursue my hobby of fishing with my children, it's also a good moment to pause and reflect on how much can change in such a short space of time. Recently, I've had opportunities that I feel incredibly grateful to be part of. From attending training courses and signing up to an apprenticeship in coaching, these experiences have reminded me how important it is to keep learning and pushing yourself—even when things feel unfamiliar.

Like many people, I haven't always been certain about the path I wanted to take. Even now, as a Lead Field Service Engineer, I sometimes have to pause and take it all in. It's only in recent times that I've really started to understand what I want to do and, more importantly, the kind of impact I want to have. Along the way, I've made a conscious effort to step outside of my comfort zone—whether that's meeting new people, sharing ideas, putting myself forward for projects, or having the confidence to challenge things when they don't feel right. That journey has introduced me to some incredible people who continue to inspire and support me. It has made me realise that personal growth doesn't always come from having a clear plan, but from being willing to try.

This year, I'll be "going back to school" as I begin a coaching apprenticeship. This feels like a natural next step, as I've discovered a real passion for helping others grow and succeed. It's something that gives me a huge amount of energy—very similar to how I feel every time I visit Five Acre Wood. I always leave with a real buzz of ideas, positivity, and excitement for what's ahead. Spending time at Five Acre Wood is always a highlight where it's inspiring to see how everyone is encouraged to develop in their own way.

With the sun starting to shine, the days getting longer, and a real sense of spring in the air, there's a renewed feeling of energy, and possibility. It feels like the perfect time to think about growth – not just in nature, but in ourselves too. For me, the next few months are all about building on that momentum and embracing new challenges. But growth doesn't have to mean big changes; it can start with something small, like trying something new, asking a question, or taking a step towards a goal.

Before I finish, I'll leave you with a question to reflect on: What did you dream of becoming when you were younger? And if life has taken you in a different direction, what small step could you take today to move closer to that dream?

Wishing you all a wonderful and inspiring term ahead.

See you next term,

Matt



Work Experience:

Placements Across the Local Community

Students from our Oxford Road site have continued to build confidence and independence through their weekly work-experience placements across the local community.



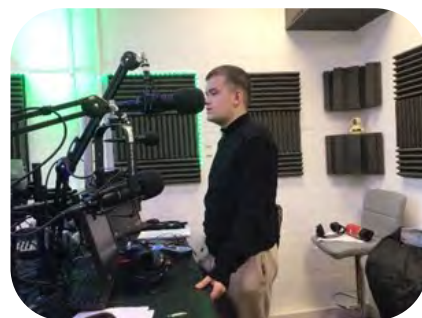
Real-world Learning in a Variety of Settings

Attending their placements once a week throughout the term allows students to develop their skills gradually while forming strong and meaningful connections with their workplaces. Each placement is carefully matched to students' interests, with opportunities in a range of settings including cafés, retail environments, offices, and community organisations.

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Building independence, skills and confidence

The regular routine helps students settle in, take on more responsibility, and build trust with the teams they work alongside. Employers consistently praise their enthusiasm, adaptability, and commitment. Through these experiences, students develop key life and work skills such as communication, teamwork, reliability, and independence.



We are delighted to see students growing in confidence and becoming more independent with every visit. These ongoing placements give students a brilliant head start as they prepare for their future — and they continue to shine!

Pupil Spotlight: Adam's Journey

Adam began his work-experience journey in Year 12 with a passion for cooking and the ambition to become a chef.

He started on the FAWrient Express, where he impressed staff by preparing and serving drinks and snacks, earning excellent feedback for his attitude and commitment. In Year 13, Adam progressed to The Sunflower Café at the Maidstone Community Support Centre, where he has continued to grow in confidence, working with customers and as part of a busy team.

Adam will be continuing his learning by studying a Level 1 qualification in catering. Adam's hard work and determination highlights how ongoing work experience can help turn interests into real career pathways. We are incredibly proud of everything he achieves, and we can't wait to see where his passion for cooking takes him next!



SEND and Inclusion Reforms

What Could This Mean For Your Child?

In February 2026, the Government published a new schools white paper called “*Every Child Achieving and Thriving*” which sets out long-term plans to improve support for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). These proposals are still in the consultation stage, which means nothing has changed yet – but it’s helpful to understand what might happen in the future.

What is the aim of the reforms?

The Government’s goal is simple:

Children who can thrive in mainstream schools should be supported to do so, and those who need specialist provision should receive it quickly, clearly, and with the right support in place.

What could this mean for your child?

If these proposals go ahead, you may see:

Earlier support

- Schools may be expected to identify and support needs more quickly
- Access to specialist advice (such as speech and language therapy or educational psychology) could happen sooner

More support in mainstream schools

- Increased funding and training will help mainstream schools better support children with SEND
- More specialist resources (such as support bases or outreach services) may be available locally

Clearer systems

- A new type of plan, called an *Individual Support Plan (ISP)*, may be introduced for some children
- The system aims to be easier to understand and less stressful for families to navigate

Specialist provision remains important

For children with more complex needs, Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) and specialist settings like Five Acre Wood will continue to play a vital role

Will anything change at Five Acre Wood?

At this stage, there are no immediate changes for pupils at Five Acre Wood. However, over time, the proposals may:

- Strengthen links between specialist and mainstream schools
- Increase opportunities for outreach and shared expertise
- Ensure specialist settings continue to support children with the most complex needs

We will always keep families informed if any changes affect our school or your child’s provision.

When will changes happen?

These reforms are part of a long-term plan over the next 10 years.

- Consultation is open until 18 May 2026
- Any changes will be introduced gradually from 2026 onwards

Can parents/carers have their say?

Yes – and this is really important. The Government is currently asking for feedback through the consultation: “SEND reform: putting children and young people first”

This is your opportunity to share your experiences and help shape future SEND provision. You can have your say here: [SEND reform: putting children and young people first - Department for Education - Citizen Space](#)

World Book Day



NEWS FROM AROUND THE SCHOOL

Emotional Wellbeing Team

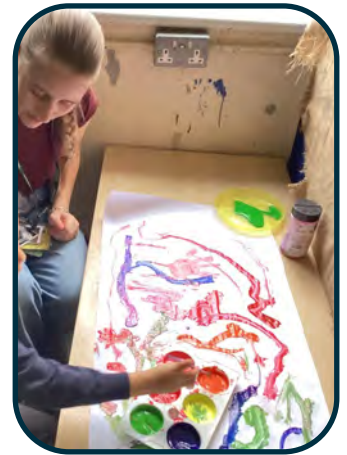
Introducing our Emotional Wellbeing Team, made up of Jag, our Counsellor, and Adina, our Play Therapist. Together, they support the wellbeing of both students and staff through therapeutic sessions, as well as whole-school initiatives that promote positive mental health.

The team marked the start of the year by celebrating Children's Mental Health Week in February. Students took part in a creative art project based on the theme *'This is my place'*, sharing their own safe spaces. Alongside this, presentations and workshops were delivered across all sites to raise awareness and encourage open conversations about wellbeing.



To further support their work, the team hosted a staff quiz night to raise funds for an exciting new initiative—a mobile play therapy bus, designed to travel between sites and reach those who may benefit from additional support.

They have also launched a new wellbeing podcast, exploring a range of topics linked to mental health. The second episode, focusing on emotions, will be released soon and broadcast on Maidstone Radio FAW All. Looking ahead, the team is planning even more opportunities for the whole school community to come together, connect, and support wellbeing.



Radio FAW All

Our School radio continues to go from strength to strength, with an increasing number of classes getting involved and sharing their voices across the school community.

This term, the studio has welcomed visits from Verdi and Boone classes, alongside regular sessions from Edison class (read more on page 9), who created a fantastic radio show to celebrate the International Day of Happiness. The team has also extended their reach by visiting other sites, including Seuss and Dahl classes at St Katherine's. Wright class also contributed with another brilliant recipe recording, this time for their Easter chocolate cakes.

The radio has also played an important role in supporting wider school initiatives. Jag and Adina from the Emotional Wellbeing Team recorded their first wellbeing podcast, which was broadcast during Children's Mental Health Week, with a second episode due to air soon.

The station continues to strengthen links with the local community, welcoming visitors such as Seaquer, Young Lives Foundation, Stones in the Community, and Core the Gym. Highlights included promoting and recording interviews during the Core 24-hour challenge, with further support planned for upcoming events.

Paul and Clive in the studio also had the exciting opportunity to interview Tyber Cranstoun ahead of his band The Dualers' national tour for their new album *Beach Life*.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE SCHOOL



W - l y m p i c s

This term, Williams Class explored the Winter Olympics and Paralympics, linking their learning to the core Olympic and Paralympic values. Pupils began by watching inspirational clips and discussing themes such as determination, respect and friendship.

They then took part in their own “W-lympics”, competing in a range of activities including the Illinois agility test, shot put and sprint races. This linked brilliantly with their numeracy learning, as pupils measured distances and recorded times to calculate overall results.

A highlight of the week was welcoming pupils from Abbey Court to continue the games together. Teams were mixed, encouraging pupils to work alongside new peers and adults. It was fantastic to see everyone demonstrating such positive values, building new connections and supporting one another.

At the end of the week, results were combined and medals were awarded:

- **Agility:** Lewis, Stephen & Taylor
- **Shot Put:** Jessica
- **Sprints:** Jenson, Elliot & Harry

It was a fantastic, hands-on week of learning—well done to everyone involved!

Edison Class – Radio Stars!

Edison Class have been developing their communication and creativity this term making best use of the School’s radio station.

Pupils have explored different roles within a radio studio, including presenters, interviewers and technicians. They have practised speaking clearly, listening to others and sharing their ideas with confidence. Recording short segments, sharing news, music choices and interviews has definitely given students a confidence boost.

A particular highlight has been students discussing their favourite books for World Book Day, with Emily reading out her favourite book ‘*Stick Man*’ live on air. Students also recorded some beautiful Mother’s Day messages.

The project has supported pupils’ communication skills, teamwork and self-expression, and it has been wonderful to see their confidence grow over time.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE SCHOOL

Travel Training



A group of students recently stepped beyond the classroom and onto the railway for a practical, hands-on experience designed to build confidence and independence when using public transport.

For some, this was their very first train journey, while others were more familiar with travelling but had not previously been involved in planning or organising a trip themselves. This made the experience particularly

valuable, giving students the opportunity to explore different ways of paying for travel and practise how to ask for help independently when needed.

Throughout the visit, students developed key life and employability skills. They made informed travel decisions, communicated with rail staff, followed safety procedures, and responded to real-world situations.

They also gained an understanding of station safety features, the support available for passengers who may need additional assistance, and how accessibility is supported—including where ramps can be fitted on trains.

Students were introduced to the JAM Card (Just A Minute), a simple but effective tool that allows individuals to discreetly indicate when they may need extra time or patience. This supported their understanding of self-advocacy and how to confidently ask for help in everyday situations.

Overall, the experience helped students grow in confidence as they begin navigating public transport, while also developing a greater awareness of inclusive travel and the responsibilities that come with increased independence beyond the classroom.

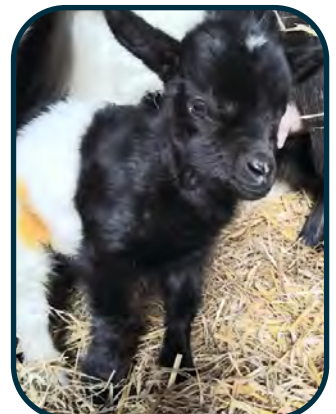
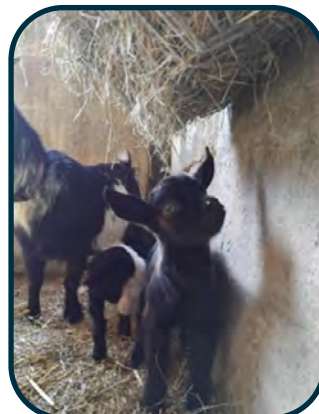


Goat Update

It won't be long until we introduce some new faces to our Outdoor Learning Environment!

We're excited to share that our first kids were born in mid-March. Bourbon and Sox, twin goats from mum Oreo, will soon be joining our FAW Paws Corner and dedicated goat enclosure.

A huge thank you to Frampton's Farm for continuing to care for them until they are ready to join us—we can't wait to meet them!



FAWfilling Futures

What a fantastic and inspiring term it has been!. We have been truly blown away by the generosity, creativity and dedication shown by our pupils, families, staff, and wider community. From incredible personal challenges to whole-school events, your support is helping us create unforgettable opportunities for our pupils — thank you.

Walking FAW Woodstock—West Highland FAW Way

How time flies — on Good Friday, a group of our dedicated staff and volunteers will set off on an incredible challenge, walking the West Highland Way. This breath-taking 96-mile journey from Milngavie to Fort William in Scotland will be completed over just five days, all in aid of our much-loved Woodstock '26 Festival.

This special event gives our pupils, the opportunity to experience a live, “out of this world” festival — something many of us take for granted, but which they may otherwise never have the chance to experience.

Thanks to your amazing support, we are nearly at an incredible £8,000 — a huge milestone! A very special thank you to our corporate sponsors: Humidity Response, JEM Construction, Superfast Labels, South East Water, Mindflick, and Mobile Pools UK, and to everyone who has sponsored the team. We are truly blown away by your generosity.

There's still time to donate and support the team — and don't forget to follow their journey on our social media and Radio FAW All, our community radio.

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



Spring Events - Egg-stra Special!

This term's events have been nothing short of egg-tastic!

Our Spring Eggstravaganza welcomed over 150 families. With the sun shining, families enjoyed an Easter egg hunt, FAWrest school activities, crafts, face painting, and even a visit from the Easter Bunny — alongside two beautiful ponies who were a real highlight of the day.

Our Spring Fair at Loose was another wonderful success, showcasing the incredible work our pupils have created. It was so lovely to welcome families and celebrate together.

A huge thank you to our amazing staff and volunteers — events like these simply wouldn't be possible without your dedication and support.



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!



Incredible Individual Fundraising

We have also been incredibly inspired by individuals in our community going above and beyond to support us.



A huge shout out to Beau, who as part of a school life skills project completed 20 squats and 20 star jumps every day throughout February. Beau set herself a target of £200 and smashed it — raising an incredible £836! We were so proud to visit her school to present a certificate and a Raising FAWtunes t-shirt.



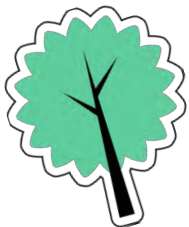
Another special mention goes to Trixie, who chose to give back instead of having a birthday party. Trixie has been busy creating bracelets, keyrings, tote bags and more, as well as organising an Easter raffle — raising an amazing £300 for our school.

We are so proud of you both — thank you for choosing to support us.

FAW Charity Football Match

With Term 5 just around the corner, that can only mean one thing... our FAW Charity Football Match!

Friday 12th June - Our Five Acre Wood team will take on staff and volunteers from Stones in the Community in what promises to be another fantastic evening.



Further details, including ticket information and raffle prizes, will be shared soon — so save the date!

Community Fundraising

You may have seen on our website our exciting plans to transform our current sensory garden into a brand-new immersive space for our pupils.

The FAW Seasons Garden will be a vibrant, multi-sensory environment, designed

around the four seasons — spring, summer, autumn, and winter. It will support emotional, cognitive, and sensory development, while providing a calming yet stimulating space for learning beyond the classroom.

To help bring this vision to life, two of our wonderful parents, Candis and Matt Peal, are taking on incredible fundraising challenges. Candis will be climbing Mount Snowdon, while Matt will be completing the National Three Peaks Challenge.

We would love your support in cheering them on and helping make this project a reality. You can donate here:

https://www.justgiving.com/team/candisbeckilaura?utm_medium=TE&utm_source=CL

https://www.justgiving.com/page/matt-peal-1?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL&utm_campaign=021

We are also incredibly grateful to a member of staff from our Snodland site, who runs a youth darts academy in Maidstone. They will be hosting an open darts competition at Wizejacks in Maidstone on 11th April in aid of Autism Awareness, with all proceeds being donated to our school.

If you're free, please do come along and show your support.

Thank you once again to everyone who has supported us this term — whether through fundraising, attending events, or cheering us on. Your

**Donate
Today**

Structured Secondary Learning Approach

Each term we focus on a project designed to develop pupils' independent life skills and broaden their experiences beyond those they may typically access at home. All learning is delivered through a Structured TEACCHing approach, supporting pupils to build confidence, independence and engagement.

Term 1 – Who Am I?

Pupils explored identity through art, learning about key artists and creating their own work, culminating in a wonderful Art Gallery. Pupils designed their own posters and invitations to advertise the event before successfully hosting an Art Gallery for peers, staff, parents, and carers to enjoy.

Term 2 – Community Safety: Who Can Help Us?

Pupils learned about people who help us, including emergency services and healthcare professionals. Throughout the term, pupils developed their knowledge and understanding of the different roles within each profession and identified how these jobs help us in everyday life. Role play and practical activities supported understanding, ending with a visit from the police where pupils had the opportunity to explore the police car sirens, sit inside the vehicle, and even 'arrest' their teachers, making for a memorable and engaging end to the topic.

Term 3 – Animal Care

Pupils began the term by developing their skills off-site, completing two perimeter walks to help prepare them for the end-of-term trip. They worked hard to create fact files about animals, with some pupils carrying out their own independent research on specific species. Pupils also enjoyed sessions with the school therapy dogs, learning how to interact with them appropriately. We finished the term with a trip to the goat sanctuary, which was attended by all secondary pupils.

Term 4 – Showcasing My Skills

Pupils explored their interests and talents, preparing for a talent show. Pupils have also learned about the different roles involved in organising a performance and worked collaboratively to plan and deliver the event. This term has fostered strong collaboration, peer support, and encouragement, which has been fantastic to see.

Term 5 – Survival Skills: A Night in the Wild

Pupils will develop the skills required to engage in outdoor activities, including preparing for picnics, getting ready for a sleepover, and learning key survival skills such as setting up tents and inflating air beds. The term will end with an overnight camping experience at school.

Term 6 – Bake-Off vs Masterchef

Pupils will build cooking skills by preparing a range of dishes. The term will conclude with a cooking event, where each class will choose to bake or prepare a dish to be judged by the senior leadership team.

Weekly assemblies, structured lessons (including 1:1, group and independent work), and leisure breaks support communication, social interaction and confidence.

We are proud of the progress our pupils make, celebrating each step as they develop skills for life beyond school.

Structured Secondary Class Updates

Alcala Class



Pupils in Alcala have had a productive and engaging year to date. They have actively participated across all areas of the curriculum, developing key skills in both maths and literacy. This includes progress in independent sentence construction, spelling, and collaborative social skills, such as working with partners, sharing leisure activities, and completing group tasks like puzzles.



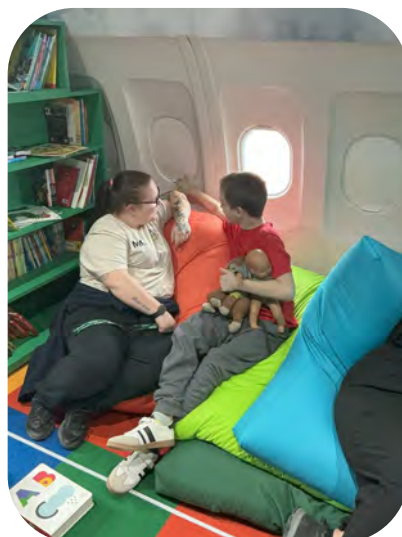
They have also benefited from attending assemblies alongside other classes, providing valuable opportunities to interact with new peers and experience different learning environments. A continued focus has been placed on independence, with pupils utilising both the classroom and lodge settings to practise functional life skills and enhance communication across a range of activities, including making independent choices during sensory play.



Outdoor learning remains a particular strength and area of enjoyment. Pupils make excellent use of the field, MUGA, and trim trail, with FAWest School being a standout experience. At FAWrest School, they have developed confidence through exploration, including climbing, engaging with playing music, using the mud kitchen, and relaxing in the hammock.

The introduction of the plane has been especially well received. Pupils thoroughly enjoy their weekly sessions, where they explore a range of books and engage in “flying” the plane.

Offsite visits have been our significant highlight. Pupils have progressed from enjoying perimeter walks around the school to participating in trips to locations such as Gravity and the goat sanctuary, demonstrating growing confidence in the wider community.



Structured Secondary Class Updates

Bridgetower Class

This year, Bridgetower Class have focused on creating meaningful opportunities for pupils to engage with and become active participants in the wider community. Through carefully planned activities, pupils have been building confidence, developing independence, and supported to access public spaces in a positive way.

During the festive season, we enjoyed a wonderful visit to the Millbrook Christmas Grotto. The pupils explored nativity scenes and admired the reindeer and snow machines, making it a memorable experience for all.

To celebrate the end of term, we organised a special trip to Gravity at the Lockmeadow Centre in Maidstone. This was a fantastic opportunity for the children to enjoy a well-deserved treat while accessing a dedicated SEN session in a public setting. We were delighted to have parents join us on both of these trips—your involvement is invaluable and greatly appreciated. Strengthening the partnership between home and school is one of Five Acre Wood's priorities, and your support plays a vital role in achieving this.

In the New Year, Bridgetower class visited the Buttercup Goat Sanctuary in Boughton. This visit was particularly special as we welcomed a new pupil to our class that week. It was heart warming to see how quickly the children welcomed their new classmate, demonstrating kindness and inclusivity as they became part of our classroom family. Despite the muddy and wet weather, the pupils had a fantastic time exploring the sanctuary. Some even had the opportunity to enter the feeding area and interact with the goats, which was a highlight of the trip.

Looking ahead, we are excited to continue planning these activities for our pupils, especially as the weather improves and their confidence continues to grow. We are incredibly proud of the progress the children are making each day. This includes taking on increased responsibilities and engaging more fully in school life—whether that be walking to the hall for lunchtime, participating in talent shows, attending assemblies, or joining other classes during inclusive play sessions.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We look forward to sharing many more experiences with you and your children in the coming months.



Structured Secondary Class Updates

Grant-Still Class



This year so far has been full of rich experiences for Grant-Still Class, and the pupils have embraced every moment. They showed wonderful curiosity and calm engagement during our visit to the goat sanctuary, where gentle interactions with the animals sparked lots of smiles.

Our sensory dance sessions in term 3 were a highlight, offering a joyful space for movement, singing and self expression.

FAWrest School has also been a big hit, with pupils exploring natural materials, building confidence outdoors and working beautifully as partners around the space and we look forward to returning in term 6.



Perhaps the biggest excitement of all has been our brand new interactive library. The story sacks have inspired imaginative storytelling, and the plane cockpit role play area has quickly become a favourite spot, encouraging communication, teamwork and plenty of enthusiastic "pilots" ready for take off.

Grieg Class

This term, Grieg Class have been going to Morrisons to purchase items and practice our money skills to pay for our items. All the pupils have enjoyed using their shopping lists to find the items they needed to find and putting them in the trolley. Once we had all got our shopping, we went to the checkout and waited to pack and then pay for our items. The pupils were amazing during our trips and it was lovely to receive such positive comments from both shoppers and staff at Morrisons.



Structured Secondary Class Updates

Holst Class

Holst class have made fantastic progress since coming together in September, with a strong focus on developing social skills and building a positive classroom community.

Pupils have worked hard on forming friendships, playing cooperatively and supporting one another through group activities and games. It has been wonderful to see these relationships grow.

We have enjoyed a range of trips and activities; we went on a trip to the goat sanctuary and had a fantastic time looking at and stroking all the goats and seeing how they are looked after. On the same day, we also went bowling and to McDonalds. The children enjoyed these activities which provided valuable opportunities to practise teamwork and celebrate success together.

Last term, we were invited to attend some PE lessons where we had lots of fun partaking in a variety of sports including football, rugby and volleyball, developing coordination, control and teamwork skills. We had a great time playing all the games and practising our control skills and teamwork.

We are incredibly proud of how far Holst class have come and look forward to continuing this journey together.



Verdi Class

Verdi class have had a fantastic year, taking part in a wide range of enriching experiences both in and out of school.

Regular visits to Morrisons and the café have supported independence and community engagement, alongside trips to the cinema, Wildwood, the pantomime and the goat sanctuary. A recent highlight was visiting Radio FAW All, where some pupils even had the opportunity to speak on air.

Pupils have also enjoyed visits from community helpers, with the police car proving especially popular.

The class have worked hard to build friendships, support one another and work collaboratively. Many pupils have also begun working towards ASDAN qualifications.

Everyone has been working really hard in the past weeks in preparation for the talent show and we are incredibly proud of their achievements.

Structured Secondary Class Updates

Mozart Class



This term Mozart class have been exploring their talents, with a particular focus on creativity and art. We love painting in Mozart and really enjoyed making this huge piece for our talent show back drop, we chose our colours and squirted the paint all over the paper then used different objects to make marks. Many pupils particularly enjoyed the sensory experience of using their hands to explore the paint.



Price Class

Price class have had a fantastic year so far, filled with engaging learning opportunities. Pupils have been developing their independence through activities such as completing surveys around the school and practising safe access to the car park.



A visit to the goat sanctuary was a highlight, with pupils enjoying meeting the animals despite the muddy conditions.



Pupils have also been making great use of the FAWlife Lodge, developing important life skills such as making beds, folding laundry and cleaning. The new library, the 7FAW7, has been another favourite, providing a unique and exciting reading environment.



We are looking forward to even more fun filled learning opportunities throughout the rest of the year.



Structured Secondary Class Updates

Ravel Class



It has been another term full of fun, excitement, and meaningful learning experiences. We have been working hard on our performances for the talent show, which we hope everyone enjoyed! It was wonderful to see the pupils' confidence and enthusiasm shine through.



Throughout the term, we have continued to focus on developing communication skills and enhancing the level of language we use. Pupils have been extremely receptive to additional visuals and are beginning to use modelled language spontaneously, which has been fantastic to see.

We have also been building our fine motor skills to support pre-writing and writing development. In numeracy, we have explored numbers in a variety of ways, including addition, subtraction, sharing objects, multiplication, and division.



One of the highlights this term has been our visits to the 7FAW7 library, where pupils have enjoyed exploring a wide range of books and taking on the role of 'pilot'. We have also spent time developing our independent living skills in the FAWlife Lodge. Pupils have practised setting the dinner table, changing pillowcases, and mopping the floor with great focus and independence.

To round off the term, we enjoyed shopping trips, walking to Sainsbury's, purchasing a snack, and returning to school—an excellent way to apply real-life skills.

We are incredibly proud of everyone in Ravel class. Pupils consistently try their hardest and show a real eagerness to learn. We are looking forward to continuing our learning and interactions for the remainder of the academic year.

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.