

# NEWSLETTER

TERM 6 2026



## Our Cover Stars:

Our FAWever Choir  
performing *The Climb*

## Inside this issue:

- World's Best School Nomination
- Butlins Residential
- Sports Days
- Woodstock

## Dates for your diary:

*Tuesday 3rd September* — First day of term 1

*Wednesday 9th to Friday 25th September* —  
School photographs (check site date)

*Friday 25th September* — Jeans for Genes Day

*Tuesday 29th September* — Flu immunisations,  
Loose

*Thursday 8th October* — Flu immunisations, Loose

*Friday 23rd October* — Last day of term 1

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 6 Newsletter!

As another extraordinary school year draws to a close, I find myself reflecting with immense pride on everything we have achieved together as a school community.

This year has been filled with memorable moments, exciting opportunities and remarkable successes. From classroom achievements and educational visits to performances, sporting events, fundraising and community projects, our pupils have continued to demonstrate resilience, determination and a willingness to embrace every opportunity that comes their way.

One of the highlights of the year has undoubtedly been Five Acre Wood School being recognised as one of the Top 10 schools in the world in the World's Best School Prizes 2026 for Innovation. This incredible honour belongs to every pupil, member of staff, family and partner who shares our belief that every young person deserves ambitious opportunities and meaningful experiences. It is wonderful to see the creativity, dedication and innovation that happens every day at Five Acre Wood being recognised on a global stage.

Our school community has once again shown its incredible generosity. Thank you to everyone who has supported our events this year—not only through your fundraising and donations, but by attending and helping make them such a success. Events like our Charity Football Match not only bring people together but also raise valuable funds that enable FAWfilling Futures to continue creating life-changing opportunities for our pupils.

At this time of year, we also say goodbye to many pupils as they move on to the next stage of their journey. Whilst it is always difficult to say farewell, we know they leave us with wonderful memories, lasting friendships and the skills and confidence to embrace the future. We are immensely proud of each and every one of them and wish them every success and happiness in the years ahead.

Finally, I would like to thank our incredible staff, families, carers, governors, volunteers, supporters and wider community. Your commitment, encouragement and belief in our pupils make everything we achieve possible. Together, we continue to create an environment where every child can flourish.

I wish you all a happy, safe and restful summer break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in September for another exciting year of learning, opportunity and achievement.

*Peggy*



## WORLD'S BEST SCHOOL PRIZE

### Shortlisted In The Innovation Category

As the school year comes to a close, we are delighted to reflect on one of the biggest achievements in Five Acre Wood School's history.

In June, we were honoured to be named among the Top 10 schools in the world in the Innovation category of the World's Best School Prizes 2026. This prestigious international recognition celebrates schools that are transforming education and creating outstanding opportunities for children and young people.

Being shortlisted is an incredible achievement and recognises the innovative approach that has become synonymous with Five Acre Wood School. From our pioneering vocational projects, including the FAWrient Express, Platform FAW and Made FAW You, to our unique learning environments and real-life experiences, innovation continues to open doors for our pupils and help them develop the skills, confidence and independence they need for the future.



This achievement belongs to our entire school community. Every member of staff plays a vital role in creating opportunities, removing barriers and inspiring our pupils to achieve more than they ever thought possible. It is also a reflection of the fantastic support we receive from our families, partners, volunteers and wider community, who continually help us bring ambitious ideas to life.

Adding to the celebrations, our signing choir released their sixth single, *The Climb*, on the very same day. With its powerful message of perseverance, resilience and believing in yourself, the song perfectly captures the spirit of our pupils and the determination that underpins everything we do at Five Acre Wood School.



**"This recognition belongs to every pupil, every member of staff, every family and every partner who helps make our school such a special place. It reflects a shared belief that all young people deserve ambitious opportunities, meaningful experiences and the chance to achieve extraordinary things."**

**Being recognised amongst some of the most innovative schools in the world is a tremendous honour and a powerful endorsement of our vision. It demonstrates what can happen when we live the Five Acre Wood Way – Together Stronger, Pupils First and Every Moment Matters." - Peggy Murphy, Principal**

We will discover in November whether we have been crowned the World's Best School for Innovation. Until then, we would like to thank everyone who has voted for us in the Community Choice Award and shared our story. Your encouragement has helped showcase the incredible achievements of our pupils on a global stage.

Whatever the outcome, reaching the world's top 10 is a remarkable milestone and one that everyone connected with Five Acre Wood School can be immensely proud of.

## Residential Trip to Butlins



Our recent residential trips to Butlin's, Bognor Regis, gave sixth form students the opportunity to enjoy an unforgettable week of fun, friendship and new experiences.

Whether they were challenging themselves on the fairground rides, making a splash in the swimming pool and flumes, competing in laser tag and go-karting, singing their hearts out at karaoke, eating fish and chips on the beach, or enjoying the evening entertainment, every day was packed with exciting activities.



For many students, the residential was about much more than having fun. It was an opportunity to develop independence, build confidence and strengthen friendships. Students worked together to organise their days, prepare meals, manage their spending money and support one another throughout the week, demonstrating fantastic teamwork and resilience.

The trip also encouraged students to step outside their comfort zones, with many trying activities they had never experienced before and achieving things they didn't think were possible.

What our students said:



**Amy:** "My favourite activity was swimming, and I really enjoyed the shows."

**Cai:** "I loved the laser tag, and I was proud of myself at Butlin's. It was exciting!"

**Joel:** "Go-karting was the best. I raced with my friends and did it independently. I loved it."

**Christopher:** "My favourite memory was karaoke and singing with my friends."

**Stan:** "The most memorable thing was going to the beach

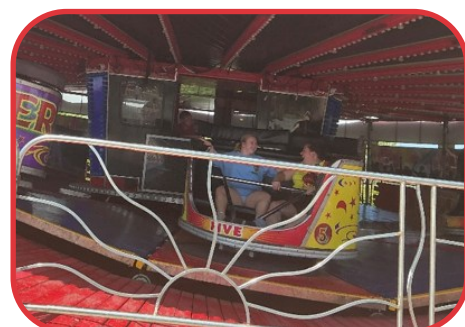
with my friends."

**Lewis:** "I liked spending time with my friends and dancing."

**Moisha:** "I got to do things that I never thought I would, and doing that makes me feel proud of trying."

**Stanley:** "I liked being with my friends from other classes, doing laser tag with them and having a laugh with other pupils and staff from Sixth Form. It was an amazing time."

The smiles, laughter and memories made will stay with our students for a long time. A huge thank you to all the staff who supported the trips and helped make it such a wonderful success.



## A FINAL REFLECTION

Well, here we are – the end of another school year. The summer holidays are just around the corner, and what an incredible year it has been.

I want to start by saying how incredibly proud I am of being associated with FAW. Whether you're a pupil, member of staff, parent or volunteer, you have all played a part in making FAW School such a special place. The achievements this year have been remarkable, and to top it all off, being recognised as one of the top ten schools in the world for innovation is simply amazing. What an incredible accomplishment. Congratulations!

As I write what will be my final newsletter article, I find myself reflecting on just how much this school has come to mean to me.

I've been fortunate enough to visit Five Acre Wood four times over the past year, and I've loved following updates, especially in the Outdoor Learning Environment (OLE). I hope many of you are continuing to enjoy that wonderful space. I'm incredibly proud to have played a small part in helping bring it to life, but even more grateful to everyone who has given their time, energy, donations and support to make it what it is today. Together you've created something truly special. I hope that many more pupils can enjoy it for years to come.

These articles have given me the opportunity to pause, reflect and appreciate the good things that happen around us. In the busyness of life, it's so easy to overlook the small moments, yet they're often the ones that matter the most. Every achievement, every smile, every act of kindness and every step forward deserves to be recognised. They may not always seem like big moments at the time, but they make a huge difference, not only to ourselves but to everyone around us. Never be afraid to celebrate those moments – they're worth celebrating.

So, what's next? Perhaps next year some of you might become the newsletter writers. I'd love to read about everything that's happening across the school through your eyes. Tell us about the amazing meals coming out of the new kitchen, the adventures in the OLE, the goats, the planters, the wildlife and all the exciting things you're discovering. There will always be stories waiting to be told, and I know they would bring a smile to so many faces.

As the holidays begin, I hope you all find time to rest, recharge and enjoy the things that make you happy. For me, that means putting on a little suncream, grabbing a cold drink with plenty of ice, finding a shady spot and simply listening to the world around me. The birds singing, the gentle buzz of insects, the distant sound of aeroplanes overhead – they all help me slow down. Even the smell of suncream brings back happy memories of places I've been, adventures I've had and moments that make me smile.

Here's to ice creams and warm sunny days. To laughter, calm moments and smiling faces. To making memories, finding time to rest, regulating when we need to, and filling our hearts with the things that bring us joy.

Thank you for allowing me to be a small part of your journey this year and I genuinely hope my articles have brought a smile, a moment of reflection or a little encouragement along the way. Take care of yourselves, have a wonderful summer, and I look forward to hearing about all the amazing things you'll do next year.

**Matt**



On behalf of everyone at Five Acre Wood School, thank you, Matt, for your time, encouragement and friendship. We are so grateful for your support and you will always be welcome at FAW.

*Michelle Aslett, Communications Officer*

## SPORTS DAYS

### EYFS Sports Week



Our EYFS pupils had a fantastic time taking part in Sports Week, enjoying a range of fun and inclusive activities designed to encourage movement, teamwork and confidence.

Throughout the week, pupils challenged themselves to try new activities, celebrated each other's successes and developed important physical skills through play. The highlight of the week was our Sports Day at Saplings, where families joined us to cheer the children on as they took part in a variety of exciting challenges.



It was wonderful to see every child participating in their own way, demonstrating determination, resilience and enthusiasm. The smiles, laughter and sense of achievement throughout the week were a joy to see and reflected the supportive and encouraging atmosphere created by everyone involved.



A huge thank you to our staff, families and the Outdoor Learning Team for helping to make Sports Week such a memorable experience for our pupils.



### Sports Days at Loose



Over the course of a week, Five Acre Wood School celebrated another Sports Week, with pupils from across the school taking part in a variety of fun and inclusive activities.

The first three days were dedicated to our Stay and Play events, where families joined our Structured Learning Approach pupils to enjoy a range of engaging activities, celebrating participation, physical development, and spending quality time together.

Although exceptionally hot weather meant Thursday and Friday's traditional Sports Days had to move indoors, pupils embraced the change with enthusiasm, competing in a variety of team games and sporting challenges. Their resilience, determination and positive attitudes were outstanding. It was wonderful to see so many smiles,

celebrations and achievements across the week, with every pupil given the opportunity to take part, challenge themselves, and experience success.

A huge thank you to all of the staff, volunteers and families who helped organise and support our Sports Days. Your hard work ensured the events ran smoothly and created lasting memories for our everyone. We are already looking forward to next year's Sports Days!



## SPORTS DAYS



## NEWS FROM AROUND THE SCHOOL

### Monster Kickabout

Our students had the incredible opportunity to attend the Monster Kickabout event, organised by Nike and Sports Direct, after winning a competition to secure their place. We were especially proud to be the only Special Educational Needs (SEN) school invited to take part.



The day was packed with exciting football activities, with students rotating through a series of round-robin coaching sessions led by professional coaches. The activities encouraged teamwork, skill development, confidence, and, most importantly, fun.

A real highlight of the event was meeting former England Lioness Jill Scott, who spent time with the students, inspiring them with her achievements and passion for the game.

To make the day even more memorable, every student received a brand-new pair of football boots and a Sports Direct T-shirt to take home.

The event was a fantastic experience for our students, giving them the chance to represent the school, develop their football skills, and create lasting memories. We are incredibly proud of how they



### Football Interhouse Tournament



Our annual Interhouse Football Competition at Snodland brought together students from our four school houses – Dover, Hever, Rochester, and Leeds – for an exciting day of friendly competition and teamwork.

Each team competed in a series of fast-paced 15-minute matches, with every player demonstrating determination, resilience, and excellent sportsmanship. The atmosphere throughout the day was fantastic, with students who were not playing enthusiastically cheering on their classmates, creating a supportive and inclusive environment where everyone felt encouraged.

A special highlight of the event was a surprise visit from Iggy, the mascot from Maidstone United F.C.. Iggy brought plenty of energy and excitement, meeting students, posing for photos, and cheering on each of the teams throughout the competition.

The Interhouse Football Competition was a wonderful celebration of teamwork, school spirit, and participation. We are incredibly proud of all our students for the respect and encouragement they showed both on and off the pitch, making the event a memorable success for everyone involved.

## NEWS FROM AROUND THE SCHOOL

### An update from our Designated Teacher for LAC

Throughout the year, we hold termly Personal Education Plan (PEP) meetings for our Looked After Children (LAC). These meetings are an important opportunity to review each child's progress and ensure that their allocated Pupil Premium Plus (PP+) funding is being used effectively to support their individual educational and personal goals.

We work closely with local authorities' Virtual Schools to manage this funding and ensure it is spent in the most appropriate way for each child. Support can take many forms, from purchasing specialist resources such as wipe-clean learning materials, mini projectors or sensory equipment, to funding targeted interventions, therapeutic support, extracurricular activities, educational visits or specialist staff training. Every decision is made with the aim of helping our pupils thrive both in and beyond the classroom.

As we reach the end of another successful academic year, I would like to wish all of our Looked After Children who are moving on to new settings every success as they begin the next stage of their journey. We hope their transition is a positive one as they continue preparing for adulthood.

**Debbie Pardey, Designated Lead for LAC**

### FAWrest School

This term, we have been trialling sessions at our new Forest School site, part of our FAWrest School provision. The site has been designed for pupils who are beginning to recognise, understand, and balance risks, helping them develop skills such as using tools safely and, eventually, working with a campfire, BBQ or pizza oven for outdoor cooking.

To celebrate everything they have achieved so far, we held a special FAWrest Party Week. Classes paired up to build new friendships while enjoying team games, including tug-of-war, before safely toasting marshmallows and making delicious s'mores together.

It was a fantastic way to celebrate a successful first term in our new Forest School, and we look forward to seeing even more pupils enjoy the site in the future.

### Radio FAW All

It has been another busy term at Radio FAW All, with students continuing to develop their communication, presentation and production skills through regular work placements in the studio.

This term, the team celebrated the launch of FAW Records' latest single, *The Climb*, by giving it its first radio airplay. They have also supported the Wellbeing Team with podcasts and a live transition broadcast, while launching a new weekday Breakfast Show and if anyone has any messages or requests, please email by 3pm on the preceding day and the team will try to broadcast them the following morning.



Looking ahead, remote recording facilities will allow even more pupils from across our school sites to get involved in creating radio content. The team also recorded interviews with Woodstock performers and are developing an exciting new Radio FAW All YouTube channel.

## NEWS FROM AROUND THE SCHOOL

## KSENT Games

A group of students recently attended the KSENT Games, joining students from a number of Special Educational Needs (SEN) schools for a fantastic day of inclusive sport and physical activity.

Throughout the day, our students represented the school brilliantly, demonstrating excellent teamwork, determination, and sportsmanship. They enthusiastically took part in a variety of activities including boxing, cricket, golf, Kin-Ball, cup stacking, and wheelchair

basketball embracing every challenge with a positive attitude.

The KSENT Games provided a wonderful opportunity for students to develop new skills, make new friendships, and experience the enjoyment of participating in sport alongside their peers. It was fantastic to see everyone encouraging one another and celebrating each other's achievements.

## Lunchtime Clubs at Snodland

This term, our lunchtime clubs have given students a fantastic opportunity to explore new interests, develop new skills, and enjoy spending time with their friends outside of the classroom.

Students have taken part in a wide variety of clubs, including History Club, Table Tennis Club, Football Club, Dance Club, Nails and Hair Club, and Lego Club, ensuring there has been something for everyone to enjoy.

A particular highlight has been Latin Club, where students have expanded their knowledge by learning new Latin vocabulary, discovering weird and wonderful facts about Ancient Rome, and debating one of history's most infamous emperors. Students explored the question: *Was Caligula a monster, a madman, or simply misunderstood?* These engaging discussions encouraged curiosity, critical thinking, and a deeper appreciation of the ancient world.

Across all of our lunchtime clubs, students have shown fantastic enthusiasm and commitment. Whether developing sporting skills, expressing their creativity, building with Lego, or exploring history and languages, everyone has enjoyed the opportunity to learn something new, build friendships, and make the most of their lunchtime.

## Secondary Prize Giving

Our Secondary Prize Giving ceremonies are a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the achievements, progress, and successes of our pupils over the past year. Congratulations to everyone who received an award—we are incredibly proud of all you have accomplished.



## NEWS FROM AROUND THE SCHOOL

### Fishing Adventures

Our EYFS pupils enjoyed a fantastic fishing trip this term, providing many of them with their first opportunity to experience fishing in the great outdoors.

The day offered so much more than catching fish. Pupils developed their confidence, communication and social skills while enjoying the outdoors in a calm and engaging environment. Every child took part in their own way, and one pupil even caught an incredible 18 fish!

A huge thank you to the staff and the amazing volunteers at Holm Place Anglers for making this experience possible. Their support, patience, and encouragement ensured every child had the opportunity to succeed and create lasting memories.



Sixth Form and Snodland students also shared a fantastic day with the Masonic Fishing Charity— their third year taking part.



A huge thank you to Julian, the volunteer anglers and the catering team for making the day so special. From learning new skills to enjoying a delicious BBQ, students had an unforgettable day full of smiles, confidence and, of course, plenty of fish!



### Maidstone Museum Trip

Students in Wright Class went to visit Maidstone Museum and very much enjoyed their day out, looking at the paintings, reading about the military and the ancient history of the town and of course the dinosaurs!



## NEWS FROM AROUND THE SCHOOL

### KSENT Young Voices

Students from the satellite sites travelled to Faversham to take part in a fantastic KSENT Young Voices

event alongside students from SEN schools across Kent. Together they learned and performed four songs—*Count on Me*, *Golden*, *We Will Rock You* and *Firework*—with a live band, singing and signing in Makaton. It was a wonderful celebration of music, inclusion and teamwork that everyone thoroughly enjoyed.



### Leavers Prom Night

On Friday 10th July, we celebrated our wonderful leavers with a fantastic Prom Night. The evening began with a glamorous red-carpet arrival, giving everyone the chance to dress up, pose for photographs and enjoy the excitement of the occasion.



Guests were welcomed with mocktails before sitting down to a delicious dinner. Peggy then presented a range of awards, celebrating achievements, special memories and the unique contribution each of our leavers has made during their time at Five Acre Wood.

After enjoying ice cream, everyone headed to the dance floor where they celebrated with friends late into the evening. It was a fitting send-off and a wonderful way to celebrate the friendships, achievements and memories made along the way.

### Transition Coffee Afternoon

Children transitioning from the Loose site to Snodland, enjoyed a hot, but fun afternoon. Parents were able to make connections and spend time with their children in their new classes. We are really proud of the children and are excited to see them in September!



Congratulations to all of our leavers—we wish you every success and happiness for the future.

### Pupil Spotlight: Bridgetower Class

Bridgetower Class have enjoyed weekly visits to the FAWrient Express this term, where they have made incredible progress in confidence, independence and social skills. What began as a challenging new experience soon became part of their routine, with pupils growing in confidence each week. We are incredibly proud of everything they have achieved.



## FUNCTIONAL UPDATES

### Gliding

Here's what some of our Sixth Form students had to say about their gliding experience:

#### Harry – Bell Class

**"I went gliding at Ashford Gliding Club and it was very enjoyable. I hadn't done something like this before and for the first time doing it I got to control the glider for a little and it**



**was fun but I was nervous at first about it but when it actually happened when we took off I became so happy and enjoyed the moment saw the lovely country trains the coast of dover and saw the**

**other gliders and after we landed I had the biggest smile on my face I had the best time ever I would do it again as it was so fun!"**



#### Peter – Tesla Class

**"I really enjoyed gliding it was a very good experience. My favourite part honestly was going up. The feeling of it when you take off was just amazing. I would definitely recommend it to anyone."**

### Work Skills

Students have continued to make excellent progress in their work experience placements, now attending weekly with increased confidence and independence, and relying less on Job Coach support. They are successfully embedding the skills developed in Work Skills lessons into real workplace situations, demonstrating strong communication, teamwork and responsibility.

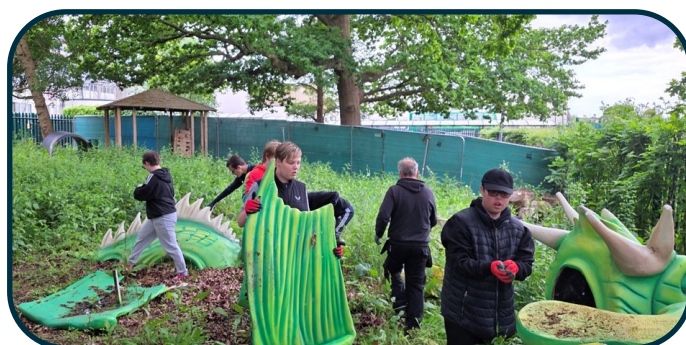
Feedback from our external placements has been overwhelmingly positive, with employers sharing that our students are "part of the team" and can be relied upon like any other employee. One student has even been offered paid employment at their Co-op placement, a fantastic achievement that reflects their hard work and commitment.

Our Year 12 students, with many experiencing work placements for the first time, have made tremendous progress and are now more confident in using their initiative and acting independently. We are incredibly proud of their achievements and the maturity they are showing as they prepare for future employment.

### Community Learning

Students have continued developing their independence through practical community experiences, applying functional maths and English skills in real-life situations. Through travel training, problem-solving activities and exploring local facilities, they have grown in confidence while developing communication, teamwork and leadership skills.

**There are a number of activities for students to enjoy including the continuation of construction tasks in the Outdoor Learning Environment, and helping to prepare for Woodstock.**



## FUNCTIONAL UPDATES

### BTEC Childcare

As part of their BTEC Childcare course, students visited Wildwood to explore how outdoor environments can support children's learning and development.



Back at school, they reflected on how the experience could be used to teach young children about animals, habitats and gross motor development, linking their visit directly to their classroom learning.



Throughout the year, BTEC Childcare students have completed regular work experience at a local nursery. Their confidence has grown enormously, and they have even planned and delivered activities for the children, receiving fantastic feedback from nursery staff.

## English

To launch their final English topic, Literature, students visited Shepway Library to explore a wide range of books and genres. Several students even signed up for their own library cards and borrowed books to enjoy at home.

Back in school, they have been studying poetry and Shakespeare, using their learning as inspiration for creating stop-motion animation films.

## Cooking

We have explored a colourful range of fruits, encouraging students to try new flavours. Alongside familiar favourites, they sampled peaches, berries, melon, mango, dragon fruit and pomegranate while making their own fruit salads. Dragon fruit was not a hit, but the melon and berries certainly were! Hopefully we have inspired a few new healthy favourites.



**Students enjoying their leavers day BBQ.**

**Visiting the Agricultural Jobs Fayre where the students learnt about the opportunities that are available to them.**



## Crazy Golf

Boone Class have been regularly visiting the crazy golf course at Gravity in Maidstone, travelling by both bus and train to develop their confidence using public transport.

What began as a brand-new experience has become a firm favourite. It has been fantastic to see student's confidence grow each week.

## FAWfilling Futures

As another fantastic academic year ends, we would like to take a moment to reflect on some of the incredible opportunities, achievements and partnerships that have made this term so special. From exciting fundraising events and inspiring community partnerships, to new projects and unforgettable experiences for our pupils, it has been another busy and successful few months. None of this would have been possible without the continued kindness, generosity, and support of our wonderful families, volunteers, businesses, and local community.



### FAW Charity Football Match

This term saw the return of our Five Acre Wood School Charity Football Match at the Gallagher Stadium – and what a fantastic evening it was!

For the fourth consecutive year, our amazing Five Acre Wood School team, made up of staff, family members and friends, took to the pitch against staff and volunteers from Maidstone United FC and Stones in the Community. Once again, the event brought together our school and wider community for an evening full of football, fundraising, and fun.



There was plenty happening both on and off the pitch, including refreshments, face painting, a raffle, a penalty shootout, and the chance to meet, Iggy, Maidstone United FC's much-loved mascot.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of everyone involved, we raised an amazing £3,583.11. These funds will support football opportunities across all Five Acre Wood School sites, helping pupils develop confidence, communication, teamwork, movement and social skills through fun, inclusive activities.

Events like this simply wouldn't be possible without our amazing community. A heartfelt thank you to our players, volunteers, supporters, families, sponsors, and everyone who worked

behind the scenes to make the evening such a success.

Special thanks to; Stones in the Community, Joshua for refereeing, The Unique Enterprises for printing our programme and Bish Bash Bosh Balloons.

A huge thank you to our sponsors Maidstone Packaging and the companies who supported our raffle; Grounded Surfaces, JEC Electrical, Maidstone United FC, Core The Gym, Redefined by Kate, Port Lympne, Gravity, Little Street, Maidstone Tennis Academy, Energise Fitness, Nom Nom Nibbles, YMCA Maidstone, Forty Seven Partyware & Interiors, Massage by Toni, Coxheath Café and Sarah's Scissors & Sparkles,.

Finally, we were delighted to welcome Henry from KMTV, who joined us on the evening and captured the spirit of the event in a fantastic feature highlighting the incredible support of our school community which can view at the following link: <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/18rPYPmcVK/?mibextid=wwXlfr>



Donate  
Today

**Amazon Wish List:** Did you know that you can support our pupils by purchasing items from our Amazon Wish Lists, which are tailored to our different learning approaches across the school? Every donation helps provide valuable resources and enriching experiences that make a real difference to our pupils' learning and development. You can view our wish lists here: [www.fawfillingfutures.co.uk](http://www.fawfillingfutures.co.uk)

## Made FAW You

Our Made FAW You kitchen proved a huge success this term as pupils baked delicious cookies and proudly showcased them at a special pop-up event in Maidstone town centre. The event was made possible thanks to Costa and The Costa Foundation, whose support has been instrumental in bringing this exciting initiative to life.



The kitchen is giving pupils meaningful, real-world opportunities to develop catering, hospitality and employability skills, while building confidence, independence and preparing for life beyond school.

The pop-up experience gave pupils the chance to meet members of the public, hand out their cookies and proudly talk about what they had created. It was wonderful to see them representing the school with such confidence and pride. To recognise their hard work, the Costa team also sent thoughtful thank you messages and special pin badges for each pupil who took part.

## Partnerships



Our sincere thanks go to The Costa Foundation for believing in this vision and helping make it a reality. We'd also like to thank JEM Construction, Hobart, Synecore, Vision and Williams, whose generosity and expertise have helped create a fantastic learning environment that will benefit our pupils for years to come.

Partnerships mean so much to us, and this term it was an absolute pleasure to arrange a visit for Picasso Class to the beautiful Leeds Castle, alongside our wonderful friends from Stones in the Community and Circle of Friends.

Our pupils had the opportunity to explore the stunning grounds and gardens and, for many, experience somewhere completely new. One of the highlights of the day was meeting the fantastic Bird of Prey team and getting up close to a beautiful owl – an unforgettable experience.

Opportunities like these are incredibly important for our pupils. They provide the chance to explore the world around them, meet new people and develop confidence.

A huge thank you to Debbie and the



## Volunteers

We were delighted to welcome a wonderful team of volunteers from Vanquis Bank, who spent the day helping to rebuild our Saplings area next to the Forest School. Following essential groundworks earlier this year, the area needed to be completely re-established, and thanks to the team's hard work, it is once again becoming a fantastic learning space for our pupils.

We were also thrilled to welcome back the amazing volunteers from Zurich Engineering UK for a second visit. Full of enthusiasm, they threw themselves into a variety of construction projects, including building an outdoor sink from scratch, assembling a pizza oven, laying a new patio for the BBQ and pizza oven, installing large wooden sleeper seating, and concreting in our new entrance noticeboard. Their hard work has made a lasting difference to our Outdoor Learning Environment.

As we come to the end of another academic year, we would also like to recognise three very special volunteers – John, Kevin and Karen, our wonderful Growing Times team. Week after week, they give their time to support our OLE, and without their dedication we simply wouldn't be able to achieve everything we do.

Finally, a huge well done to our incredible pupils, who work alongside our staff and volunteers to make the OLE such a special place to learn, grow and thrive.

## Individual Fundraising



This term has also been incredibly busy beyond the school gates, with staff, parents and members of our local community organising their own fantastic fundraising events in support of Five Acre Wood School.

A huge thank you to Sam, her partner, and the young people from Mid Kent Darts Academy, who held a raffle during their recent darts competition and raised an amazing £1,880. These funds will be used to establish our very own lunchtime darts club at our Snodland site.

Special congratulations also go to Matt, one of our parents, who completed the Three Peaks Challenge in 24 hours, raising an

incredible £595 towards the redevelopment of our sensory garden and Thomas, one of our parents, who took on the challenge of running Five Valleys in 19 hours, raising £817.50 so far. If you would still like to support Thomas, you can donate via the FAW Filling Futures – Five Acre Wood School page on the People's Fundraising platform.

Thank you also to Rachel, one of our members of staff, who always goes above and beyond, and this year organised a wonderful cake sale at her local pub, raising a fantastic £251. And it doesn't stop there...

**Taking Fundraising to New Heights** - This September, Sally and Laura from Five Acre Wood School will be taking fundraising to new heights – quite literally! On Sunday 20th September, they will be stepping onto the wing of a plane for an unforgettable Wing Walk to raise funds for our project The Core@FAW.

Please keep an eye on our social media channels to follow their journey. If you are able to support them, we would be incredibly grateful for your donation via the link below.

<https://www.peoplesfundraising.com/fundraising/taking-fundraising-to-new-heights>

Whether you've volunteered your time, attended an event, donated, fundraised, sponsored a project, or simply supported us along the way, your kindness and generosity make an incredible difference to the opportunities we can provide for our pupils so a huge thank you! We can't wait to share another exciting year with you!



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## Structured Primary Class Updates

### Haydn Class

Haydn Class had a fantastic time on their school trip to Amazon Adventure. The pupils enjoyed exploring the different animals, taking part in exciting activities, and experiencing a new environment with their friends. It was wonderful to see everyone smiling, engaging with the experience, and creating special memories together. The trip was a great success, and all of the pupils represented Haydn Class brilliantly.



### Ilayaraaja Class

We have enjoyed taking part in PE this term. Each week has focused on developing a different fundamental movement skill, including balance, throwing and catching, and coordination. Through a range of fun and engaging activities, pupils have built their confidence, developed their physical skills, and, most importantly, enjoyed being active together.

Across the term, our curriculum has continued to place play and exploration at its heart, providing rich, hands-on learning experiences that inspire curiosity and engagement. Pupils have loved using all of their senses to discover, investigate, and learn together. While some of our activities have been wonderfully messy, they have also created memorable opportunities for creativity, communication, and meaningful learning.

To round off a fantastic term, we celebrated with a very special Snow Party—yes, snow in July! It was a magical surprise and a wonderful way to celebrate all of the pupils' achievements. There were smiles, laughter, and plenty of excitement, making it a memorable end to another successful term.



## Structured Primary Class Updates

### Schumann Class

As we come to the end of another fantastic year in Schumann Class, we want to celebrate all of the wonderful memories we have made together.

We absolutely loved Sports Day this year! It was fantastic to see everyone taking part with such enthusiasm, determination, and big smiles. We are so proud of all of our amazing pupils. We have also enjoyed all of our wonderful Stay and Play sessions with our families, especially our Easter Stay and Play, which was filled with fun activities, creativity, and special moments together.

Throughout the year, we have loved learning together and developing our peer relationships. Our super creative Attention Autism sessions have encouraged us to communicate, explore, and celebrate each other's achievements while having lots of fun.

We have worked hard to strengthen our transitions and have really enjoyed visiting different places around the school. One of our favourite experiences has been exploring the Soft Play Bus, which has been an exciting addition to our school adventures!

We are incredibly proud of everything our pupils have achieved this year. Thank you to all of our families for your continued support—it has been a pleasure to share this journey with you. We hope everyone has a wonderful, relaxing summer holiday. We cannot wait to see all of our children continue to shine as they move into their new classes next year!

### Tchaikovsky Class

This term, pupils in Tchaikovsky Class have continued to develop their independence while taking part in a variety of exciting learning experiences both in and out of school.

Highlights these last few terms have included our weekly swimming sessions, a shopping trip to Morrisons, visits to the park, colourful Woodstock arts and crafts, and our end-of-year trip to the bowling alley and arcades. Pupils have also enjoyed making the most of the sunny weather through outdoor play and learning activities, as well as joining in for sports day.

As the school year comes to an end, pupils have been preparing for their transition into their new classes through a range of transition activities to help build confidence for September.

We are incredibly proud of all the progress, independence, and positive attitudes shown by every pupil this term. We hope everyone has a wonderful and well-deserved summer break!



# Structured Primary Class Updates

## Liszt Class

It has been an exciting and eventful term for Liszt Class. This term, our curriculum has focused on learning through play and exploration, providing a wide range of engaging and meaningful experiences for everyone.

We have had great fun exploring messy play and discovering new and creative ways to learn. Liszt Class has particularly enjoyed participating in sensory activities, which have supported the development of communication skills while encouraging curiosity, engagement, and confidence in learning.

Some of our classmates also had the opportunity to take part in swimming sessions, where both pupils and adults shared lots of fun, laughter, and memorable experiences together.

## Rossini Class

This term, the children have made fantastic progress in developing their confidence and independence. A key focus has been building these skills throughout the school day, particularly during transitions. We have enjoyed exploring different areas of the school, including the soft play bus, the Trim Trail and the soft play room. These experiences have helped to further develop their confidence when moving around the school environment, and they are now moving around school with increasing independence.

Sports Day was a real highlight, with everyone enthusiastically taking part in a range of fun activities. The water-based Hook-a-Duck game was a particular favourite. The warm weather has also given us plenty of opportunities to enjoy our outdoor learning area with water play proving popular, providing a fun way to stay cool while encouraging the children to share space and resources more successfully with their peers.

Fine motor development has continued to be an important focus, with threading activities proving especially engaging. It has been fantastic to see the determination and perseverance the children have shown as they practised and refined these skills. Well done everyone!



## Zimmer Class

This term we have had amazing learning opportunities including swimming, the soft play bus, Sports Day, and many more. As a class, we have been working on sharing and turn taking with our peers, looking at our leisure choices and activities, and enjoy participating with our teachers and our peers.

In our cooking sessions, we have been working on how to make a jam sandwich. We followed a breakdown of the recipe, chose our topping, and completed the task with as much independence as possible! We absolutely loved tasting what we made too!



What an unforgettable way to end the school year! Woodstock 2026 transformed Five Acre Wood School into a vibrant carnival celebration, for a day full of colour, creativity, and fun.



The day got off to a spectacular start with our opening parade, where classes proudly showcased their incredible carnival floats, created from shopping trolleys kindly loaned by Waitrose & Partners. Colourful banners, decorations and handmade masks, created by classes in the lead-up to the event, filled the school with a fantastic carnival atmosphere, and everyone looked amazing.



There was something for everyone to enjoy throughout the day, including live music, theatre performances, workshops, an immersive sensory experience, discos, a climbing wall, inflatables, fairground rides, simulators, archery, train rides, a foam party, bubbles, and delicious food provided by Grow19 and the Rapid Relief Team.

The entertainment was outstanding, with fantastic performances from Jay Antonio, Nikita KC, Connor Selby, Rachel Francis, Lee Rose, Elementz Ent, Old School Samba, Ellen Blane, Barny Holmes, Maddie Grace, Crazy Legs and Fred Clark. We were also incredibly

proud of our FAW's Got Talent winners, including Luca Stone, Tommy Jeffery and Ryan Marrison, with

their outstanding football skills, and our singers Cai Cano and Emily Topping,



One of the biggest highlights of the day was our very first Colour Run, which proved to be a huge hit with pupils and staff alike. The laughter, smiles, and colourful memories made it an instant Woodstock favourite. Thanks to the incredible generosity of everyone who sponsored participants, we also raised a fantastic amount of money to help make Woodstock 2027 even bigger and better.



Events like this simply would not be possible without the incredible support of our volunteers, sponsors, and community partners. Our sincere thanks go to Stageace/Panache Audio Systems, NSP Studios, Deevu Records Ltd, Live and Love Music, John F Hunt Power, JEM Construction, the West Highland FAWay Challenge Team, the Rapid Relief Team, Kent Police Cadets, KMTV, Humidity Response Ltd, South East Water, Mindflick, Superfast Labels Ltd and Waitrose & Partners for helping bring this amazing day to life.

Thank you to our dedicated staff, volunteers, performers, exhibitors, families and everyone who attended. Most importantly, thank you to our incredible pupils, whose enthusiasm and smiles made Woodstock such a truly special celebration.



# 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](mailto:office@five.acre.kent.sch.uk) and someone will get back to you.