



# FIVE ACRE WOOD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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JUNE-JULY 2013

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## A MESSAGE FROM PEGGY...

Welcome to a new term at Five Acre Wood School, I hope you all had an enjoyable half term.

Following a recent break, I am pleased to say that the Five Acre Newsletter is back! Each term I will be bringing you the latest updates and information of what has been taking place in school and informing you of upcoming events and dates for your diary.

Firstly, I would like to introduce the new pupils we welcomed last term; Jazmine is now in Badger class and Georgia is in

Oak class. I hope they have both enjoyed their first term at Five Acre Wood and are very happy here.

I am also pleased to congratulate our newly appointed Parent Governors; Lyn Burke and Shobha Ravindra. Additionally, I would like to thank all candidates for standing for this important role in the school.

Finally, a huge well done to Maggie Camp and the Five Acre Wood Signing Choir, who have been asked to perform at the Maidstone Arts Festival on Saturday



22nd June and alongside the Military Wives Choir at the Big Military Jam Up on Saturday 29th June. They have also entered a competition to win the chance to perform at the Music on the Hill event in July so watch this space!

*P Murphy*

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Fri 7th June	Find a Voice
Mon 17th June	Family & Carers committee meeting
Sat 22nd June	Signing Choir - Maidstone Arts Festival
Weds 26th June	Themed coffee morning
Sat 29th June	Signing Choir— Big Military Jam Up

## ART EXHIBITION

Well done to staff and students from Post 16 for organising such a fantastic art exhibition. Parents and carers were invited and students provided refreshments to those who attended. The exhibition showcased a variety of art work, all of which was to a very high standard.



## ECO GREENHOUSE



Students from Oak and Badger classes have been working on an ongoing joint project to build an eco-greenhouse made out of recyclable plastic bottles.

After collecting bottles, students have been cutting them and putting

them on bean canes.

This has been great fun and has taught students about recycling, improved their design and technology skills and encouraged group work.



## BIRD TALK

Holly class had fun with feathers when they received a visit from Ray Morris, who is a member of the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO).

Ray came in to give a talk using visual aids to introduce common garden bird species and offered advice on how to look after them.



## HOP SHED THEATRE COMPANY

Students from various classes attended a number of drama sessions with the Hop Shed Theatre Company, a new inclusive theatre group which provides performing arts workshops for all ages. Feedback from these

sessions has been very positive and pupils enjoyed taking part in the workshops, which involved dancing and acting, based around themes such as bullying and making your voice heard.

## BODIAM CASTLE



On Wednesday, 15th May, Chestnut class went to Bodiam Castle and then rode on a steam train to

Tenterden. We are learning about machines this term, and we all love trains, so it was the perfect trip to learn about one of our favourite types of machines. Bodiam Castle was beautiful

and we enjoyed walking around the grounds, looking at the large Carp in the mote, chasing ducks, and exploring wooden sculptures. Then came time for

the really fun bit. We walked to Bodiam station just in time to catch the steam train. We heard the whistle blow, saw the steam escape out of the

top, and quickly jumped on board before it left!

The staff were very friendly and let us help with punching our tickets and let us look at the engine when we arrived in Tenterden. We also had a look around the train museum. It was a great day out for everyone!





## TOUR DE FIVE ACRE



Sparrow Class have been developing our mobility skills this term and taking advantage of the warmer weather. We

have been out on our bikes and walkers to explore our local school environment this term. We've enjoyed several trips out to see the calves and lambs with Jamie finding

the 'mooring' of the calves especially funny!

Next term we will be consolidating the many core communication, mobility and independence skills we have been learning since September and celebrating the fabulous achievements we have all made this year.



## BOCCIA TOURNAMENT



Two teams from our Post 16 unit competed at the Kent School Games Boccia Tournament on 14 May 2013.

We came 3rd (Bronze medalists) and 4th place in the U19 competition. Both teams played well with Hannah and George as Captains demonstrating

great tactical awareness.

Our teams were praised by the Organisers for their fairplay and sportsmanship as they helped individual opposition players follow the game on many occasions.

This was lovely to see and overall was more important than the actual results.

## SNOWDON



On Sunday 5th May, a group of Post 16 and Key Stage 3/4 students, along with three staff members, tested their sense of adventure when they travelled to Snowdon.

Throughout the trip, students took part in a wide range of activities, including rock climbing, gorge walking, canoeing and hiking for 6

hours! Other less-adventurous activities were also on the agenda, when students enjoyed sight-seeing, held their own film night and even visited a restaurant.

weather during the week but it didn't affect any activities. The action-packed trip was enjoyed by all, although I'm sure the group looked forward to coming back for a rest!

There was a mix of dry and wet





## RABBIT CLASS

Last term, Rabbit Class were 'Down in the Jungle'! We have listened to jungle sounds and songs, read



jungle stories, moved like jungle animals,

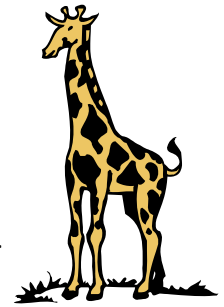
cooked with jungle fruits and even had a jungle themed massage! In numeracy we were exploring 'heavy and light'.

This term, our topic is sound so we will be ready for some noisy sound making activities as well as some

quiet ones too! In history we will be looking at toys, so we may be asking for you to share some toys from home.

As always we are happy to share any 'news', so please send in photos or non-fragile souvenirs. We will

also be getting ready for sports day and other Summer activities.



## CAREERS WEEK

On Monday 20th May, students from Post 16 started a one week work experience placement to learn new skills.

Students worked at a variety of companies, including Leybourne Grange Riding Centre, Spadework, The Vine Café, Tuck by Truck, Maidstone United Football Club, Growing Concern and

Notcutts Garden Centre, in the small animal section. Other students spent their placements working at the main Five Acre Wood site and in the ICT department at Aylesford School.

We would like to congratulate students on completing these placements and hope that you have benefited from your experience.

