



FIVE ACRE WOOD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Harvest Festival	Weds 30th September
Parents evening	Tues 1st December
School disco for pupils	Friday 4th December
Nativity (primary classes only)	Tues 15th December
Class Christmas parties	Thurs 17th December

SUMMER 2015

A MESSAGE FROM PEGGY...

Welcome to a new academic year at Five Acre Wood School. I hope you all had an enjoyable summer and that pupils are settling well into their new classes.

As I am sure you have noticed, the school is more like a building site at the moment! But it is very exciting that we are finally working towards our new school which all pupils will benefit from. You can read more about it on page 9.

Since the last update I sent, we have welcomed more new staff. Bethany Smallwood, Emma Thomas, Kerry Stringer, Amanda Warren, Lesley Robbins, Sophie Worsford and Claire Marr have joined us as

Teaching Assistants while Laura Dickens is our new Lunchtime Supervisor. In addition, Carl Luckham has been appointed as Assistant Site Manager. We wish them all the best in their new roles.

I am delighted to announce that Ngaire and Georgia in our Sixth Form were both awarded a grade C GCSE in Catering, with Georgia also getting a grade E in Resistant Materials. This is a fantastic achievement and we are very proud of them. Well done!

Finally, we have changed the way that we will be holding parent support forums. Instead of being phase specific, we will be holding 3 parent forums per year on a specific subject—open to all parents/carers. The



first one will be about Communication and is on Thursday 8th October at 1.30pm. It will be led by Dennis Mlambo, our new Speech and Language Therapist so it will be a good chance for you to meet him. For more information, please see our website.

I hope that you all have an enjoyable first term and I look forward to seeing you soon.

Peggy

GOVERNOR MESSAGE...

The governing body would like to welcome everyone to the start of a new - and very exciting - year.

By now, we're sure you will be aware of the fact that work commenced over the summer at the Boughton Lane site of the school.

Whilst the building works are likely to cause a few logistical challenges, we are

confident that the results will be worth the disruption and that the pupils will benefit greatly from the new facilities.

The first whole school celebration is the Harvest Festival on Wednesday 30th September - we look forward to seeing lots of families at this popular event - and especially look forward to meeting the families of pupils and students who have just started with us.

This year the governing body will be continuing to support and challenge the leadership of the school, working very closely with Peggy and her team to ensure that the we maintain our 'outstanding' Performance.

We continually strive to make the school the very best it can be for all of our children.

ART EXHIBITION

We are very proud that in June 2015, some students from Acreside, Oak, Holly and Rowan Wren had their artwork on display at Maidstone Museum's Cafe Gallery.

This exhibition was celebrating the unique talents of our students and is a fantastic achievement for them all!



HOWLETT'S



On Tuesday 21st July 2015 pupils from Owl, Otter, Hedgehog, Dormouse, Sparrow and Kingfisher Class went to Howlett's Zoo.

We saw lots of animals, including elephants, tigers, lions, gorillas and monkeys. The monkeys and gorillas were very funny and the tiger was a bit scary when it jumped up. Everyone enjoyed a picnic lunch and a fantastic day was had by all!

A big thank you to all the extra staff and parents who volunteered to help us on the day – we couldn't have done it without you!

TAG RUGBY – BADGER CLASS

We went to tag rugby at Aylesford Bulls Rugby Club. We played three games and won two. We all took turns being captain and Kelly coached us and Julie cheered us on. It was a very

hot day so we had lots of water to drink and had our lunch outside in the shade. We came second and won a trophy, silver medals and a certificate. We enjoyed our day.



CEDAR CLASS END OF TERM TREATS...

Instead of an 'outing' Cedar planned for a field day with a pool and sand experience. We used mobile hoists to position students in their standing jackets so that they could sit at the bench and use the water trail. Pupils also relaxed under umbrellas to be safe and warm in the shade after being in the pool or getting sandy.

As an end of term treat



we invited a PAT dog into class - this is a dog used for Pets As Therapy and his name was Nero. We were able to hold his lead, stroke him, feed him miniature biscuits and he came to lie with us. Courtney reached out independently to feel his ears and head. Elke liked him licking her hands and Josh enjoyed rolling a ball to him with physical support. Mollie was alert and looked at Nero when he came to sit near her. We hope he may be able to come back to visit again, and thank you to Jane Gardiner to

help to organise this treat for Cedar.



MONSTER MOVE



A sponsored move is a bit like a sponsored walk, but rather than being confined to walking, participants can move around in any way that they choose.

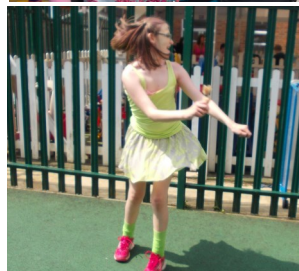
Students had fun walking, dancing and moving around the playground to monster music, with prizes awarded to the students wearing the best costumes and the best dancers.

On behalf of all of our students, we would like to thank everyone who sponsored them to take part in the Monster Move.

On 12th June 2015 we had a Monster Friday at Five Acre Wood School!

Students and staff dressed up in a monster theme to take part in our annual sponsored move to raise funds for play equipment.

We raised an amazing £2039! This money will make a huge difference.



ROEDEER CLASS TRIP

At the end of Term 5 Roedeer Class enjoyed a trip into Maidstone town centre on a public bus.

Roedeer Class had spent the term learning about different shops and acting out how to travel on a bus and choose and buy things in a shop. We also worked hard to raise money for the trip and went round the

school selling biscuits that we had made.

When we went out we had to go to the bus stop to catch the bus.

When we got into town we looked at different shops to see where we could go to buy different things. We went in a clothes shop and looked at the labels and hangers to find the right sizes for us. We also went to McDonalds. We paid for our food and also gave our money to the bus driver by ourselves. We were very clever and remembered to tell the driver the bus stop that we wanted to go to.

We had a fantastic time!



SPORTS DAYS



How big we have become as a school becomes fully apparent when 'whole school' events such as sports day are organised – long gone are the days when the needs of all of our pupils can be accommodated in just one event.

This year, four hugely successful 'needs led' sports day events were therefore held – for our Primary and Secondary pupils respectively, as well as for students based at our Aylesford site and, our first PMLD sports day was also held. Pupils based at our primary Eastborough

satellite class were lucky enough to take part in two sports days – one at the Loose Site and one at Eastborough primary school itself!

The events themselves were the usual mixture of fun, energy and excitement, within a range of appropriately competitive activities. Secondary pupils also had the added 'edge' of competing for the newly introduced 'house trophy' in their house teams.

This year Hever (Yellow) narrowly piped Rochester (Red) house to the title.

Thank you to all of the staff who helped to organise these events – next academic year we hope to stage a regular pattern of 'needs led' sporting events across throughout the year – so watch this space for updates!



FIVE ACRE WOOD PUPILS GO GLIDING!



Five Acre Wood had a wonderful opportunity to take two small groups of pupils gliding at the Kent Gliding Association headquarters in Challock. The activities were kindly funded by High Flight, a British Airways backed charity in Kent. Pupils had the

opportunity of two flights. One flight was an aero tow, a plane tows the glider up in the air and then releases the cable so you glide back down, and the other a winch launch from the ground where you accelerate from 0 to 60 mph in 3 seconds and then rise to an altitude of approximately 1000ft before gliding back down.

All flights were with very experienced and qualified pilots and all pupils took part in a

safety briefing at the start of the day to ensure we all had an amazing and safe experience. We are hoping to extend this link in the future to be able to offer more of our pupils this once in a lifetime opportunity to reach for the sky.

We would like to say a huge thank you to both High Flight and the instructors at Kent Gliding Club, for making this truly unforgettable day.



NEW PLAY EQUIPMENT

Students came back from their summer holidays and were thrilled to find that yet more play equipment had been installed on their school field for them to play with.



We now have an eagle nest swing and a climbing frame together with the highest quality safety surfacing thanks to a generous grant from the Peter Harrison Foundation. The same grant has also funded an extension to our existing trim trail that has been specially designed for our students with limited mobility so that they can play alongside their more physically active peers – this comprises two wavy bridges and slalom posts.

This equipment has proved very popular indeed with students and it is lovely to

witness them having so much fun with it.

We are also very fortunate that the Clothworkers' Foundation have chosen to support us by giving us a grant to provide a sunken trampoline in the school field. This has been an instant hit with our students who absolutely love it!

We have more exciting plans to further expand our play provision here at Five Acre Wood, so watch this space and check our website at www.fiveacrewood.co.uk for more updates...



SECONDARY PERFORMANCE AND PRIZE GIVING



Charlie Chard—Personal Progress Award

Jamie Mace—Sporting Achievement Award

Abigail Stewart—Communication Award

Courtney Gifford—Sensory Awareness Award

Charlotte Pragassa—Courtesy Award

Well done to all pupils for working so hard!

Our Secondary Summer Performance of 'A day on Broadway' was held on Monday 20th July 2015.

For the first time we also held a secondary prize giving assembly.

Parents and Carers were invited along to see secondary and sixth form pupils perform songs from various musicals.

Congratulations to everyone who was nominated and to all the winners.

The following pupils won awards:

It was a fantastic show performance and students looked great in their costumes. Well done to everyone involved.

Oscar Cox—Positive Behaviour Award

Harry Moore — Contribution Award



SUMMER FUN DAY

The last week of our Summer Term saw a day of fun organised for our students to celebrate not only the end of another successful school year, but also our recent 'outstanding' Ofsted judgement.

Students enjoyed:

- The Bubble Wizard, who proved very popular, providing bubble entertainment all day in the form of huge clouds of bubbles and giant bubbles for all to enjoy.
- A giant 95' inflatable assault course.
- Our friends at Greggs very generously donating food and drinks throughout the day.
- Brilliant performances from students in 'Five Acre Wood's Got Talent'.
- A surprise edition of 'I'm SLT, get me out of here!' where students enjoyed watching members of SLT subjected to various food eating challenges.

- Drumming workshops throughout the day where students had the opportunity to work in groups with experienced african drumming facilitators. Some truly amazing rhythms and music was heard and felt in these workshops.

Thank you to everyone who supported this event.

A fabulous time was had by all.



FUNDRAISING UPDATE

Our Summer Fayre this year was a complete success. Taking place on Saturday 18th July, it was attended by about 400 people. Visitors to the Fayre were treated to live music from local 6 piece band The Connections, a BBQ and drinks tents, and lots of stalls and attractions.



The event raised £2,700 which will go towards our

new minibus. Just as importantly as the funds raised, it was wonderful to see so many of our students and their families having such a wonderful time.

We would like to thank everyone who volunteered on stalls to make this event such a success.

We would also like to thank the princesses from Toybox Parties who volunteered for the day. ([facebook.com/toyboxparties](https://www.facebook.com/toyboxparties)); representatives from Lloyds Bank, Loose Road branch who came to help. Manager Adam gallantly stood in the stocks all

day having wet sponges thrown at him; The Connections band for providing fantastic music for most of the day (email theconnections@hotmail.co.uk); Geering & Colyer estate agents who marketed the event for us and Maidstone United Raiders who ran a Beat the Goalie stall for us. The Raiders are Maidstone United's disability teams, who train at the Gallagher Stadium. They are always looking for new players so email Lorraine on lhumm@maidstoneunited.co.uk if you would like to get involved. Finally, thank you to all who attended the event.



NEW PLAY EQUIPMENT

Thanks to a very generous £18,141 grant from The Peter Harrison Foundation, we have been able to provide further play equipment on the field. We now have a lovely wooden climbing frame and an eagle nest swing, together with high quality safety surfacing.

Using this same grant we have also been able to extend our recently installed adventure trail with the addition of wavy bridges and swerve posts.

This extension has been designed specifically for the benefit of our students who use wheelchairs, which is particularly exciting as it offers these students the opportunity to play with and alongside their non-disabled peers using the adventure trail.



Our sunken trampoline was also installed over the summer break.

Funded by an £8,600 donation from The Clothworkers' Foundation, this provides vital sensory proprioceptive feedback for many of our students and use of it should help their concentration in class. It is also lots of fun!

OTHER NEWS

- Louise Brough, a TA at the Loose site, will be running the London Marathon 2016 to raise money for our students. She will be organising fundraising events for this so we will keep you posted.

- We were successful in our application to ASDAN for a grant to purchase items to support Sixth Form students in their Communigrow project.

BE OUR FRIEND

Friends of Five Acre School are always looking for Friends!

Can you bake cakes or help with events? Do you have great ideas or do you have good contacts? Do you want

to get involved but can't commit to formal meetings?

If so, please become a 'Friend' and support our school charity. There is no minimum commitment, we understand how hectic life can be so we won't expect you to commit to anything that you can't do. All that we ask is that we can approach you to ask for your help from time to time.

Please get in touch with Jane if you'd like to come on board and be our friend—we'd be delighted to have you!



SIXTH FORM UPDATES

HAIRSPRAY

BY TOM LILLEY



The sixth form is performing Hairspray in The Upper School performance.

I am an actor. An actor plays a part. I am The Station Chief.

I am also singing and dancing in the performance. Our show is good.



GOODBYE FAW

BY TONY CHESHIRE

When I leave I will miss my friends. I liked going on my DofE because I liked the camping.

At Mid-Kent College I will make new mates. I am looking forward to going to college.



SIXTH FORM LEAVERS PROM

The sixth form leavers prom was held on Saturday 11th July at the Hilton Hotel. The evening included a three course sit down meal and disco to celebrate the leavers' achievements at Five Acre Wood.

Everyone was beautifully dressed in their gowns and Suits and a great time was had by all. We said goodbye to Rebekkah, Joshua, Lauren, Tony, Joshua, Luke, Kelvin, Kenneth, Josh and Tristram and wish them well in their new placements and as they continue on their life journey.

BY KELVIN JOHNSTON

I went on a taxi to the prom and I saw my friends it was at the Hilton hotel. The tables were set up with knives, forks, glasses and napkins.

We all ate dinner then watched our speeches. The food was ok but I had the wrong starter. The best part of the prom was getting my picture taken with my old friends.

BY SARAH LAWRENCE

The prom was at the Hilton hotel. I went in the limo with my friends I wore a dress the prom was good. We watched the speeches.

I ate roast chicken, goat cheese tart, chocolate cup cake, vegetables and roast potatoes. I danced at the disco and I stayed at the Hilton Hotel and I'm looking forward to going next year.



FIVE ACRE WOOD NEW BUILD WORKS

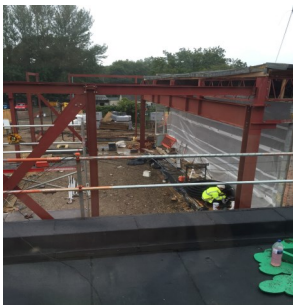
The building works at Five Acre Wood have finally started!

The last day of term saw two big red containers/offices arrive on site to become the base for Abbotts, the building company working on the refurbishment. The holidays then started with Byfords arriving on site to start work on the roof as well! The school is a building site, with the new hygiene areas being built, the hall losing a wall and the foundations laid for the new mobile!

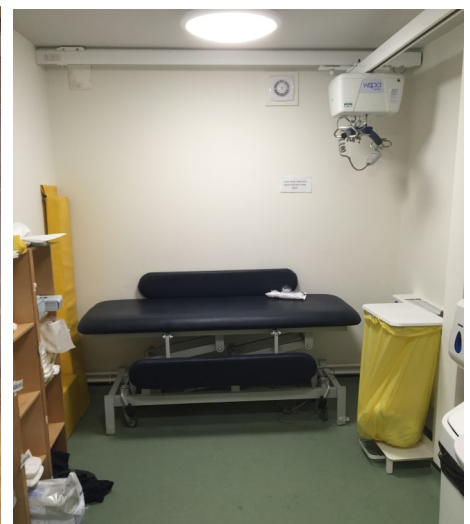
For updates, please visit our website, fiveacrewood.co.uk



SCHOOL HALL AND RECEPTION AREA...



HYGIENE SUITES



FIVE ACRE WOOD NEW BUILD WORKS

NEW MOBILE CLASSROOMS...



RESOURCE ROOM...



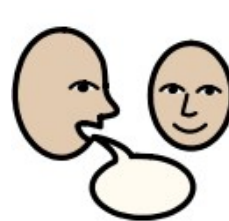
SMILE ROOM...



PLAYGROUND...



OUR NEW SPEECH THERAPISTS...



Say



hello to



Dennis



Rosie

and



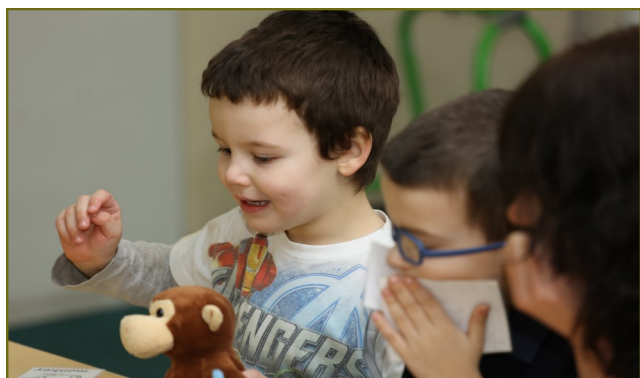
BEHAVIOUR AND SAFETY

TARGETS

- To support an active school council
- To ensure the site remains safe and secure throughout the building works
- To work within an increasingly efficient and effective system of meeting pupil behaviour
- To embed Health Care Plans
- To build awareness of mental health and mindfulness
- To enhance 'safe practice' education

PUPIL OUTCOMES

- Pupils' engagement levels are high so learning is progressed and evidenced
- Pupils feel safe and secure during the school day
- Pupils feel valued



ACHIEVEMENT



TARGETS

- To maintain/increase the number of pupils making UQ(+) progress to above 70% in English and maths
- To embed consistent 'need led' Assessment for Learning strategies across the school
- To demonstrate progress in all areas
- To enhance secondary accreditation opportunities
- To have effective comparative data tools to measure progress

PUPIL OUTCOMES

- Increased attainment for pupils in English and Maths
- Raised attainment and breadth of recognised achievement
- All KS4 pupils following an accreditation pathway



FIVE ACRE WOOD SCHOOL

Growing and Learning Together

STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN

2015 - 2016





OVERVIEW

To further develop Five Acre Wood School, the Strategic Development Plan has been developed for the coming year

The aim of this plan is to remain 'Outstanding' whilst building upon our current excellent practice

In order to achieve this, there will be four key areas:

- 1) Quality of Teaching
- 2) Leadership and Management
- 3) Behaviour and Safety
- 4) Achievement

This document is an overview of the plan for the academic year 2015-2016.



QUALITY OF TEACHING

TARGET

- 100% of lessons will be judged as 'good' or better with 40% judged as 'outstanding' through embedding coaching and mentoring and making staff more self-evaluative

PUPIL OUTCOME

- Attainment raised through high quality learning experiences, facilitated by good/outstanding teachers



LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT



TARGETS

- To strengthen partnerships
- To continue to develop leadership capacity and capability
- To improve and ensure appropriate facilities are in place to optimise learning
- To build on parent relationships with the school
- To establish even better links with other establishments in order to provide additional learning opportunities

PUPIL OUTCOMES

- Increased pupil outcomes through holistic working practice
- Specifically developed provision to meet pupil need
- Increased independence for learning