



FIVE ACRE WOOD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Message from Peggy	1
Harvest Festival	2
Children in Need Shoe box gifts New build updates	3
Christmas cards Christmas parties and meeting Santa	4
Nativity A white Christmas	5
Fundraising update	6 & 7
Sixth form updates	8 & 9
Move to Holmesdale	10

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Wednesday 23rd March 10am	Easter Fair
Friday 8th July	Transition day for pupils
Monday 11th July	'Meet the new Teacher' parents evening
Wednesday 13th July	Primary Sports Day
Thursday 14th July	Secondary Sports Day
Monday 18th July— 10.30am	Secondary summer performance

WINTER 2015

A MESSAGE FROM PEGGY...

Happy New Year and welcome back to a new term! I hope that you all had an enjoyable Christmas.

In this newsletter you can read about the many festive events that took place last term, in addition to a Harvest Festival report, sixth form updates and the latest fundraising news.

Since the last newsletter, there have been some staff changes.

I would like to welcome back Megan Armstrong who will be working as a Teaching Assistant in Fox class and I would also like to welcome Kayleigh Hale as a new Teacher working in Bonsai. In addition, Paul Atkinson has joined us in a new role as Horticultural Specialist. Paul will be working with groups of pupils developing outside areas, something that many of our pupils enjoy and will benefit from. Initially he will take time to get to know the school and our pupils before commencing his horticulture role. He will be working at the Holmesdale and Boughton Lane sites. We wish them all the best of luck in their new roles.

Catherine Marshall, Assistant Head of Primary has decided it is time for her to lay down her mortar board and relax, so will be retiring at the end of April! We will be sorry to see her go, as she has made a positive impact on our pupils, especially the PMLD phase. I am pleased to be able to tell you that we have appointed Janine Hercock as Assistant Head of Primary, who will be starting after Easter.

We would also like to welcome the Specialist Teaching and Learning Service, who were already based in the Five Acre Wood building but have now joined Five Acre Wood staff.

For those of you who have recently visited our main site in Loose, you will have seen the building works for the car park have started. This is really exciting, not only because we have diggers and lorries coming on to the site, but also because it actually means the new build is happening! For those of you who have been associated with the school for a number of years, you will know that the building works have been talked about since I started at the school, 7 years ago and before! We have had so many



disappointments in that time that I know we were beginning to wonder whether it would ever really happen!! Well now it has and we are all looking forward to working in, what will be, a new school!! The first phase of the build will be completed at the end of February, when the extended hall and reception will be finished.

The move from Aylesford to Holmesdale at Christmas was extremely successful. The students and staff have settled into their new base. Although the building works have not been completed yet, the facilities they have are fantastic and will only be enhanced by the modular build.

Thank you for your continued support and I look forward to seeing you soon!

Peggy

HARVEST FESTIVAL

This year's Harvest Festival performance was held on Wednesday 30th September at The Vine Church.

Pupils performed in their class groups, dancing, singing and signing to songs.

A generous amount of food donations were brought along and donated to the church by the pupils.

Parents and carers were also invited along to attend the performance, which everyone seemed to enjoy!

Thank you to everyone who helped organise this event, to the Vine Church for the use of the hall and also to everyone who donated items. These items have been given to people in need in our local community.



CHILDREN IN NEED



Pupils loved dressing up as different characters or in their own party clothes. Sparrow and Woodpecker class joined together for a party that included parachute games and a disco. Fun was had by all!

Five Acre Wood School took part in the fun activities of Children in Need Day in November.

A total of £366.49 was raised so thank you to everyone who took part.

SHOE BOX GIFTS

Five Acre Wood pupils and staff took part in the Shoe box gift donation for Homestart

Shoe boxes were filled with gifts, wrapped up and donated to Homestart who distributed them to families that they work with. Homestart were very grateful for the presents that were donated and said that these really made a difference.



FIVE ACRE WOOD NEW BUILD UPDATE

At the most recent building meeting we were informed that the hall and reception/ offices will be completed by Feb 26th 2016. We were hoping that this could be a staggered completion, so we can start term 4 with a new reception area, but unfortunately this is not possible.

The photographs here show both the inside and outside of both areas.



CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION

Once again this year we held a Christmas card competition for our school Christmas cards.

Pupils were asked to draw a picture and the chosen winners would see their picture on the front of the card. The cards were then sent to pupils, staff and external contacts.

We received lots of entries and it was a very difficult decision to make.

Thank you to everyone who submitted a card, we really enjoyed looking at them all! The chosen winners were:

Nadine — Oak class

Reece — Oak class

Oliver — Holly class

Nothando — Woodpecker class

Here are the winning entries. We are sure you will agree that they are winning designs!



CHRISTMAS PARTIES AND MEETING SANTA

During the last week of term before Christmas, classes held their own Christmas parties.

Pupils had great fun dressing up, playing festive games and enjoying party food.

On the same day, primary pupils also got the chance to meet Father Christmas. The older members of the school council put a lot of hard work into creating a 'grotto' in school where Father Christmas was based. They also worked as Santa's elves (right) on the day to help distribute presents. Thank you and well done!

We would also like to thank The White Horse Pub in Otham for their very generous donation of the presents.



CHRISTMAS NATIVITY

Primary classes once again took part in a Christmas Nativity this year were pupils got involved in various ways, including singing, signing and dancing. There were also some fantastic costumes!

There were two performances as classes were split into two groups. There was lots of audience support from family and friends who came along to watch.

Some classes narrated the nativity while other classes performed Christmas songs.

It was clear to see how much effort went in to organising, rehearsing and preparing costumes.

Five Acre Wood School would like to thank everyone involved in organising the nativity performance and in particular to Leanne Burgess who organised the performance.

We would also like to thank everyone who came along to support and encourage our pupils and to The Vine Church for the use of their hall and equipment.



A WHITE CHRISTMAS...

Pupils had a great surprise when they arrived for school on Friday 18th December to find that not only was it snowing with Christmas songs playing but Father Christmas and his reindeer were also there to greet pupils as they arrived!

Everyone was so excited and had a great time dancing in the snow!



FUNDRAISING UPDATE

SENSORY MUSIC AREA



We have received £9,788 from **The St James's Place Foundation** to provide an outdoor sensory music area.

This will include this set of giant outdoor musical instruments and sensory spheres.

We hope to have this installed quite early on in the New Year.



CHRISTMAS GIFTS FROM SANTA

The White Horse Pub in Otham very generously donated Christmas presents for all of our students in our Primary Department this year.

Thanks to the fundraising efforts of the staff and customers there throughout the year, they purchased lovely gifts to the value of almost £1,000 so that each of our Primary students could receive a Christmas gift from Santa during the last week of term.

We are very grateful to them.



MOBILE SENSORY UNIT

The DM Thomas Foundation for Young People have awarded us £7,495 to purchase a mobile sensory unit.

Following his visit to us, Leonardo Gagliano, manager of Hilton Maidstone said: "What a fantastic school. I really enjoyed my visit and having a chance to meet the

dedicated staff and wonderful children. I was pleased to hear more about their work and about the mobile sensory equipment we are helping them to purchase. I am delighted that through our voluntary fundraising support of the Foundation our hotel has been able to contribute to this project which will help children in our

local community."

Simon Sheehan, Director of the DM Thomas Foundation for Young People said:

"Through our grants programme we are able to support some amazing local and national youth causes like Friends of Five Acre Wood School. Our Grants Committee was impressed by the specialist support it provides to children with special needs and their families and was unanimously in favour of awarding funding to buy this new equipment."

The cheque was presented to us by Jessica Pollard and Leonardo Gagliano from Hilton Maidstone and was accepted on behalf of our students by Charlotte, the Chair of the Secondary School Council.



KENT POLICE



£1,258 was donated by Class 3-15B as the charity beneficiary of their fundraising efforts throughout their training period.

This was raised through a sponsored virtual row, cycle and run from London to Paris, a cake sale, and setting up a tuck shop at the training school.

This donation was presented to us in memory of P.C. K.L. Mitchell 9825.

Peggy and Owen in Holly class attended the Police Passing Out Parade where the cheque was presented to them (see photo above).

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

LLOYDS BANK VOLUNTEERS PAINT AT FIVE ACRE WOOD

A group of ten volunteers from Lloyds Bank came to us over half term week to paint two of our classrooms for us.

The Lloyds Bank 'Making a Difference' scheme releases staff to work for charitable causes for a limited amount of days per year and pays them for their time.

Lloyds Bank also funded

the purchase of most of the materials needed for the project.

Thank you to Naomi Nice, Dormouse class teacher, as it was her dad who arranged this for us!



KM CHARITY TEAM CHARITY MARK



the work carried out by us this year, our collaborative work with the KM Charity Team, and the contribution that we have made to the local community.

Friends of Five Acre Wood School are honoured to have been awarded the KM Charity Team Charity Mark for 2015.

This new award recognises

We are delighted to have the fundraising work that we undertake on behalf of our students recognised in this way.



MUSIC THERAPY

Jessie's Fund have awarded us £2,800 for the provision of music therapy at our school.



KM CHARITY TEAM CHARITY MARK

Friends of Five Acre School are always looking for Friends!

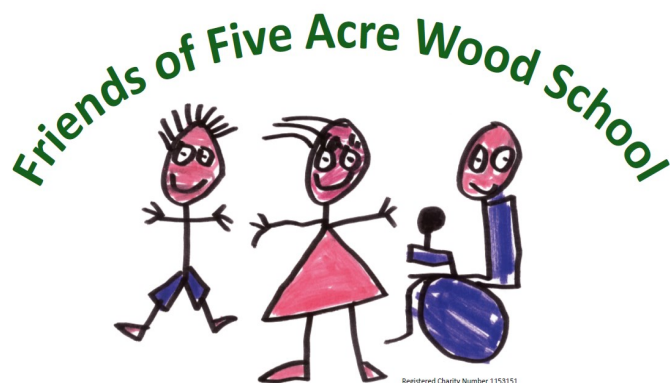
Can you bake cakes or help with events? Do you have great ideas or do you have

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.

CONTACT US

Please feel free to get in touch with Jane Gardiner, our school fundraiser if you would like to get involved with the school charity or would like any more information about anything that the charity is doing. Email to jgardiner@five-acre.kent.sch.uk or call the usual school number, 01622 743925.



SIXTH FORM UPDATES

SIXTH FORM

By Jack Wiltcher

I joined Sixth Form in September 2015.

I found it easy to settle in to Sixth Form. I have made lots of new friends.

I like to do all my work, sometimes I ask for help from my teachers and friends. We all help one another.

My best subject is Maths I also enjoy cooking because we get to make our own meals. Sixth Form has helped me improve my money skills while shopping every week.

This term my subject for PE was golf which was fun.

I also chose for my options to plan a trip to winter wonderland in London.

I also took part in a competition for Boccia but we only came 3rd we hope to be 1st next year.

In Sixth Form we are put into houses Dover, Hever, Rochester and Leeds. This term Dover won and those with the most house points got a reward trip to Bowling.



MY DAY AT CROSS COUNTRY

By Nikki Ford

We went to Mote Park to do cross country for PE. We went by public bus there were lots of other schools there. We had to look after the little children and we ran the race with them.

The other students ran two laps around the track until they got to the finish line. We did exercises to warm up. We all did really well and tried our best.

COMMUNIGROW

By Stephanie Benstead

We go to Communigrow every Wednesday and have sent up mini enterprise. A group goes there and we help them grow vegetables.

In February 2015 we planted many vegetables, watched them grow and harvested them. We then sold them giving half the profits back to Communigrow.

YEAR OF GOLD

By Mikey Aseome

To help me behave I have a system called Gold. The system goes Gold, Silver, Bronze.

If I get Gold I play Gold by Spandau Ballet, Eye of the Tiger, Avicci Hey Brother, Katy Perry Roar and Olly Murs Dance with me tonight.

CHOIR PERFORMANCE

By Adam Connery

I'm taking part in a choir performance. Every Friday we practice choir and we do Christmas songs. We have a good time singing and we do the practicing at five acre wood.

The performance is for parents to watch the Aylesford choir singing. We enjoy singing and performing also we are enjoying the practicing. We do Carol singing too.

MCDONALDS ICT

By Michael Connolly

On 1st December we went to the new McDonalds drive thru in Maidstone to look at how they use ICT on a daily basis.

This McDonalds is very new and they use lots of ICT equipment, like screens that take your orders. You are

given a number for your order and your number shows on the screen.

There are tablets on some tables so customers play games or can use the internet. A member of staff called Corina spoke to us and answered our questions.

MOVEMBER

By Thomas Griffin

I have took part in Movember on the 1st of November I had to shave my beard off and start growing my moustache I like having a moustache it makes me feel like a man.

My friends also took part in Movember they are Conner Tony and my teacher Dave was selling moustaches.

JUDO

By Ngaire Roberts

On Friday we are doing Judo a lady called Laura teaches us Judo throw and at the beginning commando crawl and we laugh as we do it. She show us how to hold the judo jacket and different ways of how to hold people down.

I really enjoy Judo.

CYCLING

By Georgie Trim

Every Friday Anthony comes in and teaches a small group of us different parts of the bike and different skills.

I have enjoyed cycling on Friday afternoons and I have learnt so many different and new skills like scootering, riding with one hand and balancing.

In our last cycling lesson Anthony gave us a laminated picture of a bike with all the names of the bike on so we will remember them.

SIXTH FORM UPDATES

CHRISTMAS AT WINTER WONDERLAND

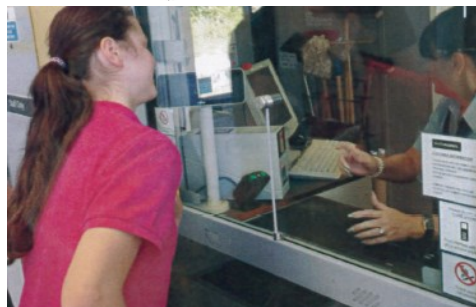
By Casey Hudson

The trip was really fun and the best thing was when we brought sweets at the market.

We got the train from West Malling station to London Victoria. We walked from London Victoria to Hyde Park winter wonderland.

We looked at the Christmas market and then went to see the circus they done really good tickets.

I enjoyed myself and then we got McDonalds on the way home. We had to stay in our groups so we don't get lost. I really love enjoyed it. Thank you guys.



COCKTAIL PARTY

To celebrate Christmas this year, the sixth form organised and hosted a Christmas cocktail party.

Students made their own bar and helped create the non-alcoholic drinks that were served.

Everybody had a great time and enjoyed their cocktails.



SIXTH FORM UPDATES

MOVING TO HOLMESDALE

Over Christmas, the Five Acre Wood Sixth form department moved into their new base at Holmesdale Technology College in Snodland.

Pupils have settled in really well and we would like to thank all staff who gave up their time to help make this move as smooth as possible.

We are currently using the refurbished building but we will soon have a purpose built modular build as well. We should be able to move into this after Easter.

As you can see from these articles and photos, pupils are enjoying their new facilities!



SETTLING IN AT HOLMESDALE

By Stephanie Benstead

I like Holmesdale because the classrooms are warm and it is very big place and we got a big kitchen. We looked round the canteen and we had are thumbs printed so we don't need to pay with money. And I settled in very well because we were shown photo of the school and it made me feel comfortable and ready to move.

I am looking forward for our new classroom to be built so our common room becomes bigger.

On my first day at Holmesdale I liked the bigger classrooms and space. The canteen is bigger and we use either a code or our thumb print to get our lunch.

I like it here and the classrooms are nice and warm. It has a kitchen with three cookers and new ovens.

I prefer it here because there is more space and we can choose our options.

I have settled in well and I am enjoying it. I hope this coming

By Georgie Trimm

year we can get to more activities so we can get to know the school better.

We have walked around our bit of the school and to the canteen so we know where to go for lunch.

My first impressions to the school was bigger, has lots more space.

The canteen is in the main school and it has more space to sit down and have lunch and more tables and benches the staff are nice and friendly.

We have our own account so we can put more money on if we don't have enough for the coming few weeks.

Before we came over Emma showed us some pictures of the school being built and we also came over to visit and see it turning into the school.

We have two more classrooms being built and then Oak and Woodside will be going to the new classrooms and Oakside will become our common room.