



# FIVE ACRE WOOD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2016

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Message from Peggy	1
Carnival Move Football Team News	2
Horticultural updates	3
Olympics event	4
Secondary performance and prizegiving	5
Summer Fayre	6
Fundraising update	7
Woodstock	8 & 9
Key Stage 3/4 and sixth form updates	10 & 11
New build updates	12 & 13
Sixth form leavers prom	14

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Thurs 15th & Fri 16th Sept	School photos
Mon 19th September	KS2 coffee morning
Weds 21st September	KS 3/4 & sixth form coffee morning
Fi 2nd September	Reception & KS1 coffee morning
Tues 4th October	Harvest Festival (Primary classes only)

## A MESSAGE FROM PEGGY...

I know I say this quite often, but I cannot believe that we are at the end of another year! We have accomplished so much this year whilst continuing to create a positive learning environment for the pupils.

The satellite provision at Ayelsford Sports College was successfully moved to purpose built accommodation at The Holmesdale School in January. The students and staff have settled in well and are really benefitting from the increased space and new facilities. The Boughton Lane site has changed enormously! The new reception area has added a fresh, modern feel to the school entrance. The new enlarged hall has meant that we can hold gatherings for the whole school! The speed with which the new build has been erected is astonishing. I have found out answers to some important questions, like, 'Why doesn't the building become damp when the wooden structure has got so wet?' After a few teething problems with the car park, I hope we have sorted the arrival and departure of the children and made it safe for everyone!

The Maidstone Specialist Teaching and Learning Service joined our staff in January. They have settled in well to our team and are working with the outreach teachers to support children with SEN in mainstream schools.

We have held successful residential for more pupils, which will mean we can hopefully increase this offer in the future. Pupil progress remains excellent with a very high percentage of pupils achieving above expectations.

Our sports days were brilliant; everybody got involved, with each class representing a country and opening and closing ceremonies involving all the school. Tim, has been reprimanded for making me run in the Mum's race for the Owl classes and Dormouse!! Woodstock has been a fantastic opportunity for our pupils to experience a music festival. A really exciting off shoot of this has been finding a patron for the school. We have been honoured that Chantelle Lee has donated all the proceeds from her new single to the school to purchase musical instruments and staging, lighting and PA system for the new hall. A big thank you to her for her



generosity and support.

The leavers prom was a lovely occasion, where we said goodbye to the pupils moving on to the next phase of their life. The pupils looked fantastic in their ball gown and suits. We also say good bye to a number of staff: Maggie, who has been with us for 24 years and is retiring; Andrea who taught here for 12 years; Hayleigh, who was with us for 13 years; Denise who was with us for 10 years and Janine, Joanne, Yasmin, Abigail, Kyle, Claire and Zena. We wish them all the best. We also welcome lots of new staff, who we hope will be happy working with us.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support. It means a lot to myself and the staff to know that we can work collaboratively with you to achieve the best outcomes for your children. Have a lovely summer!

*Peggy*

## CARNIVAL MOVE

Congratulations and thank you to everyone who made our Carnival MOVE and Bake off so successful! The event was held on Thursday 23rd June and raised over £1100!

Congratulations to Badger class for winning the first prize in the Bake Off with their Star Wars cakes. Stacey came second with her perfect pirate cake. A big well done to James Stevenson in Hedgehog with his lovely Lion King cake that came third. Also a massive well done to Woodpecker who won the best costume in Primary and to Rowan-Wren for the best movers! Congratulations also to Izzy Bishop in Secondary for her brilliant moving and to Cedar and Sycamore for their stunning costumes!



## FIVE ACRE WOOD FOOTBALL TEAM NEWS

Well done to the secondary football team who worked so well together in the recent football match Vs Foxwood and Highview School.

We lost 2-10 but the team spirit, respect for each other and energy remained high throughout.

Congratulations also goes to



the primary football team who won 9-7.

They showed some dazzling skills with an array of determined defending in an end to end game full of pride and passion.

They have been unbeaten all season. Well done to all of our footballers.



## THANK YOU TO...



All pupils here at Five Acre Wood School have enjoyed taking part in getting our school garden up and running.

We have only been doing Horticulture since January this year and have covered a range of tasks. We have been sowing a range of seeds from easy to grow tomatoes to the more difficult cucumber seeds. We have also grown sweet corn, runner beans, peas and onions

to name just a few.

The pupils had a very successful mini enterprise task planting up spring hanging baskets and selling them to staff and parents; all the profit they made went back into the garden. They chose to buy a mini plastic green house, cold frame and a plastic tomato house.

We had a stall at out at the Summer Fayre selling some of

our plants. Rowan Wren class at East Borough have started making their wildlife garden and have loved it.

When we come back after the summer holidays we are going to run a garden naming competition to give our garden a name and design a sign for it. Thank you each and every one of you for all your support with the garden and we look forward to the next few years.

**The Potted Garden in Bearsted** who very kindly donated a lovely selection of sensory plants.

Paul Atkinson, our Horticultural Specialist, spoke to them over the phone about the amazing work the pupils are doing here in their gardening sessions, and they were only to pleased to help us. They also threw in a bag of compost which was extremely useful as you can imagine we use a lot of it. All the pupils in Holly class made up four lovely planters containing plants of lavender, bronze fennel, mint, as well as plants with soft velvet leaves and sweet smelling flowers. The planters have now been placed outside for all the pupils in school to enjoy.

Also, we would like to say a great big thank you to everyone who has sent in plant pots, hanging baskets, tools and other bits of garden equipment for the pupils to use in their gardening sessions. The response has been amazing.



## OLYMPICS EVENT

Instead of the traditional Sports Days we decided to try something different this year and therefore held our 'Olympics' event.

The event was spread across the week, starting with the opening ceremony which was held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July. Over the following two days pupils took part in a range of inclusive activities including Athletics, Gymnastics, Water Challenge, Fencing, Chariot Football, Goal Ball and Tri Golf.

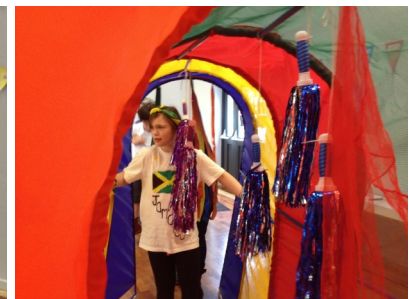
Pupils really got in the spirit of the Olympics theme and dressed in the colours of the country that they were allocated to represent.

The event was a great success and pupils enjoyed getting involved. They sang a song at both the opening and closing ceremonies and also made flags and torches that they then paraded in the hall.

We even had a visit from Paralympic Athlete Andy Barrow who spent time meeting our pupils.

At the closing ceremony on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> July, pupil achievement was celebrated and they were presented with wrist bands, medals and trophies.

A huge thank you goes to Kelly Davies who organised this amazing event.



## SECONDARY PERFORMANCE AND PRIZE GIVING

Our Secondary Prizegiving and summer performance of 'Five Acre Wood at the Movies' was held on Monday 18th July 2016.

Parents and Carers were invited along to see secondary and sixth form pupils perform songs from various films. In between performances, winners were presented with awards.

Well done to everyone involved in this fantastic show and congratulations to everyone who was nominated and all winners.

The following pupils won awards:

**Oliver Weeks**—Sporting Achievement Award

**William Palmer**—Personal Progress Award

**Matthew Williams**—Courtesy Award

**Callum Dyke**—Communication Award

**Connor Mulvey**—Positive Behaviour Award

**Jessica Hudson**—Contribution Award

**Ryan Smith**—Sensory Awareness Award

Well done to all pupils for working so hard!



## SUMMER FAYRE

Our Summer Fayre was once again a complete success, with over 450 people coming along to enjoy an afternoon of fun and entertainment.

The crowds were entertained by the Sutton Valence School rock band, Adele the Tribute and Starlights cheerleading troupe, all of whom gave their time at no charge to us in order to support our school.

The Fayre made over £4,000 - a fabulous total which will be used to provide additional resources for our students here at Five Acre Wood.

Our main aim with the fayre is to put on an event that our pupils can feel proud of, and it was fantastic to see so many of them having so much fun with their families.

We are so grateful to everyone who supported the fayre – to the staff and parents who gave up their free time to set up and run stalls and clear up afterwards, and to everyone who attended. Thank you!!!



The ever popular Five Acre Land Train made a welcome return and visitors enjoyed traditional fayre stalls such as hook-a-duck, tombolas, bric-a-brac, crockery smash and a teddy adoption stall. We were really happy to be supported by Maidstone United again as they brought along their Speed Shoot and Beat the Goalie games, by the Loose Swiss Scouts who came and ran a Lego competition stall for us, and The Golden Boot who again provided the welly wanging game. Staff from Santander Maidstone also volunteered their time, helping out in our refreshments area.



## FUNDRAISING UPDATE

### NEW PLAY EQUIPMENT



Our new outdoor sensory music area was installed last term.

Thanks to a £9,788 grant from The St. James's Place Foundation, our pupil can now experiment with a variety of musical instruments and explore the different textures of the

sensory spheres.

The area also benefits from play turf surfacing so that it can be accessed easily in all weathers.

We are very grateful to The St. James's Place Foundation for supporting our pupils through the funding of this project.

### CHANTELLE LEE

We are very excited that an exciting young popstar, Chantelle Lee, has decided that she would like to become more involved with supporting our pupils. She has visited our school and met lots of our pupils and has incredibly generously offered to donate all proceeds of her new single to the school.

This single is called 'When I Think Of You' and it has been released this week. These proceeds will be used to help us resource our new specialist music classroom as well as to transform our new school hall into a fully functional performing arts

venue, complete with PA, lighting and accessible stage solutions.

Her single is now available to buy on iTunes and Amazon at a cost of just £0.79.

Chantelle has also now kindly agreed to be our Charity Patron. Thank you Chantelle!



### CYCLING

On Sunday 2nd July a number of Five Acre Wood staff took part in a bike ride, cycling for up to 24 hours!

Thank you to all the bike riders who took part in the cycling fundraising event. Between them they covered

a total of 727 miles!

A total of £1400 was raised so thank you to everyone who took part and donated.

We would also like to thank everyone who supported the event.



### SANTANDER



for us, which will continue over the course of the coming year.

Two staff members attended our Summer Fayre and helped on the refreshments stall – you may have spotted them in their bright red T shirts!

Santander will match fund the amount raised on the refreshments area as their staff were helping us, so we will benefit from a £729.40 donation for this.

The Maidstone branch of Santander have once again made us their nominated branch charity of the year.

Last year they held several fundraising events in branch

We are really pleased to continue this special relationship with Santander this year.



## FIVE ACRE WOODSTOCK

This year's Woodstock 2016 beach themed music festival was held on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July and was enjoyed by everyone – not only our own pupils and staff but also those invited from other mainstream and special schools.

As in previous years, the event boasted a huge mobile stage rigged with state of the art lighting and sound systems, operated by a team of professional technicians; talented artists and 'field performers' provided by our close network of industry contacts; delicious 'all you can consume' food and drink laid on for everyone for the whole day; a field decked in Marquees and Tipis, endless themed activities and head turning promotional banners, materials and resources.

This amazing event was only made possible by the generosity of a whole host of individuals as well as local and National organisations, who provided their time, commitment and resources absolutely free of charge, in



order to create the experience of a lifetime for our pupils.

This roll call of honour includes:

**Greggs The Bakers**, who fed and watered everyone throughout the day all that they possibly eat and drink!

**StageAce by Panache Audio Systems**, whose stage system provided an amazing platform to showcase our artists.

The combined might of **NSP Recording Studios**, **The Flightcase Company** and **RoryAld Live** who unleashed an exceptionally stunning sound set up.

**Holmsted Events**, whose jaw dropping giant Tipis provided a striking focal point for our event.

**The 36 Engineers** whose incredible marquee was converted into the Greggs beach café for the day. **Sky Andrew, Andy Devaney (Avenoir), Danielle Knights (Live And Love Music), Shazz Smith (Tornado Productions) and Jayne Bond** who

provided us with a roster of incredibly gifted, extremely hard working, compassionate and exceptionally giving artists.

Our amazing performers themselves – **Chantelle Lee, Jason Allen, Tyber Cranstoun, George Pelham, Tom Jarvis, Koercive and Aisha Spence, Barny Holmes and Jessica Alice** – all outstanding role models, who engaged so effortlessly and naturally with our pupils and who had an outstanding impact on a whole host of outcomes for our pupils e.g. communication, self-esteem, confidence and inclusion, to name but a few of a series of hugely important educational areas.

Our home-grown talent, **Mark Connell, the Sixth Form Dance Group, Hedgehog Dance Troupe and the Sixth Form Choir. BAM** – who kindly provided all of the pedestrian barriers which ensured that the safety of our pupils was maintained at all times. They

also kindly provided a state of the art specialist power generator for the day. **Recognition Express** in Rochester, whose deluxe range of bespoke gifts and pupil surprises helped us to raise the profile of the event as well as to reward the time and effort made by all the other supporting organisations.

**Viridor**, who supplied us with a stockpile of heavy duty waste bins.

**The Chestnut Group Ltd** who made an incredibly generous financial donation. **Liam Thomas**, who managed our vast electrical requirements for the day and also provided invaluable behind the scenes technical support.

**Dallas Events** who provided a wonderful array of traditional stall activities. **Parkwood Hall School** and **Gavin and Julie Hoare**, who generously provided their spider mountain challenge. **Team Tutsam** who offered pupils riding experiences throughout the day.

In the current financial





## FIVE ACRE WOODSTOCK



pupils and we are privileged to not only benefit from their wonderful support but also to be able to refer to them as 'Friends of Five Acre Wood.' It's wonderful to know that they've all already signed up for Woodstock 2017!

Finally, we should also 'salute' the Woodstock Committee, whose efforts drew all of these organisations together to make everything happen. Their vision, tireless efforts, huge hearts and willingness to do 'whatever', whenever – be that fundraising on a bike, or by begging, borrowing, procuring or making resources and equipment at all hours of day and night, in order to achieve the seemingly impossible, are much appreciated.

climate very few individuals and companies are willing to put the time and effort into wholeheartedly supporting organisations such as ours - it is therefore a complete pleasure to work with the above individuals and organisations, who are absolutely committed to putting the time and effort into supporting us. It is also abundantly clear that they 'buy into' our ethos of providing the experience of a lifetime for our pupils. We cannot thank them enough for making such an incredible difference to the lives of our very special

How can we possibly 'top' this event next year? We're already thinking along the lines of a medieval theme so prepare yourself now for the mayhem and madness that will ensue in a year's time! Please let us know if you can help in any way or know someone who might be able to!



## KEY STAGE 3 AND 4 UPDATES

### KINGSWOOD RESIDENTIAL TRIP

On the 11<sup>th</sup> May Acreside, Some of Oak and Holly class went to Kingswood in Ashford. We left our suitcases/bags in the corridor. Richard brought the children over from Oak class and Holly class with Yasmin. We all had lunch together in Acreside Class and then all went on the minibus to Kingswood. Dave drove the green minibus with Mandy. Richard, Juliette and Yasmin took the white minibus.

By Evie Hannah

We went up the M20 then through Ashford up one really narrow lane. At the end of the lane was two big gates Dave called the lady in reception and we got the buses parked.

By Mikey Horton

When we arrived we met a friendly man called Robbie. When he welcomed us all he showed us a tour around Kingswood and he showed us the hub, the big canteen and he also showed us the building to our awesome rooms. The building was called Windsor rooms and we all walked up lots of stairs to get to our rooms.

By Lucy Hampton

I shared a room with Lasya, it was very quiet and relaxed. I and Lasya had a late night which was fun. The room we had was 32 and we had a bunk bed.

By Shakina Dickson

We unpacked our bags and then we went outside to play football for about a 1 hour. Then we had dinner it was a curry with noodles and for pudding, I had mango ice cream. The hall was big and there was lots of other schools there. It was Cane's birthday and his mum sent a cake.

By William Palmer

It was my birthday on the first day at Kingswood. When our school had our dinner I was just about to get a drink when Mandy told me sit back down and at that moment of time a trolley came out of the kitchen with two cakes on it and everyone in the hall sang happy birthday to me.

By Cain Hopkins

We did aeroball, archery, bottle rockets, indoor climbing 3G swing and outdoor lazer. The canteen was okay the food was nice. The first day we had dinner was chicken curry and on the second we had a cooked breakfast for lunch lasagne and bread. Dinner was chicken.

By Lewis Trapp

My favourite activity was aero ball and indoor rock climbing. It got easy then it got hard when I went up my hands got sore.

I got the arrow in the red in archery, I really enjoyed it. We did 3G swing, bottle rockets, fencing and team challenge.

By Ryan North

The best thing was the 3g swing. In the canteen there was chicken curry. We went to bed at 10. When we got up at 7 we went to the canteen for a nice breakfast. We did team challenge and we played football on the field.

By Luey Sayer

On Thursday morning we got up brushed our teeth then we showered and changed. We went down for breakfast. After breakfast our first activity was Team Challenge then Fencing and outdoor climbing then we had Lunch. After lunch we had outdoor lazer we had fun doing that. We also had Archery. In the evening we had dinner after dinner we had. 3G Swing I did not go on it I was very scared to do it. Later on we had Scrap Heap Challenge the we had hot chocolate we then went to our rooms. Then I packed my bag, got changed and we then went to bed.

By Lasya Ravindra

Thursday night we started packing to go back to school then we had a cooked breakfast and did indoor climbing before we then we all went to the gift shop. Then we did the aero ball and then went to the buses. We all said goodbye to Robbie and then went back to school and waited for our taxis.

By Casey Hudson



## KEY STAGE 3/4 AND SIXTH FORM UPDATES

### QUIZ

By William Palmer and  
Cain Hopkins

Five Acre Wood was invited to a school quiz in Ashford, at Wyvern School. They invited us to a consumer quiz and there was about 5 teams.

The six students who went for Five Acre Wood was Lucy, Mikey, Cain, William and Shakina. Lucy, Mikey, William and Shakina went up to the desk to answer the questions.

The amount of points we got was 27 points. We won 3<sup>rd</sup> in the quiz and we won some medias and some prizes. The day we went was MAY 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### MURAL

By Evie Hannah

On the 27<sup>th</sup> April 2016 Acreside and some of the 6<sup>th</sup> form decided to paint a mural to cover the dirty green wall outside. We got some paper and some colouring in pens and designed it. After we looked at some murals online. We voted the best picture and we all liked the picture of the beach.

In the afternoon we went on the public bus and the minibus to B&Q to get some special paints for the mural. Then we came back to school and put the paint away. The next day Abbi drew the pictures onto the board. Then we painted it and when it is dried we went over it with the black paint.

### PANATHLON

By Lasya Ravindra

We went to the panathlon in the Malling school. We went there on Tuesday the 26<sup>th</sup> of April.

When we reached there we sat down. When Laura the P.E teacher came she told us our first activity was Polybat. The second one was Boccia. That took us till Lunch time. After lunch we did running races. I did really well throughout the whole day and Mandy was very proud of me. I felt very confident when, I was saying to myself "do not worry" Mandy said to me "do not worry about anything."

After all of the races we went back to sit down we got our bags and got on the minibus.

### GLIDING

By Mikey Horton

On Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May some of us went to Kent gliding club in Charring near Leeds.

We parked the mini bus outside and a man told us to go in to the building in to a big room with a canteen.

The man told us about the parachute and how it worked. We walked to the bus and drove around the field to an old tractor next to a mobile office.

Frankie went first in the glider and got pulled up by an aeroplane and then everyone else had a go and then I went on it. We had lunch time and then we returned back to school for home time.

## FIVE ACRE WOOD DANCE GROUP PERFORMS AT GAMES FINAL

Well done to our sixth form the Kent School Games Final on 30th June in front of more than 1400 students!

Following their dance performance at the Stag Theatre in March, they were invited by Natalie Harris (Kent School Games Committee) to perform on the main stage at the big celebration of this year's Kent School Games, held at the University of Kent, Canterbury.

It is great for our students to be recognised for their achievements and we are very proud of them.



## NEW BUILD UPDATES

On Wednesday 27th April, some of the students and Peggy joined representatives from BAM and KCC to 'break the ground' for the new building.

Luckily the ground had already been prepared and there was a small area where the tarmac had been removed. All the students wore hi-vis jackets and a hard hat.

They were also given the opportunity to sit on the digger, which as you can see from the photos, they loved!

We were also presented with a special spade to commemorate the occasion.



## NEW BUILD UPDATES

Since the last newsletter, the new build has really started to come on, as you can see from the photos below. We are very excited to see our new and improved school coming together and the pupils have enjoyed watching and learning about how buildings are made. For weekly updates, please visit our website, [www.fiveacrewood.co.uk](http://www.fiveacrewood.co.uk).



Now that the structure of the new building is in place, there is not much change on the outside. Some of the leadership team had the opportunity to walk round inside new build so you can see photos of the inside below!



## SIXTH FORM LEAVERS PROM

The sixth form leavers prom was held on Saturday 9th 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 Ryan, Mikey, Stephanie, Claire, Adam, Michael, Connor, Fego, Christopher, Sarah, Thomas, Jesse and Tony.

Fego and Stephanie were crowned Prom King and Queen while Michael Connolly was presented with the Jill Lawson Legacy Award for Outstanding Personal Progress. Tommylee won the John Collins Sports Cup.

We wish them well in their new placements and as they continue on their life journey.

