



FIVE ACRE WOOD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2017

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Mon 4th September	Staff training day (pupils not in school)
Mon 18th September	KS2 coffee morning
Weds 20th September	KS 3/4 & sixth form coffee morning
Fri 22nd September	KS1 coffee morning
Weds 4th October	Secondary sports day
Thurs 5th October	Primary sports day
Tues 10th October	Harvest Festival

A MESSAGE FROM PEGGY...

Once again time has flown by and here we are at the end of another academic year! We have accomplished a lot this year.

In this newsletter, you can read about the many events that have taken place this term, including our successful summer fayre and another fantastic Woodstock festival. Our Holmesdale site have also been very busy with their own events.

We finally have our new build which has enabled us to provide an even more positive learning environment for our youngsters. Everyone coped really well with the move into the new building and now we can't remember life before it! Further works to the old building will be taking place over the summer to provide us with a full refurb of the ground floor, specialist rooms, external areas and a new Early Years area and nursery, which will be opening in September. All works should be completed by October.

As a result of us having more space, our pupil numbers will be increasing. Therefore, we have a number of new staff

joining us in September— Catherine, Charlotte, Rachael, Fiona, Rebecca, Demi and Rebecca will be our new Teachers while Alice, Stephanie, Georgina, Kerry, Jessica, Phoebe, Esther, Chloe, Sharon, Ashleigh, Anna, Rebekah, Fiona, Jessica, Laura, Harriet, Jayne, Amy, Lisa, Victoria, Samantha, Adrian, Rebecca, Ben, Josie, Alice, Francisca, Siobhan, Gayle, Eleanor, Hannah, Julia, Kate and Charlotte start with as Teaching Assistants. Sally and Hayley will be joining us as Lunchtime Supervisors. We hope that you all enjoy your new roles!

Congratulations to Rosie Campbell who will be taking on the role of Therapy Lead. Rosie has worked as our Speech and Language Therapist for the past two years and we wish her the best of luck in her new role.

Sadly, this term we are saying goodbye to some of our staff. Karen, Adel, Jasmine, Dennis, Alys and Katie are leaving at the end of this term. We wish them all the best in future.

We also have some pupils leaving us this term so we are saying goodbye to Nikita, Thomas, Ngaire, Christopher,



Cerys, Matthew, Stephen, Kimberly, Nishan, Zack and Mary. We wish them all good luck and hope that they enjoy their adventures ahead.

To celebrate the sixth form leavers, we held our annual leavers prom. This was a lovely occasion where we said goodbye to the pupils and celebrated their achievements before they move onto the next chapter in their lives. Everybody looked fantastic in their dresses and suits. You can read about it and see the photos on page 10.

Finally, I would like to thank you all for your support. Working together really does make a difference to the lives of our youngsters and helps us to achieve the best outcomes for your children. We are already looking forward to the year ahead but in the meantime, we hope that you all have a lovely summer.

Peggy

PANATHLON



Congratulations to all pupils who took part in the Panathlon on 3rd May, in which Five Acre Wood came second place!

All pupils were true ambassadors for Five Acre Wood and they are a credit to our school. Most pupils were from Holmesdale with 7 pupils from Elm taking part. We left with medals galore!

Also, Nikita and Rory were awarded gold in seated shot putt and Cerys won bronze in the precision bean bag throw.



KENT CHALLENGER

Well done to all pupils who took part in a fantastic day at the Kent Challenger. All pupils were fully engaged in some really tough activities at times and they did Five Acre Wood proud.



SIGNING CHOR



In Term 6, Five Acre Wood's Signing Choir entered WellChild's 'Over The Rainbow' choir competition.

Our choir was made up of students from across different key stages and phases and who have a mix of different abilities. Pupils worked hard to perform at their best and to raise money for the charity,

who support sick and disabled children.

Voting lines close on 30th July, so there's still time! Please vote for us at www.wellchild.org.uk/over-the-rainbow.

Thanks for your support and well done on a fantastic performance Signing Choir!



HORTICULTURE

It has been a great year in our Five Acre Wood School garden, we have had lots going on with the Poly Tunnel up and running now with its first crop of tomatoes growing nicely, all grown from seed by our pupils. Now the tunnel is up we will be able to start growing a lot earlier next year.

We have a new herb garden built for us by volunteers from Lloyds bank, we designed the layout and they came along for a few days and built our amazing herb garden along with 9 different types of mint grown in drain tubes.



Under their 'Day to Make a Difference' scheme, three teams of volunteers spent a whole day each transforming a bare patch of grass into a beautiful learning environment for our pupils.

Lloyds staff held fundraising events to raise the money to provide the materials and plants to make this garden and Notcutts Maidstone also donated plants. The photos below show the space before and after this project.

The volunteers will be returning at the end of the year to help with our separate sensory garden project.



We have been busy building our mural as well with all the bottle lids that you have all been collecting. As you can see above, it's starting to look amazing. We have another two to join to this one to make one giant mural.

We have been busy making a peaceful place in the start of our sensory garden. Thank you to our amazing volunteer, Anthony Diprose who carved the mushroom and the tortoise (below).



We have been putting down all the chipped bark that was donated to us by Fairview farm (below), this makes a great path and keeps all the weeds down. The pupils love moving this in wheelbarrows and designing their own paths.



Finally, we have started work on the fruit and veg garden by putting in some of the raised planters that network rail have kindly given us (below).



SECONDARY PERFORMANCE AND PRIZE GIVING

This year we decided to hold our secondary performance and prize giving as two separate events.

The performance of 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat' was held on 25th May.

Pupils worked really hard rehearsing for this and lots of parents and carers attended. It was a great performance so thank you to everyone involved.

On Tuesday 18th July parents and carers came along to enjoy our secondary prize-giving.

Well done to all pupils who were presented an award and also to everyone who was nominated.

The following pupils won awards:

Frank Goad—Sporting Achievement Award

Casey Bridger—Personal Progress Award

Carl Aylard—Courtesy Award

Owen Huckstepp — Communication Award

Joseph Waterman — Positive Behaviour Award

Steven Thornton—Contribution Award

Jacob White—Sensory Awareness Award

We are very proud of all pupils for working so hard!



SUMMER FAYRE

The Five Acre Wood Summer Fayre was held on Saturday 15th July and we had lots of visitors come along to enjoy an afternoon of fun!

We had some amazing performances from the Sutton Valence School Rock Band, the M4S Dance Troupe and our very own Five Acre Wood Signing Choir.

As always, the land train made a welcome return as well as the bouncy castle and more traditional fair stalls including hook-a-duck, crockery smash, teddy adoption, bric-a-brac, tin can alley, face painting and welly wanging.



In addition, we had a number of shopping stalls, a delicious BBQ, Pimms and soft drinks stall and an ice cream van.

The fayre was a success thanks to a number of volunteers including the staff from Santander Maidstone who volunteered their time, helping out in our refreshments area. We would also like to thank S.C. Farley and the Twelve Electric Group for their support this year and to Geering & Colyer who have advertised this event for us once



again. The Fayre made over £3,500, an amazing amount which will be used to provide additional resources for our pupils.

It was fantastic to see so many pupils and their families enjoying the event.

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



FIVE ACRE WOODSTOCK

On Wednesday 19th July, Five Acre Wood pupils once again enjoyed our annual Woodstock music festival, which this year had a medieval theme.

As always, our pupils had a great time listening to the music and taking part in a wide range of activities, alongside not only Five Acre Wood staff and pupils but also those invited from other mainstream and special schools.

The event had a real festival feel to it, with not only a great lineup of artists but also a huge stage, state of the art lighting and sound systems, marquees and tipis, themed activities, promotional banners and delicious 'all you can consume' food and drink.

This is an amazing event that gives our pupils the opportunity to enjoy a music festival, an experience of a lifetime that they otherwise might never get to experience. It would not be possible if it were not for the generosity of the national organisations and individuals who provide their time, commitment and resources completely free of charge. We are very grateful to each and every one of them, including:

Greggs The Bakers, who supplied food and drink throughout the day.
UK Bratwurst Company for



providing quality butchers sausages which went down well with everyone!

Tulip who provided a delicious hog roast and also, along with **AB Mauri**, sourced amazing raffle prizes.

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

RoryAld Live who provided a stunning sound set up.

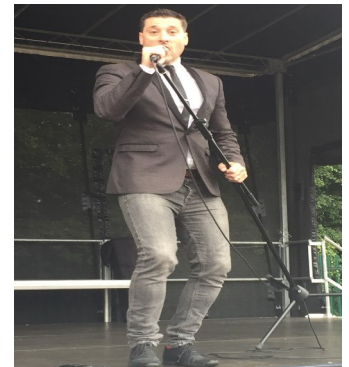
Holmsted Events, whose jaw dropping giant Tipis provided a striking focal point for our event.

Andy Devaney (Avenoir), Danielle Knights (Live And

Love Music) and Lee Rose (DeeVu Records) who provided us with a roster of incredibly gifted, extremely hard working, compassionate and exceptionally giving artists.

Our amazing performers themselves – **Jason Allen, Tyber Cranstoun, Barny Holmes The Simmons Brothers, Jack Rose, Reigns, Ziey Kizzy and Kyla Stroud** – 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—the cast of Shrek, **Dylan, Callum and James, Aspen class, Mikey Horton and our sixth form choir.**
HSS Hire Maidstone and FM



Conway – who provided all of the barriers which ensured the safety of our pupils at all times.

John F Hunt Power who kindly provided a state of the art specialist power generator for the day.

Recognition Express in Rochester who provided a deluxe range of thank-you gifts.

Gallagher's who donated the huge rock which became our magnificent 'sword in the stone' for the day!

Chestnut Group Ltd, Abbotts Construction and Safe School Solutions for their generous donations.

Smarden Therapeutic Stables who offered riding experiences throughout the day.

Rex Ghatauray for leading a successful hula hoop workshop.

Michael Garcia for being an amazing compere!

Plus our other festival performers and activities including Devilstick Pete, Eagle Heights, Dragon, bouncy castle/dragon assault course, Spider Mountain, Square Pegs, Dragon Rodeo and Creed Outdoor Education— Archery.



FIVE ACRE WOODSTOCK

It is a pleasure to work with the above individuals and organisations as in the current financial climate very few are willing to wholeheartedly supporting organisations such as ours. Those mentioned are absolutely committed to putting the time and effort into supporting us. We cannot thank them enough for making such a difference to the lives of our very special pupils and for providing an experience of a lifetimes for them.

Finally, a big thank you goes to 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.



HOLMESDALE UPDATES

BUTLINS RESIDENTIAL TRIP

By Evie Hannah

Monday 24th April 2017

On Monday we went to Butlins. There were 30 of us. Kirstie was the driver. We left school at 10.30 and we got on the minibuses. We met everyone at the services for lunch. Mikey and Frankie was talking to each other on the minibus. Me and Ngaire sat at the front. We went to Tesco's and we got into our chalets group. We got food shopping for our rooms.

Luey was excited to see the rides and Luey said "we are here". Emma, Elisha, Angie, Matt and Kirstie got all the suitcases and bags off the minibus and put the suitcases and bags on a trolley. The area we stayed at was Atlantic Bat, we found our chalets and my group was on the 3rd floor. Me and Cerys stayed at the bottom. We unpacked the shopping. Then we unpacked our suitcases and we hanged up our disco outfit in the wardrobe. We went around to see what there is to do. There was a funfair, arcades, shops, there was a centre stage to see entertainment and a disco every night. Then we went back to have dinner and we got ready for the disco. We met everyone at the centre stage and everyone was dancing in the disco. We sang happy birthday to Aidan and we all had some birthday cake. At 10.30pm we went back to our chalets and we went to bed.

Tuesday 25th April 2017

On Tuesday we woke up and we sat on the sofa. We had breakfast and then we got our swimming stuff together. We met everyone outside the splash world. Then we went inside to our swimming costume on. We all went round to the swimming pool there was water slides to go on. There was a rapid to go in and there was doughnut rings to go in. When we got in the swimming pool there was waves on. I didn't like the waves so me, Cerys, Katie and Louise went in the baby pool and we went in the jacuzzi. About 12pm we had a shower and got changed.

We went back to our chalets to have lunch. About 2pm we met everyone at the funfair and we went on some rides. I watched the others on the bumper cars and we had some doughnuts and a drink. Then about 4pm we went back for dinner and my chalet had chicken fajitas for dinner. We got ready for the disco. After the disco it was the rat pack tribute they were fantastic. I was singing along because I know the songs. After the rat pack tribute was finished there was more disco songs to dance to. The red coats was amazing dancers. After this we went back to our chalets and we went to bed because we were tired.

Wednesday 26th April 2017

On Wednesday we went to Angie's room for beauty. I had my nails and hair done.

Then we all went to the beach to have fish and chips. Matt and Frankie played football. Frankie kicked it and Kirstie ran after it but it was too late. The ball ended up in the sea.

Then we had lunch and after lunch we went back to our room and then we went to the funfair and I went on the bumper cars and I drove it. I had some doughnuts with sugar on top. One of the seagulls got a doughnut!

Then we went back to our room and we all had a nice hot chocolate with marshmallows on top. Then we had dinner and got ready to go to the show and then we danced in the disco. I met the red coats.

Thursday 27th April 2017

On Thursday some of us went to swimming or spa. I went swimming. I went in the rapid and I went in the doughnut rings. Elisha was with me in the rapid.

We went back to our room to have lunch. Then we went to the funfair and I played golf with Kirstie, James and Aidan. Some of my friends went on the go-karts and I had a strawberry milkshake

from Scoop. Some of my friends had ice cream.

After the fun-fair we went back to our room. We made dinner and packed our stuff. We got changed and we went to see Danger Mouse live. Then I watched Elvis and I sang along with the words. I knew all the words and I was dancing with Laura. Elvis was almost finished I didn't want him to finish because he was amazing. Emma sorted it out for me. I sang in Elvis's microphone the part I sang was Are You Lonesome Tonight and he shook my hand. I had a photo taken with him (below).

Friday 28th April 2017

On Friday we packed our stuff and we put all the suitcases on the minibus. Then we all went in the arcades. I brought presents and we went on the minibuses to go back to school. We went to the services to have McDonald's. We returned to school. Everyone misses us.



HOLMESDALE UPDATES

MAPLE CLASS GARDENING CLUB

Maple class have been running their own gardening club and they are very proud of what they have achieved, including their own potato crops! Here are some photos of them hard at work.



LEAVERS BBQ AND ASSEMBLY

All students at Holmesdale satellite site thoroughly enjoyed a themed BBQ on Monday 17th of July 2017.

The Hawaiian theme was chosen by the School Council to celebrate the success of this year's school leavers'.

On Thursday 20th July there was a leavers assembly where all leavers were presented with certificates.

We say goodbye to Ngaire, Thomas, Cerys, Christopher, Matthew and Nikita.

We wish them every success in their next adventure!



FRANCE

Several Sixth Form students spent a long weekend in France experiencing a different country and learning the language. They tried traditional French foods and visited a sweet factory, Nausicaä, a hypermarket and Euro Disney. C'était merveilleux!



SPORTS DAY

Sports Day at the Holmesdale satellite site was a great success this year. Rochester won the house cup on the day with a special mention to Joseph, Thomas, Freya and Georgia for gaining the most points within their houses. Well done to all who participated and cheered on friends, family and staff throughout the day!

SIXTH FORM LEAVERS PROM

As always, we celebrated our sixth form leavers with a prom. This year it was held at The Mercure Great Danes Hotel and was a fantastic event for all involved.

The evening included a sit down meal and disco to celebrate the leavers' achievements at Five Acre Wood.

Everyone was dressed beautifully in their gowns and suits. Sixth form awards were presented. Frankie won Sports Person of the Year while Ngaire was presented with an Achievement Award. Christopher and Cerys were crowned Prom King and Queen.

The night was very emotional, as we say farewell to our Leavers who will be moving on and looking towards their futures. We wish Thomas, Matthew, Ngaire, Cerys, Christopher and Nikita every success!

