



# FIVE ACRE WOOD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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## DIARY DATES:

Weds 2nd May— 2pm	Parent Group (behaviour)
Mon 7th May	Bank holiday
Weds 16th May—all day	Parent group (various )
Thurs 24th May—10am	Secondary performance
Monday 4th June	Staff training day (pupils not in school)
Wednesday 27th June	Primary sports day
Thursday 28th June	Secondary Sports day
Fri 6th July	Transition day
Mon 9th July	Parents evening
Fri 13th July—9.30am	Parent support group (online safety)
Thurs 19th July	Secondary prize-giving

SPRING 2018

## A MESSAGE FROM PEGGY...

Welcome to the Spring 2018 newsletter. It has been another fun-filled term—I hope you are looking forward to the Easter break.

In this newsletter you can read about some of the events that have taken place this term, including signing choir auditions, World Book Day, Sports Relief and the Easter Fair as well as updates from Holmesdale and Fundraising.

We have had some new pupils join us this term so welcome to Logan, Esteban, Laillah-May, Vito and Joshua. We hope that you are very happy at Five Acre Wood.

In addition, Gabrielle, Sarah, Nadiya, Lauren and Amber have joined us as Teaching Assistants. There have also been some changes to the admin department. Nicola Devereux has moved to the HR department and Jo McLaughlin is now my PA. Hannah Stewart has been appointed as SLT Administrator. We wish them all the best of luck in their new roles.

The summer term is always the busiest term of the year but is full of fun events for

pupils! We have also organised some additional events for parents. Unfortunately, we had to postpone our family picnic due to the wet weather forecast but this has now been rescheduled for Saturday 5th May on the Five Acre Wood School field. This is a great opportunity for families to come together and meet other families. It is free to all Five Acre Wood parents and carers—you just need to bring your own picnic. Further information, along with other events that you might be interested in, are listed on page 8.

Our parent support groups have been successful this year so we have added in some extra dates. There will be one session on behaviour on 2nd May and one about online safety on 13th July. In addition, there will be a whole day of parent support groups on 16th May. This will be made up of sessions with various subjects. A timetable will be sent out next term so you can decide which sessions you would like to attend (or all of them if you wish!) Remember that these sessions cannot run with less than 5 people so please let us know if you would like to attend by emailing the school office at [office@five-acre.kent.sch.uk](mailto:office@five-acre.kent.sch.uk) or by phoning us on 01622 743925.



The 'Meet the new Teacher' parents evening will now be on Monday 9th July. Further information will be sent closer to the time.

Finally, I would like to say a big thank you to Dominos who have donated Easter Eggs for all of our pupils (see below)!



I hope that you all have an enjoyable Easter Break and I look forward to seeing you soon.

*Peggy*

**SIGNING CHOIR**



On the 21st and 22nd February Five Acre Wood School hosted their very own X-Factor style auditions, with students singing a song of their choice in front of a tough judging panel.

Judges were impressed to see over 50 students attending across the two days and amazed at the range of vocal talent that we have at our school. Following on from the audition experience, pupils were invited to join Signing Choir and make preparations for the WellChild choir competition. The entry to the charity choir competition will be filmed in May and we will be asking for your support when the competition opens up for voting in July – watch this space!



**CHINESE NEW YEAR**

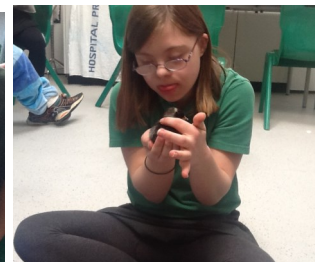
Chaffinch, Sparrow, Eagle and Kestrel Classes joined together on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February to celebrate Chinese New Year with a banquet of Chinese food.

We tried noodles, prawn crackers, rice and a range of sauces. The sweet and sour sauce was very popular, as were the prawn crackers. We also listened to some Chinese music and enjoyed talking to our friends from other classes.



**ELM CLASS CHICKS**

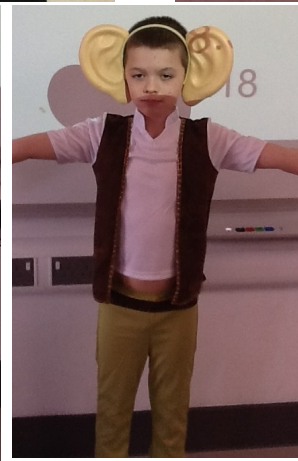
Paul from Christmas Tree Farm kindly gave Elm class 4 eggs to hatch in class. Only 2 out of 4 hatched (the other two were probably not fertilised). Brandon named them... They are called 'Gigglebiz' and 'Bear Hunt'. Staff placed bets on when they would hatch and which colour they would be. Nobody guessed correctly so £46.00 went towards fundraising for the hydro pool. The chicks will go back to Christmas Tree farm on Good Friday to live a happy life.



## WORLD BOOK DAY

On 9th March, some classes celebrated World Book Day. The official World Book day was on 1st March but due to the snow it had to be postponed.

Pupils dressed up as their favourite book characters and looked amazing in their costumes, as you can see from the photos!

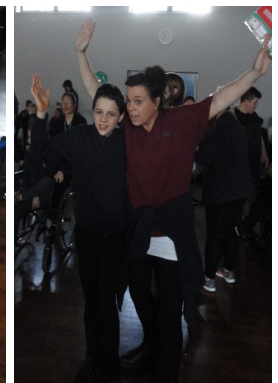


## SPORTS RELIEF

On Friday 23rd March, pupils took part in activities for Sports Relief. This was a whole school event with primary classes taking part in the morning and secondary in the afternoon.

Pupils warmed up in the hall with Joe Wicks school fitness video and then a danceathon with Just Dance.

This was followed by a whole school conga around the school and finished off with a very large hokey cokey! Thank you to everyone involved in organising this and well done to all those who took part.



## EASTER FAIR

Five Acre Wood's Easter Fair was held on Wednesday 28th March and there was a brilliant turnout!

The hall was full of pupils, staff, parents, carers and friends who were shopping for Easter gifts.

Pupils put lots of time and effort into making items to sell and there was a great selection of gifts, including knitted Easter chicks, wooden Easter decorations, Easter baskets, cakes and cards. In addition there were stalls selling hanging baskets and raffle tickets, a sweet jar tombola and 'Guess the doll's name'.

Thank you to everyone involved in organising the fair and to all those who attended, it was great to see so many of you supporting the school.



## HOLMESDALE UPDATES

### BOCCIA COMPETITION

Congratulations to Luey, Cain and Kai who won the Kent School Games boccia competition and have made it through to the regional finals.

As a result, they were interviewed for KMTV (right) and also featured in the Kent Messenger (below). Everyone at Five Acre Wood is very proud of them!



Five Acre Wood are through to the regional finals in boccia

### Regional finals await trio

Five Acre Wood triumphed in the Kent Schools Games boccia competition. The Maidstone school's success at Canterbury means they are one of five under-19 teams going through to the regional finals in Surrey on Monday. Teacher Matt Jones said: "We had a hard-fought draw in the first match but then went on to win the next two games 3-1 and 7-1. "Luey, Cain and Kai did the school and themselves proud and the hard training certainly paid off on the day. When we

### Kent School Games

got back to Maidstone, all their friends clapped them back into school, which was amazing. "We will need to continue practising and work hard for the regional finals, but hopefully we can keep winning and become the best boccia team in the country." Boccia is designed for people with severe physical disabilities and is similar to bowls.

### ROAD SAFETY



On Monday some students in sixth form went on a trip to the Road safety in Medway. The students were really excited and couldn't wait to find out all about road safety.

When we arrived we saw a short film about a young driver and he had an accident. After the short film the curtain went up and behind was a car crash with a ambulance, Fire engine and Police car. The emergency services were showing us what they do when they get called to a car crash/R.T.C Road Traffic Collision.

We found it really interesting and we played some games and in one of the games we

wore special goggles that make your vision go blurry. We started at one end and spun round once then walked to a cone in front of us and pick up a bean bag then walk back again. We had a look round the fire station and fire engine and it was really interesting and the students learnt so much about road safety. We also became investigators of a R.T.C and had to work out who was responsible for the car crash. We all had a great day and we finished off by seeing all the different fire engines and having a photo in front of one of the fire engines. We all got a lanyard and a cardboard face as a well done and thank you from the team at the Road safety. We then got the mini bus back to school.

### GARDENING GROUP

We are so proud of our gardening group, they have been very busy over the last few weeks planning and creating our Holmesdale garden area. We have planted a pear tree and crab apple trees. We have had our first crop of vegetables, which we have used in our cooking sessions. We are very excited for the coming months as we will reach a stage where

we will be able to sell our produce to raise money for our school. Summer has stepped up to be one of our group leaders, supporting and mentoring some of her peers—well done Summer! Katie and William, in their spare time, help to get the areas ready for our lesson.



## FUNDRAISING UPDATE

### FUNDRAISING

Three months have gone by and I have made use of every moment. There is so much support for our school both from within and without. I realised recently why my job is so simple – because there is only one priority and that is our pupils – YOUR children. I repeat this phrase so often to our supporters who I am trying to woo: **“Our pupils are at the absolute centre of everything we do”** – and as long as this is the case, everything falls into place.

**Alexandra Meaders,**  
**Fundraiser**

ameaders@five-acre.kent.sch.uk  
01622 743925—extn. 185

### DONATION

The year got off to an AMAZING start with a donation of £15,000.00 from The 12 Electric Club – headed up by long-time supporter Steve Farley. We were also surprised by a wonderful £10,000.00 anonymous donation at the end of January. The money – with the donor’s agreement – will be used in various places round the school, with £3,000.00 going to “Create a ripple...MAKE A SPLASH!”, along with the donation from the 12 Electric Club.



### LONDON MARATHON 2018



As you read this our Virgin London Marathon runner Sam Richardson will be entering her final weeks of preparation for her 26.2 mile run on 22 April 2018. She has trained through all weather and

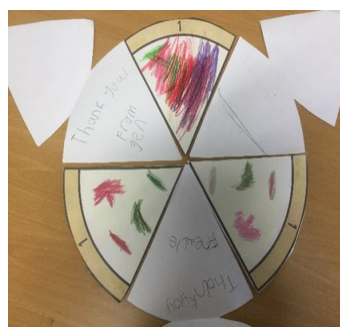
will do us proud come the day. You can still support her and help raise money for our school by sponsoring her via her Virgin Money Giving page. To do this, please visit [uk.virginmoneygiving.com](http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com) or visit the website and type in ‘Samantha Richardson’. You can then click on her page which says she is running for Friends of Five Acre Wood.

Look at this amazing route map her class made for her.



### PIZZA MAKING WORKSHOPS

Domino’s have run pizza making workshops for our pupils. I think a total of 18 classes will be going along to them over the course of four months. Everyone has such a great time and of course who wouldn’t want free pizza!!!!



### CREATE A RIPPLE...MAKE A SPLASH

“Create a ripple...MAKE A SPLASH!” is really working! So many local organisations – brownies, scouts, choral societies, pubs, clubs and businesses are getting behind it and raising money to chip away at our target of £250,000.00. Just under £30,000 has already been raised with plenty more pledged and promised! Please get behind this campaign.

EVERY pound raised makes a difference – just picture that ever expanding ripple on still water that is created no matter how small or large the pebble thrown in is.



### PARISH COUNCIL CAMPAIGN

Our students come from far reaching areas of Kent, and a suggestion from a member of our Parent Forum made me think about launching a small project “Parish Council Campaign” – well, it bore great fruit!

At the time of writing this newsletter, £1,050.00 has been donated by various Parish Councils!

# FUNDRAISING UPDATE

## VOLUNTEERS

Our volunteers are a HUGE part of our fundraising efforts – Lloyds, Santander and Network Rail, have in the past few weeks given their time to work in our gardens. Moving progress in both the Memory Garden and the Sensory Garden forward in leaps and bounds. Donations from Laing O'Rourke and an in-school

bake-off gave this project the green light.



## LONDON TO PARIS BIKE RIDE 2018

A team of 13 intrepid (where intrepid MEANS crazy!) cyclists are cycling from London to Paris in 24 hours over the weekend of 14/15 July 2018.

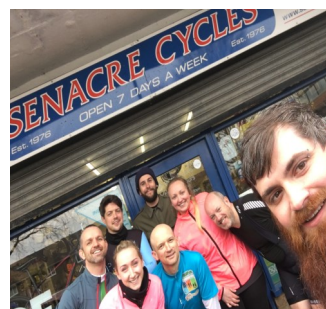
Gaining corporate sponsorship to cover the costs involved with such an event, each participant has been asked to raise a minimum of £300 in sponsorship for the school. The corporate sponsorship we have received has been overwhelming and the logos adorning our cycling technical tops make us feel quite professional – you will hear plenty more about those supporters as we start counting down towards the actual event!

We all have Virgin Money

Giving Pages – if you would like to donate, please use this link [uk.virginmoneygiving.com](http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com) or visit the Virgin Money Giving website and type in 'Alexandra Meaders'.

You can then click on my page (other team members pages are available – let me know if you would like to sponsor someone else, it will all end up in the same pot!):-

Plenty of photos to come of this event in the future.



## DRAGON BOAT RACE



We have a team taking part in the Kent Messenger Dragon Boat Race on Sunday 1 July 2018. If you fancy getting involved in it, let me know and I can see if there are any spaces available.

It WILL be a beautiful hot sunny day and Mote Park will be a fun place to be whether you are taking part or cheering loudly from the banks.

Look out for more information as the date approaches.

## FUNDRAISING WEBSITE

I am continually thanking our supporters – there will never be enough ways or words to thank them. We are in the process of launching a new fundraising website that will sit alongside our school website (there will be a direct link). Here, not only will you be able to learn about what we have done and are going to do, but there will also be links to all our supporters' websites. The address is [www.friendsoffiveacrewoodschool.co.uk](http://www.friendsoffiveacrewoodschool.co.uk) keep an eye on it!

## DONATION OF RESOURCES

Fundraising isn't all about getting the "cash" in, it is also about seeking out donations of resources. What is that expression? "One man's trash is another man's treasure" B&Q were going to bin all this decking – we grabbed at the opportunity to have it and use it on our site! B&Q are wonderful supporters of ours!



## HELP FOFAW

**Follow our Facebook page** (Five Acre Wood School and Friends of Five Acre Wood School) and like and share!

**Follow us on Twitter** @five\_acre and like, comment retweet!

**Sign up for Easyfundraising.** It's free and simple to use. Visit [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk) and search for Friends of Five Acre Wood School.

**Take one of our charity boxes** and place it in your local shop, pub, gym, etc.

**Organise a fund raising event**

**Bring in your used printer ink cartridges for recycling.**

## EVENTS SUPPORTING FIVE ACRE WOOD SCHOOL

**Five Acre Wood Easter picnic**  
**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> May 12pm – 2pm**



We would like to invite you and your family to our Easter picnic event.

Have fun on the Five Acre Wood School field, meet other families and make new friends.

Fun and games on our trim tail

Bouncy castle      Ice cream van

Face painting

Bring your own picnic

Free to all Five Acre Wood pupils

Parents/carers and siblings

If you would like to attend, please email [office@five-acre.kent.sch.uk](mailto:office@five-acre.kent.sch.uk) or write a note in your child's home school book. Please include how many adults and how many children will be attending.



The Walnut Tree in Loose are great supporters of Five Acre Wood, as are The East Farleigh Club.

Keep an eye on our Facebook Page for news of events they are putting on for us and do support them where you can.



BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA  
 COMMUNITY CHOIR  
 Presents

### SPRING CHARITY CONCERT

Raising funds for Five Acre Wood School hydrotherapy pool



Friday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2018

7:30PM

Boughton Monchelsea Village Hall

£7.50 to include a glass of wine / soft drink and nibbles  
 Raffle and refreshments available

Tickets available from Members of the Choir  
 from The Curious Eatery, Church Street  
 or by telephone to 01622 609975 or 01622 737709

### CHARITY SINGLES DARTS TOURNAMENT EAST FARLEIGH CLUB, LOWER ROAD ME15 0JL



£300 winner  
 £100 runner up  
 2 semi finalists  
 £50

5 Excellent boards  
 Hot Food

£12 on the day or £8 if place booked and paid for by March 17th - Call Penny 07815 642068