



FIVE ACRE WOOD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2018

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Message from Peggy	1
Memory Garden	
Dancethon	2
Sports Days	
Signing Choir	
Fundraising update	3
Secondary residential	4
Secondary prize-giving	
Holmesdale updates	5
Woodstock	6 & 7
Leavers prom	8

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Mon 3rd September	Staff training day (pupils not in school)
Tues 4th September	First day of term 1 for pupils
Mon 24th September	KS2 coffee morning
Weds 26th September	KS 3/4 & sixth form coffee morning
Fri 28th September	KS1 coffee morning
Sat 29th September	FAW Summer Fair 1-3pm
Tues 2nd October	Harvest Festival

A MESSAGE FROM PEGGY...

Welcome to the Summer 2018 newsletter. It hardly seems possible that we are at the end of another academic year already. I am sure many of you will have been enjoying the recent warm and sunny weather, let's hope it continues. For those of you who were enjoying the World Cup.....maybe next time!

In this newsletter, you can read about some of the events that have taken place this term, including our sports days and another fabulous Woodstock festival, plus updates from Holmesdale and Fundraising.

This term we have welcomed the following new staff who have joined us as TAs: Sharon, Sarah, Erin, Millie. Also welcome to Melanie who has joined us as a Lunchtime Supervisor.

We look forward to welcoming a number of new staff in September. Emma, Nicola, Sue, Leanne, Alison, Lisa, Zoe, Jade and Eloisa will be joining us as teachers and Jeanette, Vicky, Sarah, Sara, Jazmin, Ndeye, Farren, Joanna, Samantha, Lesley, Millie, Debbie, Jordan, Kiera, Ellie, Caroline, Gemma, Adam, Deb, Alison, Kay, Kamie, Kira, Elle, Gemma, Jody, Erika, Natalie, Kimberley, Nicola, Anthea, Roisin, Adele, Sarah, Chloe, Lorraine, Eugenia, Sarah, Celine, will be starting with us as Teaching Assistants. We hope they all enjoy their new roles.

Some of our pupils will be leaving us at the end of this term, so we will be saying goodbye to Cameron, Samuel, Catriona, Katie, Aidan, George, Jack, Frankie, Mark, and Rory. We wish them all the very best of luck for their adventures



ahead. You can read about our sixth form prom on page 8.

Sadly, Kerry O'Connell (TEAM) who worked with us for 11 years, passed away on 19th July. She will be deeply missed.



Finally, thank you all for your valued support during this academic year. I would like to wish you all a great summer and I look forward to seeing the pupils in September.

Peggy

MEMORY GARDEN

On 20th July the Deputy Mayor opened our Memory Garden which was created by our incredible volunteers from Lloyds Bank and some of our amazing staff. We were joined by the families of former pupils who had sadly passed away and to whom it is dedicated.



DANCETHON

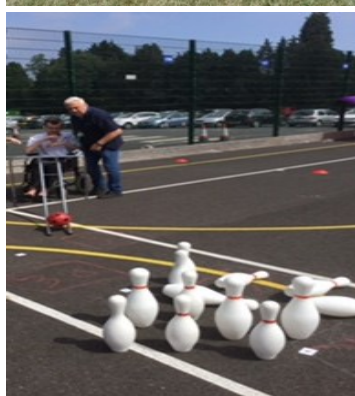


We held a Dancethon in June at both our Loose and Holmesdale sites which raised £1212.00 (including gift aid) for our Woodstock event this summer. Pupils had a the opportunity to watch and participate in a variety of dance sessions which included ballet, tap, street, Zumba, jive, salsa and cheerleading. We sincerely thank Flair School of Dance and various member of our staff who kindly led these sessions .



SPORTS DAY

Well done to all pupils who participated in our annual sports days in June. We were lucky to enjoy sunny weather and a great time was had by all.



SIGNING CHOIR



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

Our choir was made up of pupils 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.

The Five Acre Wood Signing Choir received a total of 1300 votes which is 1000 more votes than last year so thank you everyone for your support. We also raised £224 for the charity WellChild.

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



FUNDRAISING UPDATE



Without wanting to be repetitive from my last newsletter - it has been another truly amazing term to be the Fundraiser at your school. It is hard to pinpoint the highlights, as it seemed every week, something exciting happened either in terms of financial support coming through or another door opening to possible funding.

The main drive of my fundraising is the hydrotherapy pool and the "Create a ripple...MAKE A SPLASH!" campaign continues to bring out the absolute best in our community.

So many businesses, individuals, organisations and groups have got behind this and been inspired to put on an event to raise money for us. With the latest boost from the Dragon Boat Race and the London to Paris 24 hour bike challenge, the campaign is fast approaching the £50,000.00 mark!

The fantastic charity partnership with Sainsbury's Larkfield and Loose Road Local branches will see significant

income over the coming year and there are many events going on over the summer which will boost the target yet further.



Other avenues of funding are also being sought and there are many pots simmering away at the moment...more news as soon as I have some.

Our volunteer base grows significantly and we cannot achieve the work on our site without these amazing people. I speak of them regularly on our social media

platforms - your "liking", "sharing" and "retweeting" of our news is so vital to maintaining these corporate links. There will be a launch of our new fundraising website very soon - this will be a great place to further thank our supporters and attract more in with the exciting projects and events we have planned.

Thank you for your feedback on the weekly updates from me - these will now be coming to you on the last Friday of the month from September, although if there is any major "HOLD THE PRESS" news - I will of course circulate this. Do make sure you have the new date of our summer fair in your diaries - we are giving it a more festival feel this year and calling it "FAW Fest" - come along on 29 September from 1-3pm and enjoy plenty of the old favourites along with lots of new stalls, entertainment and of course live music to give that truly festival feel.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a great summer.



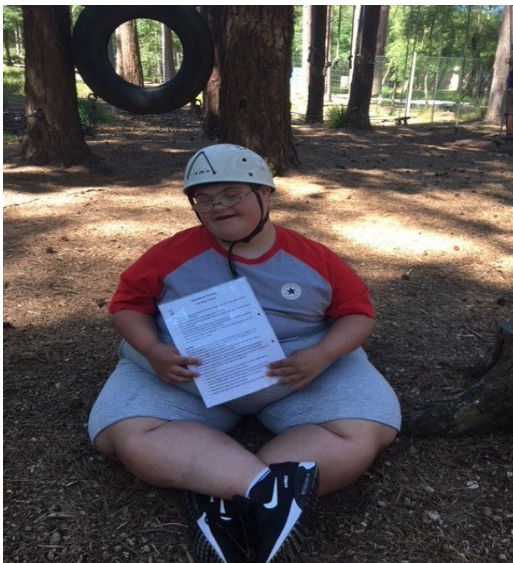
SECONDARY RESIDENTIAL

On 25th June some of our secondary pupils set off for a three day residential trip to Broadstone Warren which is situated in the Ashdown Forest. The site has almost 400 acres of mixed woodland and it offers a vast number of activities.

The trip involved activities such as archery, low ropes and a traverse wall.

Pupils enhanced their life skills by preparing their own breakfast, lunch and dinner.

The residential provided a great opportunity for pupils to socialise with their peers and celebrate all the hard work they have done this year. Great fun was had by all!



SECONDARY PRIZE GIVING

On Thursday 19th July parents and carers came along to enjoy our secondary prize-giving. It was a great opportunity to recognise the achievements of our pupils.

Congratulations to all pupils who were presented with an award and also to everyone who was nominated.

The following pupils won awards:

Positive Behaviour Award
Brandon

Personal progress Award
Toby

Communication Award
Catriona

Contribution Award
Tiffany

Sensory Awareness Award
Jamie

Courtesy Award
Luke

Sporting Achievement Award
Sharna



HOLMESDALE UPDATES

GARDENING

Well this year has been extremely busy for our pupils at Holmesdale. As well as the many different lessons and activities, the pupils have been developing their outside area from a space that had empty beds, to now having a vegetable garden, wildlife area, herb garden and many potted flowers that welcome everybody into the school. They have also started work on a Woodland Corridor!

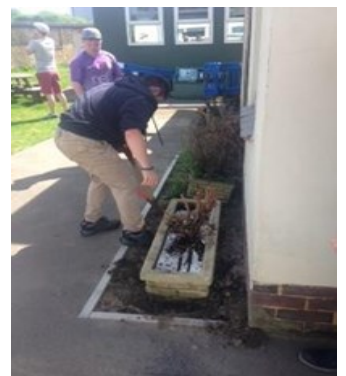
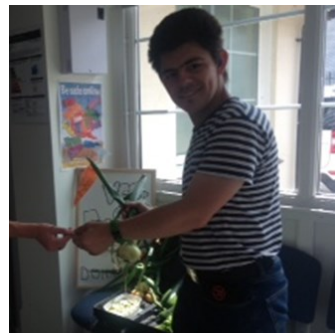
All of this has been completed by pupils independently from key stage 3, 4 and sixth form. They have given up their breaks and lunch times to make sure watering and maintaining of plants is done.

We are now at a stage where we are growing runner beans, tomatoes, courgettes, onions, spring onions, spinach, rainbow chard and lots more. With our crop of vegetables,

pupils have been selling them to visitors and staff in break times for fund raising. The Btec Land based group have made chutneys and courgette muffins, which were amazing and also managed to raise £19! The money that is raised from this mini enterprise will hopefully go towards buying a bench for our wildlife area.

We are very proud of our student's achievements and on top of this they have managed to complete level 4 of the RHS Campaign for Gardening award! The prize for this award is worth £150 of fruit and vegetables for the school.

We are aiming high and we hope to complete the level 5 very soon. Watch this space!



DUKE OF EDINBURGH

A huge congratulations to some of our pupils who have now completed their final Duke of Edinburgh expedition which was held last weekend.

The pupils walked nearly 20 miles over the 2 days including walking around whole of Bewl Water. This was in very hot temperatures without any complaining.

They are delighted to have achieved the bronze award.

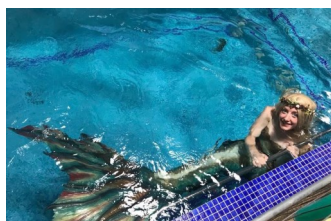
Five Acre Wood are now the inspiration for the Duke of Edinburgh assessors in Kent as we have proved we can do it! We are incredibly proud of them all.



FIVE ACRE WOODSTOCK



On Wednesday 18th July, Five Acre Wood pupils had a fabulous day in the sunshine at our annual Woodstock music festival. The theme for this year was 'Neverland' with a 'Lost Boys' Hideout', 'Indian Camp', 'London', 'Mermaid Lagoon' and 'Crocodile Creek Arena'.



Pupils and staff thoroughly enjoyed listening to the music and there was a wide range of activities for pupils to enjoy alongside pupils from other mainstream and special schools who were invited to share this special day with us.

Woodstock had it's usual festival feel with an extensive line-up of artists which included **Barry Holmes, Jahson Leigh, Mark Wilton, Nathan Grisdale, Jack Rose, Joey James, The Simmons Brothers, Kevin Davy White and El'tee**. There were marquees and themed activities. There was an

abundant supply of tasty food and drink and as it was such a warm and sunny day, the ice cream van proved very popular.

The event opened with a whole school procession and a performance from our Five Acre Wood's Got Talent finalists. Well done to Felicity, Jack, Leon and Mark for their brilliant performances! Our Senior Leadership Team then took to the stage to entertain everyone with their own mini performance of Peter Pan and this was followed by an impressive display by the 'Galloping Acrobats' who specialise in providing flamboyant vaulting based horse displays, arena acts and entertainment for events and shows throughout the UK.



We were joined by 'Minnie Mouse' and her owner Elaine from the St Bernard Trust. The trust helps care for

rescued St Bernard dogs.



This spectacular event would not be possible without the generosity of the national organisations and individuals who kindly give us their time, commitment and resources completely free of charge. We are extremely grateful to every one of them, including:

Greggs The Bakers, who supplied and served delicious food and drink throughout the day.

Tulip who provided a delicious hog roast. and brought along with them the **UK Bratwurst Company** whose quality butcher's sausages and burgers went down well with everyone!

Sensational who provided specialist sensory sessions.

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

Gravity AV who provided a stunning sound set up.

Royal Engineers whose marquees provided shade for our pupils and a space for the

various workshops.

Andy Devaney and Martin West(Avenoir), and Lee Rose (DeeVu Records) who provided us with a roster of incredibly gifted, extremely hard working, compassionate and exceptionally giving artists.

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.

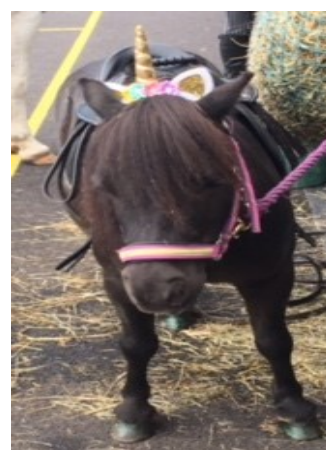
Recognition Express in Rochester who provided a deluxe range of thank-you gifts.

Chestnut Group Ltd, for their generous donations.

Kent Fire & Rescue Services for all their help and support.

KCC for providing us with a community grant for this event.

Team Tutsham who offered riding experiences throughout the day and brought along their very own 'unicorn'.

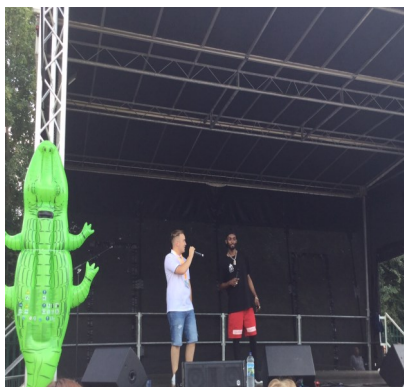


FIVE ACRE WOODSTOCK

Our other festival performers and activities included an animatronic Valerian dragon who was accompanied by a fairy, a juggling pirate and a mermaid, bouncy castles, face painting, Spider Mountain, Interactive Challenge, Unicorn Rodeo and Alex and Tina for their archery sessions.

It is a pleasure to work with the above individuals and organisations who are committed to putting the time and effort into supporting us. We sincerely thank them for making such a difference to the lives of our very special pupils and helping us to create magical memories for them.

Last but by no means least, a big thank you to the Woodstock Committee, whose tireless efforts ensured Woodstock was a resounding success as a result of their innovative ideas, planning, kindness and willingness to do whatever was needed. They have been busy fundraising, borrowing, procuring or creating resources and equipment and have given up so much of their own time in order to give our pupils a day to remember.



SIXTH FORM LEAVERS PROM

On the 7th of July we celebrated our sixth form leavers with a prom. It was held again 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. Casey won Sports Person of the Year while Mark was presented with a Personal Achievement Award. Samuel and Katie 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 Frankie, Cameron, Mark, Aidan, Rory, Samuel, Katie, George, Jack and Catriona every success!

