



FIVE ACRE WOOD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY (TERM 3/4):

Mon 6th Jan	First day of term 3
Thurs 16th Jan & Thurs 30th Jan— 9.30am-3.15pm	Parent group (Makaton) Charges will apply
Fri 14th Feb	Last day of term 3
Mon 24th Feb	First day of term 4
Mon 9th, Tues 10th & Weds 11th March	Staff training days (pupils not in school)
Fri 20th March 2.00-3.15pm	Parent group (behaviour)
Tues 31st Mar —10am	Easter Fair
Weds 1st April	Last day of term 4

A MESSAGE FROM PEGGY...

Welcome to the winter newsletter. In this edition you can read about events that have taken place during terms 1 and 2, including Harvest Festival, Children in Need, Nathan Grisdale's music video and a whole host of Christmas events and celebrations which our pupils have been enjoying.

Since my last letter, some new staff have joined us; Amber, Lorraine, Katy, Amy, Rebecca, April, Lili, Lisa, Sara, Amy, Georgina and Jayne have joined as Teaching Assistants, Theresa has joined as a Lunchtime Supervisor, Adrian is our new IT Technician, Lisa has joined as HR Administrator and Suzanne is our new Finance Assistant. We hope they are all enjoying working at Five Acre Wood School. We have also welcomed some new pupils to the School; Amber, Logan, George and Mariah-Jess.

We are currently working towards achieving the Artsmark Award. This is a creative quality standard for schools which can help unlock pupils' potential and build confidence, character and resilience. We recognise

the physical and mental health benefits of creative arts and are keen to develop this across the curriculum. 'Creative arts' encompasses a vast range of activities, including music, dance, singing, crafts, design, painting, writing, reading, going to museums, galleries and concerts, as well as online arts including animations and digital arts.

Please see the 'Creative Arts' tab on our website and the Artsmark newsletter for further information. On pages 6 and 7 of this newsletter you can read about our art exhibition and Christmas doors.

I am delighted to announce that pupils at Five Acre Wood Snodland were awarded 'Volunteer of the year' at the Kent Community Rail Partnership AGM for their work at Snodland station. Huge congratulations and well done to all involved. We are all extremely proud of them!



WINTER 2019



The Challenge Partners peer review in October had a positive outcome for the school. Five Acre Wood was evaluated as a 'Leading' school, as we share expertise meaningfully with others.

I would like to say thank you to all parents, carers and families for your continued support and for attending our events throughout the year.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone an enjoyable Christmas and a happy 2020! I look forward to welcoming the pupils back in school on Monday 6th January 2020.



Peggy

FUNDRAISING UPDATE



KENT MESSENGER CHARITY OF THE YEAR - 2020

We applied to be the KM's charity of the year and were successful! With a weekly readership of nearly 75,000, Five Acre Wood School is going to become a household name in 2020 and that can only bring more support from our ever-growing community! There are various events throughout the year that we can partake in. Grab your calendar and block off a few (or all) of these dates so you can come and get involved:-

- 21 March 2020** – Abseil off a super-high building
- 26 April 2020** – It's the KM Big Bike Ride
- 7 June 2020** – There's a 5K Colour Run
- 30 October 2020** – Ever fancied walking on hot coals? This is your opportunity!
- 20 November 2020** – The KM BIG QUIZ

The more we put in, the more we can get out! There are entry fees for these events but I have discount codes that I can share with you nearer the time.



<p>SUNKEN TRAMPOLINE AT FAW SNODLAND</p> <p>We are looking to raise £6,500.00 to get this much needed resource. With a boost from a KCC Combined Members Grant, a donation from a golfing day and from collection tins at Sainsbury's Larkfield we are already well on our way into raising this.</p> <p>If you want to help us bounce nearer our total – you can donate via our Virgin Money Giving Campaign page</p> <p>https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com</p> <p>and enter 'Friends of Five Acre Wood School' in the search box.</p>	<p>MOBILE SENSORY UNIT</p>  <p>We were hoping to have a new sensory room at FAW Loose but due to the huge expansion of the school, there is no longer a room available. However....some funding that we had received from Baily</p> <p>Thomas along with other funding raised together with funding in the process of being raised is going to purchase a mobile sensory unit.</p> <p>If we can't bring the pupils to the sensory room, we'll bring the mobile sensory room to them! There are no problems...only solutions!</p>	<p>FAW CLUB</p> <p>We had 51 participants in our monthly draw to win £30. All a bit of fun which raised nearly £1,000.00 last year. If you would like a number, the cost is £25 for the year and of course the more people who play, the higher the pay outs will be! Please contact me on ameaders@five-acre.kent.sch.uk and I will send you an application form.</p>
	<p>CO-OP CHARITY OF THE YEAR – 2020</p> <p>Willington Street and Week Street have chosen us. Please ensure you choose to support us when you shop in any of these branches.</p> <p>https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/33059</p> <p>And yet another large store has chosen us to be their charity partner! Surely there is NO-ONE in Kent who has not heard of Five Acre Wood School! The stores in Bearsted, Harriestham, Shepway Estate,</p>	

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

SAINSBURY'S LOCAL CHARITY PARTNER OF THE YEAR

Our official year being Sainsbury's Larkfield Local Charity Partner of the Year ended in June 2019. However....they have taken us so much to their hearts that they just keep on supporting us and have now far exceeded the £3,678.00 pictured below!

We had them in school volunteering in our sensory garden back in the late summer helping to build our bamboo water feature and they still have our collection

tins in various places in store.

They were kind enough to let classes come in for a spot of carol singing in early December. AND they now regularly donate products that they cannot sell but which we can find plenty of use for! We are extremely grateful to them for all that they do for us.



NEW MINIBUS FOR FAW SNODLAND



We were delighted to receive a new 17 seater minibus. Through the generosity of Steve Farley from S.C. Farley Electrical Ltd and his connections with the Variety Club, this fabulous resource is now available.

It is in constant demand, ensuring our pupils are out and about and living their educational lives to the full!

Thank you!

THANK YOU AND HAPPY CHRISTMAS

Thank you for all your support during 2019. Please keep engaging with us on social media – liking and sharing our posts on Facebook is a tremendous way to raise our profile.



Wishing you a very Happy Christmas and looking forward to another exciting year of fundraising in 2020 - Alex.



Keep shopping via Amazon Smile – choosing us as your nominated charity; keep using EasyFundraising when you are shopping online. It's all money for nothing but adds up hugely.



HARVEST FESTIVAL

Our annual Harvest Festival performances took place on Tuesday 1st October. Our primary pupils sang, danced and thoroughly enjoyed entertaining the many parents/carers who were able to attend. We would like to thank you for your support.

We would like to thank our pupils for their performances, all those involved in organising the event and also the families

who sent in donations which were taken to the Vine Church. The Vine Church were very appreciative of the donations they received. They restocked their food bank which enables them to provide food parcels to both individuals and families in need. They have seen the difference the food bank has made to people's lives over the many years it has been operating.



CHILDREN IN NEED

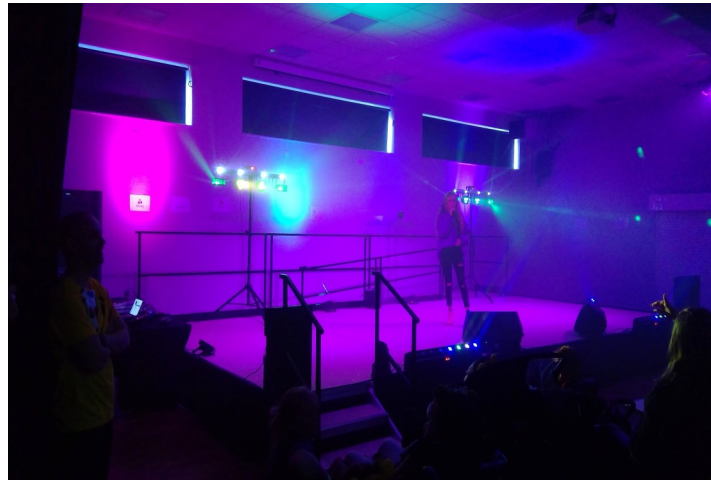
MUSIC CONCERT AND VISIT FROM GREGGS AND PUSDEY

On 12th November DeeVu Record and Artist Management put on another fantastic 'Children In Need' concert for our pupils in the Loose site hall. We would like to thank them for providing our pupils with an amazing concert from a superb line up of performers!

We would like to say a special thank you to Jack Rose, Kezia Povey, Nathan Grisdale and Elizmi Haze for their brilliant performances and for giving up their time. Our pupils thoroughly enjoyed themselves and it was another great opportunity to use our fabulous stage.

Pupils were invited to wear their 'own clothes' for a £1 donation to 'Children In Need' which raised an impressive £280. Our hair and beauty group at Snodland painted Pudsey nails for 'Children in Need' and raised £24.

Greggs and Pudsey also visited us and they brought along merchandise which was sold in aid of 'Children in Need'.



SALVATION ARMY HAMPERS

The Salvation Army in Union Street, Maidstone provided Christmas parcels containing gifts and toys and food hampers which were collected and brought into school to be distributed to some of our families in need.



‘DON’T GIVE UP’ VIDEO

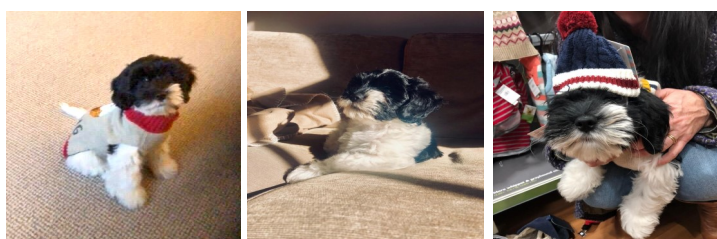
Pupils were thrilled to be asked by Nathan Grisdale to appear in the video for his latest song, ‘Don’t give up’ (to be released on 22 December). Nathan is a regular performer at our Woodstock festival and ‘Children in Need’ concerts and it was a pleasure to work with him. Nathan came into school for 2 premiere showings of the

video, with a ‘red carpet welcome’ on 16th December. We are delighted to announce that Nathan has kindly agreed to be an ambassador for the school.

We wish Nathan every success with his new single and would like to thank him for kindly donating some of the proceeds to the School.



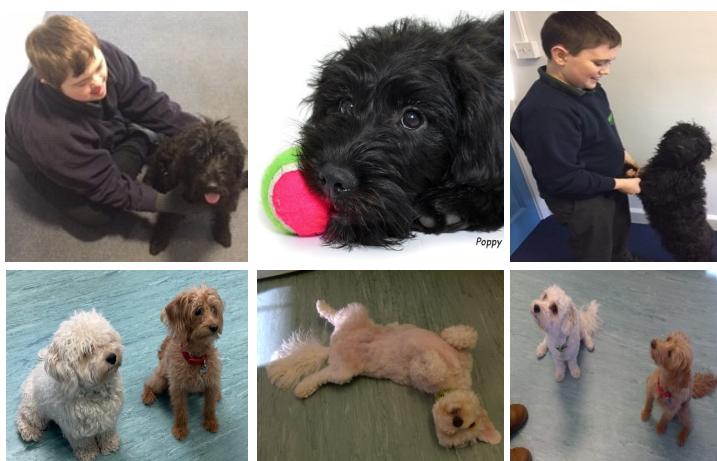
SCHOOL DOGS



This term Milly joined Poppy at the Snodland site as an additional therapy dog. She has settled in really quickly and both Milly and Poppy have made lots of friends — both pupils and staff.

Snowy and Sandy are really embracing school life at the Loose site. They love being

taken for walks by pupils. Snowy’s favourite place to be is lying on his back having his tummy rubbed. Pupils find it amusing when he goes for a walk and rolls around in the wet grass. Sandy greets everyone in the morning with her enthusiastic bark and is always looking for someone who wants to play.



ARTS AWARD CLUB

Pupils in the Arts Award Club have been working hard to develop their artistic and creative skills to gain the ‘Discover and Explore’ award as part of the Arts Mark Scheme. They focused on print making and explored sculpting with clay. Their art was showcased at an exhibition for parents, carers and staff. Ishan, Erin and Rohan are incredibly proud of their hard work. Well done to them all.



CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION

Every year we hold a Christmas card competition where pupils are asked to design a card and the winning designs are then printed and used for our Five Acre Wood School Christmas cards the following year.



Joshua — Hedgehog Class



Amy — Ash Class



Eva — Snowdrop Class

We received so many amazing entries last year. The chosen winning designs for this year's cards are shown here.

The Christmas cards have been sent to pupils, staff and external contacts.

Thank you to everyone who designed a card; we enjoyed looking through them all.

CHRISTMAS DOORS

In December each class decorated their classroom door as part of a competition designed by the Artsmark committee to 'bring the corridors to life' with Christmas art created by both pupils and staff. The response was amazing with everyone embracing their artistic talents and producing fabulous designs. Support staff also joined in with the transformation of the school.

Our arts ambassador, Ryan, choose an advent door for each day and then an overall winner—Hazelwood.



CHRISTMAS SHOP



The fabulous staff in TEAM set up a pop up Christmas gift shop in December for our pupils to purchase Christmas gifts for their families and friends. Pupils really enjoyed choosing their gifts from the wide selection on offer. These gifts were wrapped and tagged, ready to be taken home. Thank you to TEAM—the shop was a huge success!

CHRISTMAS TREES



Thank you to 'Stevens Christmas Trees' for kindly donating another beautiful tree for our reception area.

Thank you also to 'Time Christmas' for supplying two fabulous trees and lighting for our Loose and Snodland sites.



CHRISTMAS FAIR



Due to the popularity of our Christmas fairs, this year we held one in the morning and one in the afternoon at the Loose site. Thank you to staff and pupils for providing a great selection of festive stalls including raffles, slime, reindeer food, salt dough, hot chocolate cones, Christmas cards, gifts and decorations, Christmas jar competition and plenty of delicious cakes and festive treats.



Thank you to all parents and carers who were able to join us. We raised an impressive £779.38 which has been donated to the 'Sam West Foundation'. The foundation supports mental health issues in young people. It is a local charity which was chosen and voted for by members of staff.



CHRISTMAS NATIVITY

Our nativity performances were held on 10th and 11th December. There were seven performances over two days. The performances were 'Born in a Barn' and 'Letters to Santa'.

Many parents and carers joined us with their families to watch pupils sing and sign along to songs. There were some brilliant costumes and a few unplanned and entertaining moments along the way.

Thank you to everyone involved in the performances. We are extremely proud of the pupils; for many of them it was their first time on the stage.



CHRISTMAS DISCO

Thank you to TEAM for organising family Christmas discos for pupils after school on 6th December at the Loose site.

Pupils had a surprise visit from Santa with his amazing neon sleigh. In addition to a brilliant DJ and some superb dancing, there were also tattoos and refreshments available to purchase.

Many thanks to the fabulous DJ for providing us with a great evening of music and also to all the staff who gave up their time to help out. It was a great evening and a wonderful time was had by all.



CHRISTMAS DINNER

On 12th December the kitchen staff at the Loose site cooked a delicious Christmas dinner for pupils and staff. They created a very festive atmosphere in the hall with Christmas crackers and tablecloths and some Christmas music.

We would like to say thank you to the kitchen staff and to all staff who helped serve the dinners to pupils.



CHRISTMAS PARTIES, CHRISTMAS CLOTHES AND A VISIT FROM SANTA

On 17th December classes held their Christmas parties with lots of music, fun, games and party food! This was also 'Christmas clothes day'.

Primary pupils had the opportunity to meet Father Christmas and his cheeky elf in the school grotto! Father Christmas also visited sensory pupils.

Every pupil was given a Christmas present which had been donated by Heart's Giving Tree.

Marshall from Paw Patrol also came into school to visit some of the pupils in their classes. He received a very warm welcome from some very excited pupils.



CHRISTMAS VISIT FROM GREGGS



On 18th December, our wonderful friends from Greggs came into school to wish everyone a Happy Christmas. They brought along some delicious festive goodies for pupils and plenty of Christmas cheer.

END OF TERM

Towards the end of term, pupils were greeted by Christmas music, 'snow' and a warm welcome from Santa and Rudolph when they arrived at school.

