



# FIVE ACRE WOOD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Message from Peggy	1
Fundraising updates	2-3
Children in Need and Remembrance Day	4
School therapy dogs	5-6
Class updates	7-9
Christmas cards Christmas parties End of term	10

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY (TERM 3/4):

Mon 4th Jan	First day of term 3
Weds 6th Jan	Parent group (PECS)
Weds 27th Jan	Parent group (behaviour)
Weds 3rd Feb	Parent group (online safety)
Fri 12th Feb	Last day of term 3
Mon 22nd Feb	First day of term 4
Term 4 (Date TBC)	Parent group (visual supports within the home)
Mon 8th, Tues 9th & Weds 10th March	Staff training days (pupils not in school)
Thurs 11th March	Parent group (SCERTS)
Tues 31st March —10am	Easter Fair
Thurs 1st April	Last day of term 4
Weds 5th May	Parent group (behaviour)

## A MESSAGE FROM PEGGY...

WINTER 2020

Welcome to the winter newsletter. In this edition you can see what our four School therapy dogs have been up to. You can read about 'Children in Need', find out all of the latest fundraising news, read updates from classes and see some of the Christmas fun which pupils have been enjoying.

Since my last letter, some new staff have joined us; Suzanne, Vicky, Claire, Joe, Lauren, Claire Keeley, Karen, Rachel, Sarah, Carmel, Kirsty, Brogan, Billie and Samuel have joined as Teaching Assistants, Kelly has returned to Five Acre Wood as a Class Teacher and Sarah has joined as Data Administrator. We hope they are all enjoying working at Five Acre Wood School.

We have also welcomed some new pupils to the School; Dorothy, Oliver, Edward, Blossom-Rose and Ayman.

At the end of this term, we say goodbye to: Emma (TEAM). We would like to wish her all the best for the future.

I am pleased to announce that we have once again achieved the IQM Inclusive School Award with Flagship Status following our recent reassessment. The Inclusion Quality Mark is a nationally accredited award which recognises the exceptional inclusion arrangements that Five Acre Wood has in place.

I would like to share with you a link to a coffee table art book by Henry Fraser, a motivational speaker, author and mouth artist who was due to speak at the LEAF Teaching School 'Inspiring Growth and Development' conference this year, which like many events, unfortunately had to be postponed. Henry's book—'Hand to Mouth' showcasing some of his fabulous art can be ordered here:

<https://henryfraserart.com/product/hand-to-mouth/>



Please can I remind all parents/carers that in the interest of your child's health and safety, it is your



responsibility to ensure all information on Healthcare Plans is kept up to date.

I would like to say thank you to all parents, carers and families for your continued support throughout this somewhat challenging year.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone an enjoyable Christmas and a happy new year. I look forward to welcoming the pupils back in school on Monday 4th January 2021.



Peggy

## FUNDRAISING UPDATE

### FUNDRAISING NEWS OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2020

It is time to look back on all that has REALLY important to have YOU out been accomplished by our there cheering for us and our cause. unbelievably supportive community Every time YOU do something for Five over the past few months. Yes, Acre Wood School, more and more fundraising has had to take on a people get to know about us and different approach, the normal events therefore more and more people can from which we benefit so much, just raise funds for us. haven't been there, but you will see I hope you enjoy reading about all the from the stories below that there has amazing things that have happened been no let-up in our work and that we recently. Maybe you will feel inspired have had a really successful few months. Although of course the bank to do something too. EVERY balance is all important, it is also CONTRIBUTION COUNTS!!!

### MYLA'S RUN FOR FIVE ACRE WOOD

The granddaughter of one of our staff members – Katja Svart - and also cousin of one of our students, wanted to raise some money for us by taking on a challenging 5km run. Myla set herself the target of £100.00 on her fundraising page. At the time of writing this Newsletter, Myla has raised a WHOPPING **£1,455.00** ... GO MYLA!!!

Myla completed her run on Saturday 5 December. It was a muddy, cold day but there were smiles and cheers all round as Myla (accompanied by grandma Katja in places!) finished in an amazing time of just around 1 hour. She was greeted at the end by Grandma, Daddy, and baby brother James – ready with a medal and a hot chocolate for her!

We are super proud of you Myla and just so grateful to you and of course your BRILLIANT mummy – Lenita – who was with you all the way!



### CHRISTMAS COIN CHALLENGE



I was hoping to have brought you a wonderful figure of the amount raised BUT as with just about everything we try to do at the moment, you make a plan, then you adapt the plan, then you rethink the plan, then you make another plan. You don't give up!!! You keep on smiling. So, the Christmas Coin Challenge will run into the New Year. Please, please keep collecting coins and send them in whenever you can. I look forward to collecting all the buckets in, weighed down with all your coins at some point into January.

### LUCKY BALLS & FAW CLUB

We run these two lotteries through the calendar year. Supported by loads of staff (Lucky Balls) and lots of our extended community (FAW Club) – over **£2,200.00** has been raised for our school with plenty of people winning cash along the way. Both these lotteries will restart in January 2021... what's the expression...??? **"You've got to be in it to win it"!!!** Look out for details of how to play, coming to you in January.

### CO-OP LOCAL CHARITY PARTNERSHIP

Our year of being the locally supported charity for 7 Co-op branches around the Maidstone area culminated with a total amount of **£4,866.60** being raised for us! Although we don't want to stop being their charity – we must now hand that baton on to the next charity and we hope Kenward Trust benefit as much as we did from the customers and staff at the Co-op!

## FUNDRAISING UPDATE

### IQ CARDS



We were so thrilled with the products that came back to us from IQ Cards. Your children's individual artwork was turned into Christmas cards, gift wrap, stickers, postcards, key rings and fridge magnets. We hope you loved them. This is definitely something we will do again next year – we also raised **£545.00** in commission through the efforts, so a total win / win situation!

### JANET'S VIRTUAL MARATHONS

Huge thanks and the greatest of respect to Janet Bird who ran not just one, but TWO virtual marathons in the last couple of months. This is a hard ask at the best of times, but without the crowds of runners and supporters to carry her through her 52.2 miles, this was a challenge in which Janet earned every pound of the amazing sum of **£440.00** that she raised.



### INDIVIDUAL DONORS SINCE HALF TERM

We are beyond grateful to EVERYONE who has donated to us recently. We appreciate that these are hard times for us all to navigate. But yet....

We have donations from people who wish to remain anonymous totaling **£1,200.00**; we have ongoing monthly standing orders of **£55.00** per month (that's a massive **£660.00** a year);

Reformed Church raised **£265.00** for us through a remote coffee morning; Santander Maidstone sent us a cheque for **£500.00**; Little Fant Farm donated **£94.00**; Peter Smithers (Dad of one of our teachers – Carolyn Burdis) donated some "I'm not going out" money which totaled **£250.00** (including Gift Aid);

Michael Duggan raised **£200.00** at a Golf

Day; Peter Hill – a friend of Stanley Thwaites' grandparents donated **£500.00**; and, on its way as we speak....**£250.00** from Howdens.

Do you realise, just this paragraph, totals over **£3,350.00** in donations???

### KM CHARITY BIKE RIDE

Cancelled on several occasions, the Kent Messenger 100km Charity Bike Ride finally went ahead in October. One of our staff members, Jo Schumann, along with her partner, braved the wind and cold



and pounded their way around Kent to raise money for us. We have not yet had a total in from the KM of what they raised but we THANK them SOOOOO much for doing this.

### HYDROTHERAPY POOL

We have talked about our wonderful major donor – Peter Cullum; the three big charitable foundations who gave grants – Peter Harrison Foundation, Edward Gostling and Garfield Weston; plus of course our community fundraiser "Create a ripple... MAKE A SPLASH!" But the balancing funder has remained anonymous for a while! We would now like to very publicly thank KCC whose substantial donation to the project helped ensure that this AMAZING facility could be built.

### THANK YOU

It's been a busy end of the calendar year. Time to refresh and regroup and also celebrate all that has been completed, then back into school on 4 January 2021, to look forward to a fabulous year of fundraising ahead. There is much to be done, but, there is much that has been done. Thank you for your support. Wishing everyone a very safe and peaceful Christmas and a very Happy New Year. Alex

## CHILDREN IN NEED

Many of our pupils and staff came into school wearing either yellow or spotty clothes on 13 November for a £1 donation to Children in Need. Thank you to all who donated, we raised £384.80! Sadly Pudsey Bear wasn't able to visit us this year, however good fun was had by all.



## REMEMBRANCE DAY

Blackthorn class pupils made poppies to commemorate Remembrance Day.



## SPONSORED SING

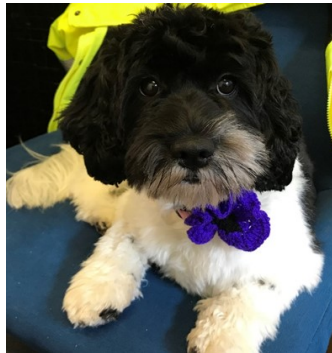


Blackthorn class raised money for Children in Need by performing a sponsored sing on Friday 13th November via Zoom. They had been working extremely hard to learn their chosen song, 'Lean on Me', and they raised £200. Well done everyone!

## SCHOOL DOGS

### MILLY

Milly is one of our therapy dogs at the Snodland site. This term, one of the pupils has been helping to care for Milly. She takes her for a daily walk and gives her lunch and water each day. Milly looks out for her car each morning.



It might not be hot enough for sunglasses just yet, but one of our pupils thought he'd see how they looked on Millie anyway. Milly didn't seem to mind.

Milly welcomes our pupils from their transport into school each morning. She sometimes goes with a pupil to their class, if this helps them with the start of their day.

She is often taken for walks by various classes and sometimes spends extra time in class, which she loves.

Milly greets some of the pupils who were initially wary of dogs. Regular contact with Milly and Poppy has meant that they are now much

more confident around the dogs.



Milly and Poppy had been having regular visits to Turtle class at the Palace Wood site, which was great fun. At the current time, Milly and Poppy are unable to visit them but are looking forward to visiting them again soon.

A parent sent in 2 crocheted purple poppies for Milly & Poppy to wear with pride for Remembrance Day.



### SNOWY

Snowy is based at the Loose site. Every morning when he comes into school he loves to play with his 'Giggle Ball' which makes funny noises as he chases it around the room, barking loudly! He then settles himself onto a chair and waits to be taken to classes for walks, fun and interaction with pupils.



# SCHOOL DOGS

## POPPY

Poppy and Millie spend every morning welcoming the pupils at the front door when they arrive at school.



Poppy enjoys helping the pupils that would like some 'therapy time' by either playing or relaxing with them.

Many pupils have a good bond with Poppy and some of the pupils that are a little unsure have warmed to her gentle character.

The pupils have been teaching her new tricks and some feel that she would be good as a circus dog.



Millie and Poppy joined Ash class in their English Lesson.



Poppy wore a purple poppy for Remembrance Day.

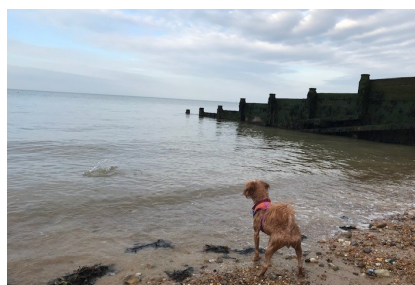


Poppy spends lots of time within the classroom and also outside with the pupils. They regularly take Poppy for walks in their break and at lunch times. She is assisting with a pupil who is completing an animal welfare course.



## SANDY

Sandy has had a busy term meeting some of our new pupils, she has made lots of friends. She has enjoyed going for walks in the Sensory garden with some of the classes and playing games of catch. Visits to classes are currently on hold but Sandy is looking forward to playing with her friends some time soon.



Sandy had a wet day out at Whitstable beach. She was very brave and went for a swim in the sea!



# CLASS UPDATES

## BEETLE CLASS

Beetle Class has opened. We have had lots of fun this term, making new friends and starting at a new school. We have been playing with our friends and showing our curiosity within different sensory activities. Snowy and Sandy have also come to visit the new Beetles at our School. One of our favourite places to go and explore is the sensory garden.



## WHALE CLASS

Whale class loved reading 'The Days the Rains Fell' for the Pop Up Literacy Festival.

We made story necklaces to help us talk about events in the story.

In the story one of the characters made clay coil pots so we had a go. We liked pounding, kneading and rolling the clay.



We were excited to meet Karen Littlewood, the illustrator, on Teams. We asked her questions that we had written in literacy, showed her our artwork and watched her draw animals from the story. We were amazed when she added some of our ideas to her drawings!

At the end of November we had to do learning from home but our adults were so proud

of how we continued our learning on video meetings and how we coped with all of the changes. We even managed to finish off our road safety learning and were awarded road safety certificates!

Since we have come back to school we have been super busy getting ready for Christmas and making our Christmas video.



## CLASS UPDATES

### RABBIT CLASS



Rabbit class started the run up to Christmas a little early this year as they all needed a little extra sparkle! They have been busy making lots of lovely Christmas decorations to take home.



### SPARROW CLASS



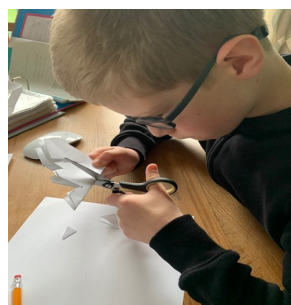
Osprey class pupils have been home learning recently and they have been doing some amazing work.

### OSPREY CLASS

#### How to make a snowflake:

Get a piece of paper and some scissors.  
Be careful with the scissors.  
Fold the paper in to a triangle.  
Fold in half.  
Fold in half again.  
Then cut out some shapes.  
Open it all up.  
You should have a snowflake.

They have been making paper snowflakes and would like to share instructions of how to do it.



### HEDGEHOG CLASS



Hedgehog class pupils really enjoyed doing some Christmas tree art. They also continued the theme of Christmas with a 'snowy' numeracy session.





## CLASS UPDATES

### SQUIRREL CLASS



Squirrel class enjoyed all the festivity and excitement of Christmas. We were busy learning and singing Christmas carols, expressing ourselves through dance, writing letters to Santa and engaging in fun arts and crafts.



### KESTREL CLASS

Kestrel class had a party game of throwing snowballs in the bucket and counting who got the most balls into the bucket. We made a scented bauble to put on the Christmas tree, paper chains and hats for our Christmas party and we made and decorated a chocolate log.



## CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION

Each year pupils are given the opportunity to design a card for our Christmas card competition. Three winning designs are then printed and used for our Five Acre Wood School Christmas cards the following year. These are sent out to pupils, staff and external contacts.

We received some fabulous entries last year and the winning designs which were used for this year's cards are shown here.

Thank you to everyone who took part; we really enjoyed looking at them all.



Rylee — Hawthorn Class



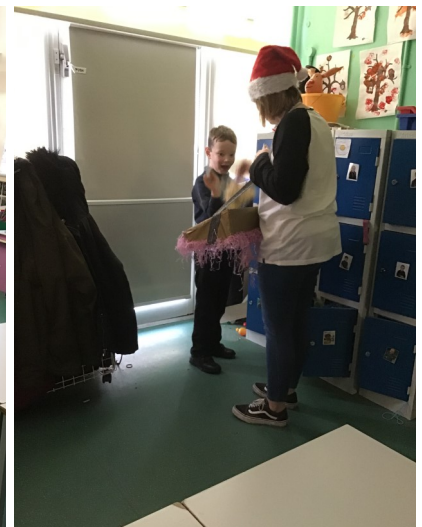
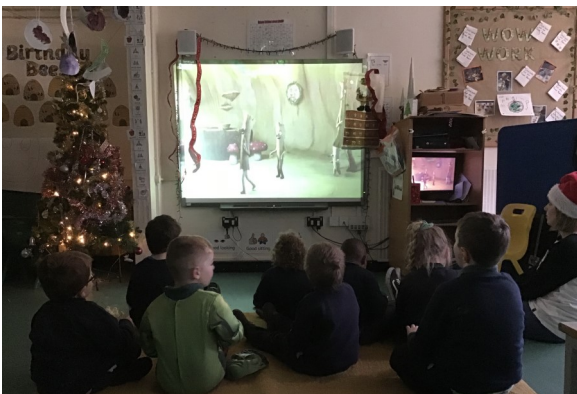
Cai — Swallow Class



Ami — Robin Class

## CHRISTMAS PARTIES

Dragonfly class had a Christmas cinema party — they enjoyed eating popcorn and watching 'Stick man'.



## END OF TERM VISIT FROM SANTA

On arrival to School, pupils were greeted by Santa and Rudolph on their sleigh.



## Term Dates with Diary Dates 2020/21

***DUE TO CORONAVIRUS, ALL DATES ARE PROVISIONAL AND ANY EVENT SCHEDULED MAY BE SUBJECT TO CANCELLATION***

Date	Time	Event
<b>Term 3</b>		
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2021	N/A	First day of term 3
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> February 2021	N/A	Last day of term

<b>Term 4</b>		
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February 2021	N/A	First day of term 4
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> March 2021	N/A	Staff training day (pupils not in school)
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> March 2021	N/A	Staff training day (pupils not in school)
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> March 2021	N/A	Staff training day (pupils not in school)
Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2021	TBC	Easter Fair
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2021	N/A	Last day of term

<b>Term 5</b>		
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> April 2021	N/A	First day of term 5
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May 2021	N/A	Bank holiday (pupils and staff not in school)
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> May 2021	N/A	Last day of term

<b>Term 6</b>		
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> June 2021	N/A	Staff training day (pupils not in school)
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> June 2021	N/A	First day of term 6 for pupils
June 2021	TBC	Sports day
June 2021	TBC	Sports day
June 2021	TBC	Sports day – FAW Snodland
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July 2021	All day	Transition day
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> July 2021	3.45-6.45pm	'Meet the new teacher' parents evening
July 2021	TBC	Secondary summer performance
July 2021	TBC	Secondary prize giving
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2021	All day	Woodstock and Last day of term

## **NOTE TO PARENTS/CARERS REGARDING MEDICATION**

To ensure that your child is given the most current prescribed medication of the correct dose and at the right time, please read these guidelines:

1. Please ensure that all medicines sent into school are in the ORIGINAL pharmacy containers/packaging clearly labelled with:

- Your child's name
- Name of prescribed medication
- The dosage and frequency of administration
- How medicine should be given, e.g. by mouth, via feeding tube
- Date medicine was dispensed
- Expiry Date

Any nurse will have the right to refuse the administration of medication to your child if this information is not clearly shown on the label.

2. Please inform the school nurse of any change to your child's regular medication, including alterations to dose, frequency or medication being stopped as advised by a doctor. These alterations need to be confirmed in writing by the prescriber. **We cannot accept verbal alterations and will be unable to give an amended dose unless we have the medication in its original contained with the correct information printed on the label or receive the changes in writing from the prescriber.**

3. If your child is prescribed emergency medication (Diazepam/Midazolam for epilepsy or Anapen/Epipen for allergy) please inform the school nurse immediately. Further information from your child's doctor will be needed regarding when the emergency medication should be given and this will be kept in school so all staff are aware of what care your child needs in an emergency.

4. Please ensure there is a sufficient supply of all the medicines your child needs whilst in school. We will contact you to advise when we are running low.

5. When sending in medication, it must not be put in your child's bag. Instead, it should be handed directly to a member of the class staff. If your child comes into school by taxi, the medication should be given to the escort who will then hand it to a member of the class staff when they arrive at school.