



FIVE ACRE WOOD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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DIARY DATES

Thu 22nd April 11.00am-12.30pm	Parent Support Group (Signing at home)
Mon 3rd May	Bank holiday
Weds 5th May 1.00-2.00pm	Parent Support Group (Behaviour)
Thu 20th May 1.00-2.00pm	Parent Support Group (Visual supports within the home)
Monday 7th June	Staff training day (pupils not in school)
TBC—June	Sports day
Fri 2nd July	Transition day
Mon 5th July— 3.45-6.45pm	Meet the new Teacher—parents evening
TBC— July	Secondary summer performance
TBC— July	Secondary prize-giving

SPRING 2021

A MESSAGE FROM PEGGY...

Welcome to the Spring 2021 newsletter. In this newsletter you can read about World Book Day, Comic Relief (Red Nose Day), updates from some of our classes and Fundraising updates.

I was delighted to fully re-open the School across all sites earlier this month, following the government announcement for pupils to return to school. Pupils have been reunited with their friends and Teachers and have settled back in school well.

As previously communicated, scheduled school events for the remainder of the year will be reviewed in line with government guidelines on an ongoing basis.

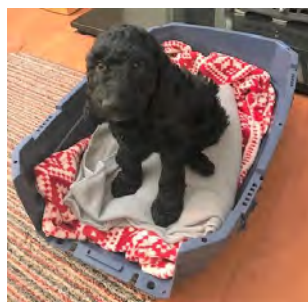
Our annual SCERTS training had to be approached a little differently this year. I would like to thank Emily Rubin who delivered training to staff and parents/carers online. We have received very positive feedback.

This term we have been joined by Benjy, our new school therapy dog. He is a Shih-Poo (a cross between a

Shih Tzu and a Toy/Miniature Poodle).



Next term Luna will be joining the School as a therapy dog at the Palace Wood site. She is a Cavapoo (a cross between a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel and a Poodle). We look forward to meeting her.



This term we welcomed the following pupils to the School; Alex, Freddie, William, Dibyan, Ethan-John and Chloe.

The following staff have joined us this term; Anthony has joined us as an Assistant Caretaker, Casey



has joined us as a cleaner, Nicola has joined us as Finance Assistant and Adam, Mark and Charley have joined us as Teaching Assistants. We wish them all good luck in their new roles and we hope that they will be very happy at Five Acre Wood School.

Please inform us of any changes of address, mobile numbers etc.. Please also be reminded 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.

Wishing you all an enjoyable Easter break and I look forward to welcoming pupils back to School on Monday 19th April.

Peggy

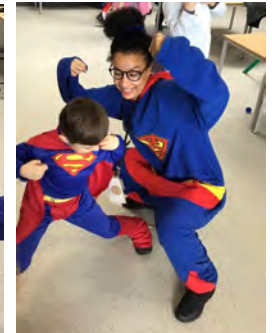
COMIC RELIEF-RED NOSE DAY

Friday 19th March was Comic Relief Red Nose Day. To mark the occasion, pupils and staff were invited to come into school dressed as their favourite superhero, or as an original superhero for a donation to Comic Relief.

Did you spot our car parking team dressed as Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles? We have enjoyed looking at the many photos of all our Five Acre Wood superheroes.



Pupils were encouraged to 'pass on a smile' by decorating a face mask to make others smile. They were also able to 'share a smile' by writing/drawing their favourite jokes to display in class and by telling a joke by video to other classes. Classes voted to choose their favourite joke. The winners (Ash class) received a prize of a joke book. Congratulations to Ash class. We hope to hear some of your jokes soon.



COMIC RELIEF-RED NOSE DAY

Robin class made red nose biscuits and a big Bakewell tart!



Dormouse class did a Red Nose Day bucket and 'pin the nose on the face'. They made their own noses and bunting for their door. They also made their own superhero masks.



COMIC RELIEF-RED NOSE DAY

Classroom and office doors were decorated as 'red nose' doors for Comic Relief. There were some very creative designs.



Wren class won a prize for their colourful winning door. Well done! You can see a photo of their door below.

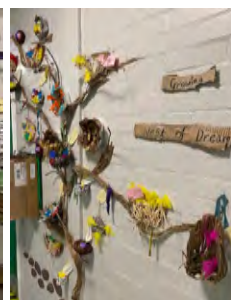
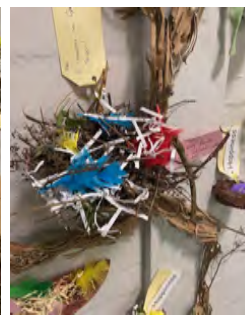
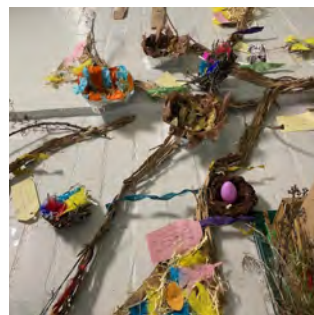


Thank you to everyone who donated money. We are delighted to let you know that you have raised £316 for Comic Relief.



GROWING NESTS OF DREAMS

Pink Hub made a 'Growing nests of dreams' installation piece. It is filled with nests from staff and pupils, with wishes and dreams from all tied in. They thought that as it is spring, nests and growth were important but also our dreams are ever-growing.



SIGNING CHOIR

The Five Acre Wood Signing Choir is back! They have all been working really hard whilst having fun learning new signs and connecting with their friends in other classes and those who have been learning from home.

Signing Choir has needed to be run a little differently at the current time. Pupils have been watching Leanne do the signs on the screen and they have managed this change very well. Pupils are looking forward to being able to meet together as a group as soon as circumstances allow.



CLASS UPDATES

TURTLE CLASS

Turtle class have been exploring dinosaurs this term, making dinosaur eggs out of messy materials - looking at texture and exploring our senses.

We are hoping to crack open our eggs before the end of term to see what's inside.



We have also been creating our own handprint dinosaurs, looking at both the different types of dinosaurs and how they differ in colour and size.



We have continued with our telling of time and have started to explore money in maths, recognising the different coins and how much money items cost in our role play shop.



In literacy we have been looking at comprehension with dinosaur stories. We have also started looking at the season spring and how the flowers are growing, and the weather is changing as part of our topic change.



CLASS UPDATES

RABBIT CLASS

Rabbit class have enjoyed making Mother's Day cards this term and taking home some flowers for their mums. We have enjoyed doing spring and Easter activities over the recent weeks. This included lots of arts and crafts projects,

like making birds nests from paper mache, and Easter decorations.

Rabbit class have explored chocolate in some of their cooking lessons, making their own chocolate eggs and nests to put them in. We have all been enjoying

being able to go outside to explore the Sensory Garden, and the spring changes we can see happening outside.

Rabbit class would like to wish everyone a lovely Easter break.



BEETLE CLASS

Beetle have been super busy this term.

We enjoyed dressing up as superheroes for red nose day.



We've enjoyed taking part in our hub project – Growing

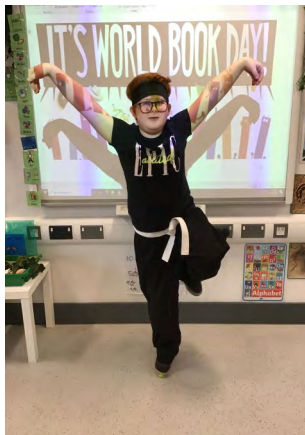
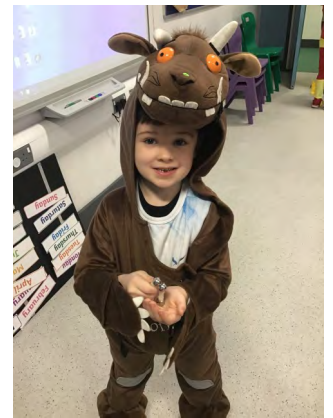
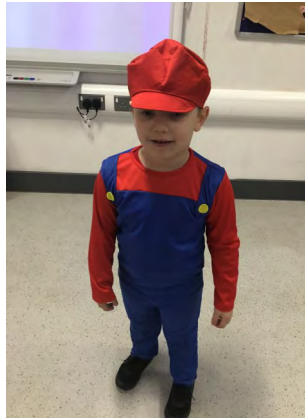


WORLD BOOK DAY

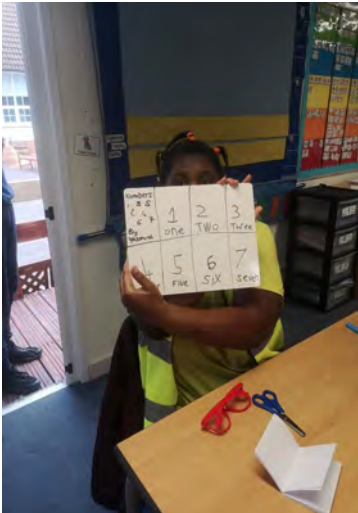
Staff and pupils alike enjoyed coming into school dressed as their favourite characters from books on 4th March for 'World Book Day'.

We enjoyed seeing so many different characters around the School. These included characters from Matilda, Harry Potter, Cat in the Hat, The Incredibles and Where's Wally?

There was a whole school assembly via Zoom. Classes also did their own performances of the poem *Zim Zam Zoom!* by James Carter with added signs, noise effects and musical instruments.



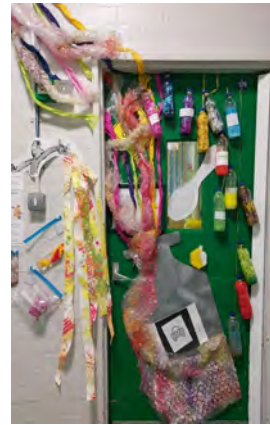
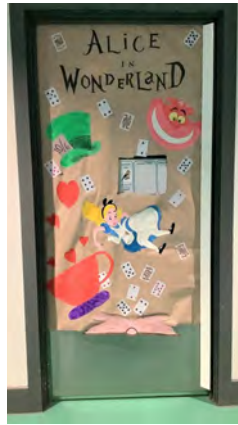
WORLD BOOK DAY



WORLD BOOK DAY

CLASSROOM DOORS

As part of our World Book Day celebrations, each class decorated their classroom door in the theme of their favourite book. There were many bright and colourful designs including Alice in Wonderland, James and The Giant Peach, The Three Little Pigs and The Very Hungry Caterpillar. Well done everyone!



WORLD BOOK DAY

CLASSROOM DOORS

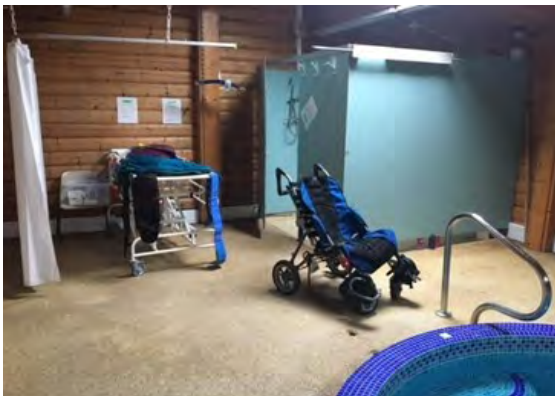


FUNDRAISING UPDATE

THE HYDROTHERAPY POOL IS FINISHED!

Friday 19 March 2021 saw the formal completion of this incredible resource and we could not be more thrilled and excited. Of course, we could not have the huge opening ceremony it deserves right now, but as soon as we can, the “Cullum Family Trust Hydrotherapy Pool” will be well and truly celebrated!

Enjoy the transformation – this is what we HAD:-



.....and THIS is what we have now:-



We will be thanking all our donors - the Cullum family, KCC, Garfield Weston, the Peter Harrison Foundation, the Edward Gostling Foundation, the Twelve Electric and the many, many other people and organisations in our community, who have contributed to “Create a Ripple... MAKE A SPLASH!”, for a very long time.



VARIETY COME UP WITH THE GOODS AGAIN!

We are so pleased to have received sponsorship for another minibus from Variety Coaches. With the ever-growing numbers in our school, we need more and more buses to be able to take our pupils on trips and visits.

The new bus is scheduled to arrive in Autumn, photos will follow when we take delivery then. Our thanks to our Chair of Governors, Bill Sangster, who ensures that the needs of our school and pupils are prioritised at Variety!

GROW 19

We were delighted to receive a grant via the Kent Community Foundation to purchase a Barista Coffee machine for the young learners at Grow 19.

The Hospitality and Catering Pupils will benefit from learning how to use this piece of equipment – all contributing to teaching them skills which will help them find meaningful employment post Grow 19.



WORK EXPERIENCE PLACEMENTS FOR GROW 19

If you are able to offer a regular one day (or half day) a week work placement opportunity to one of our Grow 19 Young Learners, we would be delighted to hear from you. There is no better training than “hands-on”, real life work situations. They are conscientious, enthusiastic workers who are hungry for any opportunity that is presented to them. Please contact Alex on ameaders@five-acre.kent.sch.uk if you can help.

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

LUCKY LOTTERY BALLS

We have had four draws already this year with four left to go and many of our players (both staff and our wider community) are pleased to have had a return on their investment! This lottery will end with a final draw in July / August.

There are still a few numbers available – if you would like to have the opportunity to win either £40 or £25 each month, please email ameaders@five-acre.kent.sch.uk for further information. All funds raised through this are going towards equipping our new multi-sensory room.

FIVE ACRE WOOD – ROUND THE WORLD CHALLENGE

We hope you are enjoying this challenge and are following the progress on our fundraising website:

<https://fofawgrow19.org.uk/upcoming-events/round-the-world-challenge/>

At the time of writing, we have travelled over 5,500 miles and are travelling across the top of India towards Mount Everest!

Please do contribute any miles that you walk, run, jog, cycle, dog-walk....and help us virtually explore some fascinating new places! Keep a weekly tally of how many miles you have gone and email them in to ameaders@five-acre.kent.sch.uk



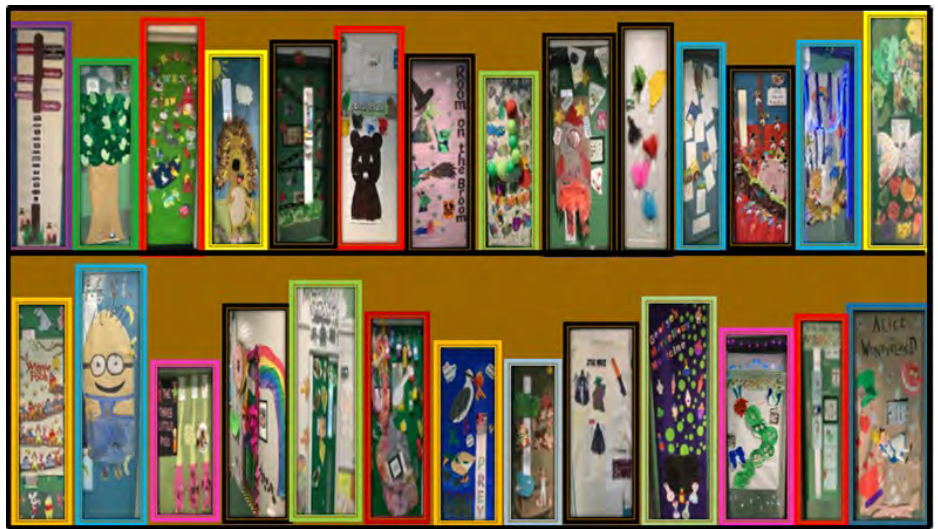
WORLD BOOK DAY - LET'S WRITE A BOOK

As part of this year's World Book Day celebrations, we came up with the idea of getting our pupils to become published authors and write a book! The WHOLE SCHOOL is getting involved, with each class contributing a page (or more!) to a lovely story.

The book is currently being collated and edited and once printed and published will be available for you to purchase.

Your children have wild imaginations and this is a huge and incredibly fun school project in which to take part! More information will be coming soon!

As another part of our World Book Day events, classes decorated their doors in the style of book covers – hopefully you saw the “bookshelves” we made with their doors, if you didn't – here they are:



AVIVA FUNDING AND BUY-A-BRICK

Our application to be part of the next funding round of the Aviva Community Fund has been successful! More information will follow on our social media platforms.

The funding round goes “live” on 5 May 2021 and we are looking to help boost our Buy-a-Brick campaign. Buy-a-brick is hoping to raise £50,000.00 towards the cost of purchasing a house which will be used as a learning resource for our pupils.

The house will enable us to teach them vital life skills, giving them the opportunity to live as independently as possible after they leave Five Acre Wood School.

KEEEEEEEEP FUNDRAISING!!!!

We are channeling the “Keeeeeep dancing!” motto from Strictly Come Dancing!

ANY support you can give us is appreciated:- a “like” on our Facebook page; taking on a challenge to raise money; a retweet on Twitter; setting up a monthly standing order; signing up to Easyfundraising; choosing us as your nominated charity through SmileAmazon. It all benefits our pupils, and that is what matters!

Finally, I would like to wish you all a fabulous Easter break.

Alex—Fundraiser