



# FIVE ACRE WOOD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Wed 1st September	Staff training day (pupils not in school)
Thurs 2nd September	First day of term 1 for pupils
Mon 6th September	KS2 coffee morning
Weds 8th September	KS 3/4 coffee morning
Fri 10th September	KS1 coffee morning
W/C 13th September	School photos (individual)
Wed 20th October	Harvest Festival (primary pupils)
Fri 22nd October	Last day of term 1

## A MESSAGE FROM PEGGY...

Welcome to the Summer 2021 newsletter.

In 2019, Five Acre Wood School started to work towards achieving the Artsmark Award. This is a creative quality standard for schools, accredited by Arts Council England. Pupils have enjoyed having an arts enriched curriculum which has included putting on exhibitions, decorating classroom doors, after school art club and entering arts based competitions. We are delighted to announce that the School has now been awarded Artsmark by Arts Council England. Our Artsmark Award is valid for two years. I would like to thank all pupils and staff who have been involved in achieving this fantastic award

This term we welcomed the following new staff who have joined us as TAs: Lisa, Lorraine, Kelsey, Kimberley, Ellie, Joanne, Bethany, Amanda, Sophie and Kaweesha.

This term we also welcomed a new pupil, Thomas, who has settled in well.

We will be welcoming a

number of new staff in September. Wynnne, Alison, Eloise, Ellie, Hugh, Karen, Jamie, Hannah, Kathryn, Hannah, Tracey, Katrina and Philip will be joining us as Teachers. Samantha, Kirsty, Emma, Nikki, Lauren, Louise, Lucy, Louise, Alexander, Bhumika, Louise, Kimberley, Tegan, Limay, Nicola, Sam, Joanne, Stacy, Amelia, Anthony, Shannon and Karen will be starting with us as Teaching Assistants. Charlotte and Gemma will be joining as Occupational Therapists and Wayne will be joining the site team. We hope they enjoy their new roles and that they will be very happy at the school.

At the end of this term we will be saying goodbye to some of our pupils. We wish Sofija, Kairen, Nicholas, Luke, Courtney, Sharna, Steven, Iain, Mollie, Esteban, Ellie, Matthew, Charlotte, Chantelle and Oliver the very best of luck for their adventures ahead.

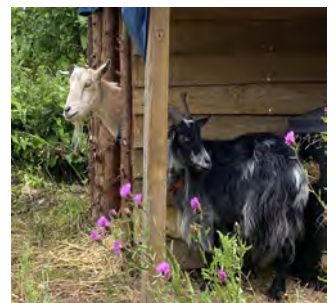


We have 2 new additions to the School this term.

SUMMER 2021



Loki and Thor are 6-year-old billy goats based at the Loose site. You can read more about them in the fundraising update.



I would like to remind parents/carers to inform us of any changes of address, mobile numbers etc. and 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.

Thank you all for your valued support during this challenging academic year. I wish you all a great summer and I look forward to seeing the pupils when they return to school on Thursday 2nd September.

*Peggy*

## FUNDRAISING UPDATE

### A MESSAGE FROM ALEX

It's been a strange term to finish the academic year - no Woodstock, no summer fair planning, no sports days! But it's ALWAYS busy in fundraising, although it is not nice to be so isolated from the lovely pupils who give such inspiration and motivation to the role!

I hope you have kept up with all that has been happening here from Facebook, Twitter and ParentMail updates. Where to start..? Maybe "Peggy has lost Tim and Rich..." is a good place! Apologies to

those of you who were concerned that Peggy had ACTUALLY lost them – please know they are safely where they are meant to be!

Thank you to everyone who has purchased a copy of the book – from all your comments and messages, it appears to have gone down really well and I am incredibly proud of our pupils for their efforts in making it such a vibrant read. £1 from every book sold will go towards our fundraising efforts for the Variety Club that I will be speaking of more in September.



### THE BRANCH CAFE



We are taking a lease on a premises in Ditton and opening a café and shop! Our older pupils will gain valuable work experience in it and the learners at Grow 19 may get involved as part of their catering and hospitality course. There is a lot to be done but we hope it will be up and running by November. We will of course keep you up to date with its progress and when it will be open for you to go along to!

One of our members of staff – Lou Paterson – who will be seconded to the Branch Café, took on a personal challenge to raise money towards the cost of equipping it. On 3 July, Lou completed the gruelling Yorkshire 3 Peaks Challenge and raised over £600 towards the Branch Café project! Well done Lou!

## FUNDRAISING UPDATE

### WE HAVE GOATS AT FIVE ACRE WOOD, LOOSE!



The Yard has its first residents! Thor and Loki arrived at the beginning of July and we are so happy to have them here with us. Many of our pupils have already visited them in The Yard and the “settling in” process is going really well.

We will soon be having goat walks around the school and more animals will be arriving to join Thor and Loki. It’s not JUST about the fun of having goats and animals here, they are of immense benefit to our pupils in terms of their therapeutic effect; also teaching our pupils to nurture and care for something that is unable to look after itself.

We are grateful to so many people for making The Yard possible; the volunteers from Lloyds Bank who turned a rough area of the garden into The Yard, as well as all the various funders who supported via grants.

### MULTI-SENSORY ROOM

Following a successful fundraising campaign and some generous donations we should be getting our new multi-sensory room equipment installed over the summer holidays. This will be another superb facility for our pupils and we are so grateful to all those who contributed! Photos of the finished room will be shared in our next newsletter.

### LUCKY LOTTERY BALLS

Our Lucky Lottery Balls raised £1,160.00 towards our new multi-sensory room when we ran it for the period January – July 2021. We will start a new round in September and all are welcome to purchase one or more numbers. £23 per number, for the year, will have you entered into 12 monthly draws with the chance to win £40 or £25 each month. Look out for a ParentMail coming home about this early on in September.



### ROUND THE WORLD CHALLENGE

We went “virtually” round the world! Leaving Loose on 1 February 2021, with the weekly and monthly contributions of miles from so many supporters, we arrived home just in time for the end of term on 17 July. Thank you to everyone who so diligently sent me their miles walked, jogged, run and cycled. I hope you enjoyed the stories of the countries we visited along the way and maybe learned something about some new places! If you haven’t read about our journey yet – do go and check it out on our fundraising website by clicking [here](#).



Keep an eye on all our social media presence – Facebook, twitter and our fundraising website. So much really fun stuff goes on there and I would hate for you to miss it! Have a great summer! - Alex

## SNODLAND RAILWAY GARDEN



As a school we have “adopted” the Snodland railway garden and have designed and created a really beautiful space in front of the railway, for the community to enjoy. Currently we have 2 classes each week that maintain the area, to keep it looking at its best all year.



Our pupils thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience and learnt lots from the day. The staff that came along from British Rail, were very knowledgeable and attentive to our students, which was appreciated. Our students did a wonderful job and worked hard all day, in the rain.



Recently British Rail had to re paint the area around this garden, which in turn, damaged some of the established plants. So in May, we had a community day where British rail and our students replanted the area.



## KENT CHALLENGER GAMES

Some of our secondary pupils took part in the Kent Challenger Games, on 10 and 11 June at the Julie Rose Stadium in Ashford. The event brought together 450 secondary and primary school children who may not normally have an opportunity to represent their school participating in sporting or physical activities, or who may find it difficult to access this type of event due to additional needs.

It was an amazing experience for our pupils after a difficult year, which provided them with a fantastic opportunity to experience community activities and to represent their school.

The pupils all worked incredibly hard as a team to complete activities that enabled them to use their problem solving skills and communication skills. They worked well under pressure and in very hot conditions. Well done 'Team Five Acre Wood'. we are extremely proud of you all.



## CROSS COUNTRY

Congratulations to our super speedy runners in Dormouse, Badger and Hedgehog classes who completed a 1km run this term, for the virtual cross country sports competition. Well done to all who took part and ran in the rain!

## DUKE OF EDINBURGH

Congratulations to our sixth formers and Grow 19 learner who have completed their Duke of Edinburgh expedition this term. The expedition took place in and around the Snodland/ Birling area over 3 days. Although they could not camp out overnight, due to covid restrictions, they all learnt the skills of putting their tents up and cooking on the trangers.

Well done to Charlie, Chantelle, Freya, Oliver and Will. They have all achieved the bronze award.



## CLASS UPDATES

### RABBIT CLASS

Rabbit class have resumed their shopping trips after the restrictions have finally been eased this year. The pupils have really enjoyed travelling on the minibus, going into shops and being able to purchase items at the tills. The class team have also enjoyed the opportunity to take the pupils out into the community.



### SWALLOW CLASS

Swallow class enjoyed the opportunity to get out into the community to visit the local park to participate in a 6 week fitness program and to go shopping. They have maintained coronavirus safety measures and washing their hands.



### PINE MARTEN CLASS

Pine Marten class have been reading fairy tales such as 'The Princess and The Pea' and 'Jack and The Beanstalk'. They used pictures from the books to help them re-tell the story and wrote simple sentences about key points and characters in the story.

In maths, they have used water to help them learn about capacity and volume. They compared their drinks bottles at lunch time to see if they were full, half full or empty. They have been using number lines to support with solving addition and subtraction problems.

During topic lessons, they have looked at famous landmarks. They created silhouettes using card and paint and model castles using cardboard boxes and art materials.

They have enjoyed making pitta pizzas in cooking and have had lots of fun exploring the sensory garden.

# CLASS UPDATES

## SNOWDROP CLASS

Snowdrop class were unable to go to Cobtree Park for their school trip but, due to unforeseen circumstances, so they decided to spend the day enjoying the wonderful Five Acre Wood School sensory garden instead.



Snowdrop class welcomed Karin Littlewood virtually into class to experience her book 'Sea Horse'. Snowdrop has worked this term in sensory art sessions to make the props and a

stunning sea grotto. Katja (Snowdrop TA) had made puppets of the main characters to bring the story to life. The children and staff really enjoyed producing the sounds and movements along with Karin.



## CLASS UPDATES

### LYNX CLASS

Lynx class have enjoyed a very busy summer term. Their biggest highlight has been the long-awaited access to soft play. They have enjoyed running, jumping, climbing and sliding their hearts out and it has been a great opportunity to develop their communication skills: initiating play; asking for help and directing their communication to specific people.

Throughout the term, they have also enjoyed exploring shapes; getting messy while cooking; parachute games; hygiene lessons and creating art masterpieces using a variety of mediums such as celery, super soakers and bubble wrap.



### ALDER CLASS



Alder class have made a class community quilt to remember this unusual year. Each pupil has sewn their own hand, with initial or name. They also included their school trees, houses and a Covid rainbow.

### OAKWOOD CLASS

Oakwood class have been working hard at Communitigrow. They attend once a week, rain or shine, to complete their work experience in the community.





## CLASS UPDATES

### DORMOUSE CLASS

Dormouse have really enjoyed outdoor learning, where they have explored capacity and developed their fine motor skills through water play with a range of different sizes of bowls and cups!

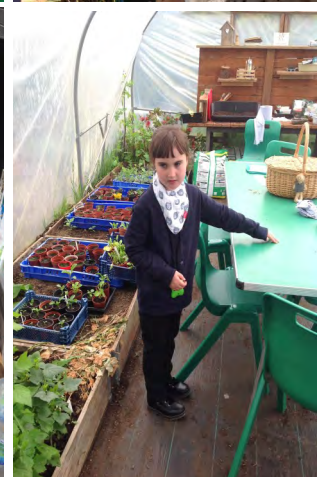
In Phonics, they explored sounds they can create themselves and that are in their daily life.

In PE, they have learnt how to play traditional games and explored regulative activities using their kinaesthetic skills.

They have explored the garden this term, smelling the different herbs, exploring new vegetables and welcoming the goats to our school!

Inside the classroom, they have developed writing their names and spelling them. They also explored reading for pleasure with their friends.

Dormouse have been making great memories with their friends and wish everyone a happy summer.



### TURTLE CLASS

Turtle class have been exploring the community and the world they live in this term. They have looked at different parts of the world, made traditional African jewellery, as well as different types of transport and used Beebots to learn about direction and the rules of the road.

In maths they have been focusing on fractions, particularly wholes, halves and quarters and creating a variety of exciting recipes using their fraction knowledge like pizza, Rice Krispie treasure chests and apple and cheese boats, using their fine motor skills to cut and measure ingredients.

They have been practising for their talent show in September. Learning Fight Song has been their favourite and they have included a range of Makaton as part of the performance. They cannot wait to perform to all of their peers at Palace Wood.



## 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.

**Term Dates with Diary Dates 2021/22**

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

Date	Time	Event
<b><u>Term 1</u></b>		
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2021	N/A	Staff training day (pupils not in school)
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September 2021	N/A	First day of term 1 for pupils
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> September 2021	TBC	Class coffee morning (Key Stage 2)
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> September 2021	TBC	Class coffee morning (Key Stage 3/4)
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> September 2021	TBC	Class coffee morning (Key Stage 1)
Week commencing 13 <sup>th</sup> September 2021	All day	School photos (individual) – All sites
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> October 2021	TBC	Harvest Festival (primary pupils)
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October 2021	N/A	Last day of term
<b><u>Term 2</u></b>		
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2021	N/A	First day of term 2
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> December 2021	3.45-6.45pm	Parents evening
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> December 2021	TBC	Nativity performance
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> December 2021	TBC	Nativity performance
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> December 2021	10.00-11.30am	Christmas Fair – Session 1
	1.30-3.00pm	Christmas Fair – Session 2
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> December 2021	Lunchtime	Christmas dinner
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> December 2021	Various	Class Christmas parties and Christmas clothes day
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> December 2021	N/A	Last day of term
<b><u>Term 3</u></b>		
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2022	N/A	First day of term 3
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> February 2022	N/A	Last day of term
<b><u>Term 4</u></b>		
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> February 2022	N/A	First day of term 4
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> March 2022	N/A	Staff training day (pupils not in school)
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> March 2022	N/A	Staff training day (pupils not in school)
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> March 2022	N/A	Staff training day (pupils not in school)
Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> March 2022	TBC	Easter Fair
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2022	N/A	Last day of term

**Term 5**

Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> April 2022	N/A	First day of term 5
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May 2022	N/A	Bank holiday (pupils and staff not in school)
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> May 2022	N/A	Last day of term

**Term 6**

Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> June 2022	N/A	Staff training day (pupils not in school)
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> June 2022	N/A	First day of term 6 for pupils
June 2022	TBC	Sports day
June 2022	TBC	Sports day
June 2022	TBC	Sports day – FAW Snodland
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> July 2022	All day	Transition day
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> July 2022	3.45-6.45pm	'Meet the new teacher' parents evening
July 2022	TBC	Secondary summer performance
July 2022	TBC	Secondary prize giving
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2022	N/A	Last day of term