



FIVE ACRE WOOD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

Thu 1st – Mon 5th September	Staff training days (pupils not in school)
Tues 6th September	First day of term 1 for pupils
W/c 12th September	School photos (individual) – All sites
Tues 20th– Thu 22nd September	Class coffee mornings
Wed 19th October	Harvest Festival (primary pupils)
Fri 21st October	Last day of term 1

SUMMER 2022

A MESSAGE FROM PEGGY...

Welcome to the Summer 2022 newsletter. In this edition you can read about our Platinum Jubilee celebrations, our Five Acre Woodstock festival, fundraising news and updates from classes.

Our sixth form leavers prom will be taking place tonight. I will share news and photos of the celebrations in my next updates letter.

Arbor is our school management information service which allows us to communicate with Parents and Carers efficiently.

To access the Parent Portal via a PC or MAC:

Visit <https://login.arbor.sc> and click on **Forgot your password**. Your username is the email address on which you received the Arbor invitation.

To access the Arbor App via mobile phone:

Download the app from the Playstore (for android phones) or Apple Store (for iPhones).

For any issues accessing the App or Portal, please email office@five-acre.kent.sch.uk.

A huge 'thank you' to Gemma, one of our parents, for her hard work and donations this year. The front of the Snodland reception area and a large area at the side of the school are now full of colour. Many people have commented on the stunning display.



This term the following new staff joined us as TAs: Fiona, Teresa, Claire, Shelley, Holly, Marcus and Tanisha. Chery-Anne has also joined us as Lunch Time Supervisor.

We will be welcoming a number of new staff in September. We hope they will be very happy at the school.

Congratulations to Zoe Thompstone who has been appointed as Therapy Lead from September.

At the end of term we say goodbye to some of our pupils. We wish Charlie, Jamie, Kayla, Owen, Cerys, Haydn, Louisa, Aaron, Freya, Carl, Jessica, Thomas, Jamie, Connor, Alin-Anrei, Izaak, Mia, David, Gareth, Callum, Elke, Jamie, Rose, Laurence,



Isabella, Felicity, Brandon, Nadine, Reece and Tyrone the very best of luck for their adventures ahead.

We also bid a fond farewell to Richard Dalton, Head of Satellite Provision and Scot Greathead, Assistant Headteacher. I am sure you all join me in wishing them both the very best of luck for the future.

I would like to remind parents/carers to inform us of any changes of address, mobile numbers etc. 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 for your valued support during this academic year. I wish you all a great summer and I look forward to seeing the pupils when they return to school on Tuesday 6th September.

Peggy

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

We have had another great term in fundraising, packed full of events. A big 'thank you' to our families who have taken part in events to raise funds for our school.

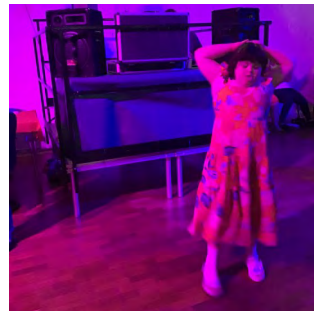
James Jenkinson and his friends successfully completed the Three Peaks Challenge, raising over £10,000. What an incredible achievement!

Isaac Palmer, aged 15, who is a friend of a family at Five Acre Wood took part in a bike ride throughout July to raise funds for the school. He completed over 100 miles and smashed his target of raising £500. Thank you so much Isaac!

We would like to say a special thank you for the kind donation from the family of Samuel and

Carolyn Burdis, in loving memory of their father and grandfather, Peter Smithers, who wished for donations to be made to the school. They have kindly donated £575.

Our school disco was amazing! Pupils from all sites were excited to sing and dance to the music and enjoyed the atmosphere with their friends and families. Fun was had by all. Thank you to everyone who joined us.



The Father's Day and 'significant others' shop proved to be very popular. Pupils loved having the opportunity to select a gift and then wrap it at our wrapping station. We hope everyone enjoyed their presents as much as the children enjoyed choosing them.

We finished off the year with a family picnic. It was a great way to spend time together as a school community and celebrate the end of the year. It was lovely to see so many of our families enjoying the celebrations ahead of the summer holidays. We wish you all a safe and happy summer break and cannot wait to see everyone in September!



YARD UPDATES

The Outdoor Learning Environment team would like to thank everyone who supported their yard raffle at the end of last term. They not only reached their target but exceeded it, raising £1,086.00.

Funds raised were for building a new area at the yard to enable pupils to get even closer to some of the animals and provide an outdoor classroom. It will have a 'living roof' and a water catching system. As you can see below, construction is now well under way.



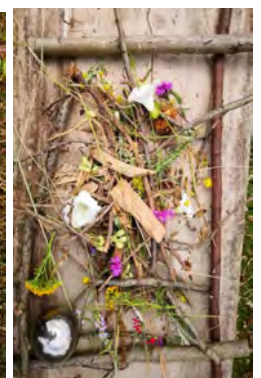
Inside the willow dome there is now a small library for storytelling sessions or just a quiet space to read.



The allotment fence is nearly completed and has been painted. There will be a wheelchair accessible swing gate. The area is a 'work in progress' as the fruit will need to be re-organised later in the year when the plants enter dormancy.



Several classes took part in making nature frames, creating a collage of objects found in the meadow to make a picture. The results have been amazing.



GROWING TOGETHER – BENEFITS OF SCHOOL GARDENING



Thomas Parris, a year 12 Maidstone Grammar School pupil, carried out his work experience at Five Acre Wood School recently. Thomas wrote an article on the benefits of school gardening which we would like to share with you below:

‘Unfortunately, the availability of gardening facilities within schools has been slowly decreasing since the turn of the 21st Century. However, this is not the case at Five Acre Wood. The outstanding horticultural facilities at the school’s Loose site support a bespoke curriculum offer for the pupils. I have had the pleasure of seeing first hand the enjoyment and enrichment the outdoor space offers them.

In research carried out by the ‘Child Mind Institute’ it was found that children who play outside are happier, more attentive and less anxious than those who do

not. Here are a few points they made about why nature is good for the minds of children:

Confidence – Outdoor play is less structured than time in the classroom. This allows for the children to have the power to control their own actions and choose how they treat nature.

Creativity and imagination – This unstructured style of learning allows children to think more freely, design activities and approach nature in inventive ways.

Responsibility – Children are entrusted with responsibility over living things such as plants and animals, they will learn the consequences of lack of responsibility if they forget to water a plant or pull a flower out by its roots.

Stimulation and movement - All senses are activated when in an outdoor environment, children are enriched through their natural surroundings.

Reduces stress and fatigue – According to the ‘Attention Restoration Theory’, natural environments cause us to practice an effortless type of attention known as ‘soft fascination’. This is a lot more relaxing than the direct attention required within the classroom.

The garden area at Five Acre Wood has recently experienced

an influx of livestock to the yard, including the addition of goats, chickens, ducks, pigs, rabbits, quails and guinea pigs. The animals offer a superb opportunity for the children to look after and engage with livestock, in turn gaining an understanding of care towards other living things and a sense of responsibility. The livestock are lovingly cared for by the wonderful garden team; Laura, Paul, Aidan and Tom.

I had the pleasure of talking to a Five Acre Wood pupil, Tom, about how the garden benefits him and his experience at the school. He explained how much he loves animals and that the garden is 100% his favourite place in the whole school. It was clear to me that Tom and so many other pupils are gaining such valuable life skills through looking after the animals.

Tom and I worked together to create a new chicken gym (pictured below). We had to put the well being and enrichment of the chickens at the forefront of our minds when placing logs and branches for them to climb on. We had to consider how easily the chickens could access the higher branches and what would make them the happiest in the long run. I

think we did a pretty good job!



Animal satisfaction works ‘hand in hand’ with the satisfaction of children; the happier the animals are, the more likely it is they will boost the morale of the pupils.

It was clear to me over my time spent at Five Acre Wood, that the garden area is greatly beneficial to everyone in the school, especially the pupils. There are so many benefits of outdoor play and it is important that the garden continues to grow and develop to play a major role in the day to day lives of Five Acre Wood pupils.’



PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

On the last day of term 5, staff and pupils enjoyed lots of celebrations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Staff and pupils arrived at school wearing red, white and blue clothes. Pupils had great fun making jubilee decorations.

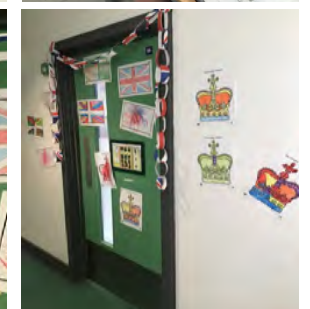
In the afternoon, pupils at the Loose site went out to the field for a celebratory picnic and to have fun in the sunshine whilst listening to some patriotic music. Some very special guests arrived onto the field; our very own 'Five Acre Wood Queen Elizabeth', 'Prince Queen Elizabeth', 'Prince William', 'Prince Harry' and a 'corgi' (who looked very similar to Snowy!)



MILLIPEDE CLASS



NIGHTINGALE CLASS



PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

BLACKBIRD CLASS



ANT CLASS

DAISY CLASS



CLASS UPDATES

WREN CLASS

This term, Wren class pupils have been exploring a seaside theme with sensory stories, together with curriculum and multi-sensory activities, inside and outside of the classroom, in the Yard and at the Forest School.

Wren class enjoyed the celebrations for Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Pupils prepared food for the class party, danced, sang and played games. To everyone's delight, delicious homemade cakes were brought to the party!

It has been a great term of celebrating the many talents and successes in class, pupils' togetherness and self-expression as they continue to engage in exploring and feeling part of the wonderful world around them!



Wren class pupils took part in Sports Day in the school hall on the afternoon of Thursday 15th July. They engaged in the many activities planned for the event.

Parents and Carers came to support the event and some happily joined in with the activities. This made the day super fun and special! Many cheers were heard as pupils enjoyed working they way round each station!



CLASS UPDATES

FIVE ACRE WOOD SNODLAND

Christopher, Archie, Peter, Kian, Harvey, Ayla, Harley, Micky, Max, Emily and Abigail worked with the Hazlitt Theatre to produce an original dance piece which was performed at the Stag Theatre, Sevenoaks at the end of last term. They were brilliant! The response from the crowd was sincere and warm. Parents were overjoyed at how accomplished their children were. We are looking forward to them performing at this year's Woodstock festival!

Abigail, Ayden, Ruby-May, Milo, Harry, Amy, Drew,

Summer, Jake, Nirvana, Harley, Grace and Leah represented the school in the 'Living the Dream' project earlier this year. They performed with other SEND schools at Woodville Hall in Gravesend and the Colyer-Ferguson space in Canterbury.

They were superb in terms of independent learning, problem-solving, behaviour and focus, especially as for most of them it was their first time performing. Some of our cast members had to step in and understudy for pupils from one of the other schools.



SPIDER CLASS

Spider class has been working on their road safety skills ready for the summer holidays. They have been practicing stopping at the crossing ready to cross the road, checking that there are no cars or that the cars have stopped before they step out into the road.

Pupils have enjoyed getting messy this year through painting, water play and getting muddy at Forest School.



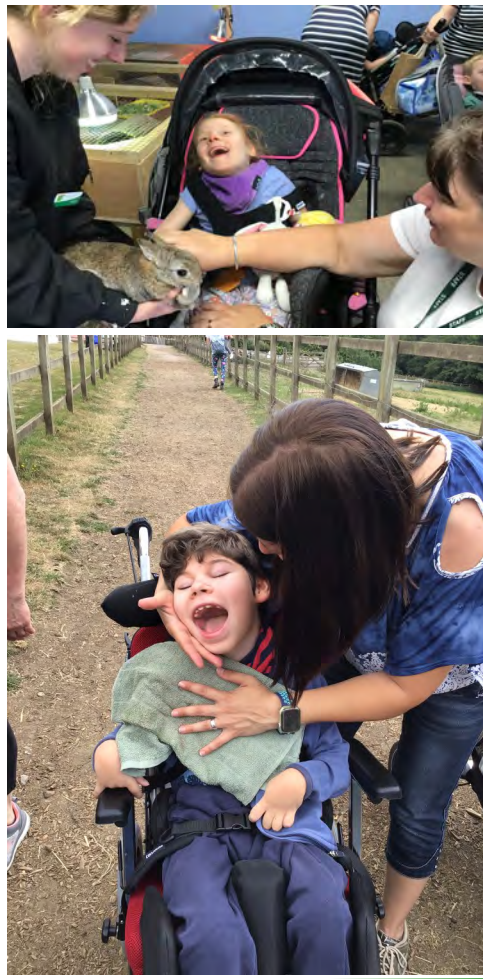
Spider Class have concentrated on smelling, tasting and exploring new foods during their food exploration cooking lessons. They have been encouraged to explore foods to broaden their diets.



CLASS UPDATES

PRIMROSE CLASS

Primrose class have been having lots of fun this term. They really enjoyed their school trip to Kent Life. They had great fun going on a tractor ride, seeing all the different animals and loved having their families join them for the day.



BUMBLEBEE CLASS

This term Bumblebee class have had lots of fun staying cool with water play, making bubbles and splashing in messy play trays.

They really enjoyed their families coming into school for a 'stay and play' session where they held a citrus fruit

tea party and showed parents their Moana sensory massage.

To celebrate all of the hard work they have done this year, they visited Kent Life and enjoyed meeting lots of different animals, riding on a tractor and playing in the park. They even fed some sheep!



CLASS UPDATES

TURTLE DOVE CLASS



We like to help each other with completing puzzles during settling in activities.

I like playing with tea set and making drinks for adults.



I liked smelling the celery and using the celery to paint with.

I enjoyed using a celery stick to paint with.



During topic, I independently used a fork to paint a fish.

I enjoyed making a seaside dessert, with blue jelly for the sea and broken biscuits for the sand.



During cooking, I made a seaside jelly, using blue jelly and broken biscuits for sand.

During Literacy activities, I was able to communicate what I can see in the picture and point to each word underneath when speaking.



During playtime, I enjoy playing with the dolls' house and interacting with an adult.

I was able to independently help my peer to cut up her dinner.



During playtime, I like to play with the boats in the water tray.

During topic, I was able to use a fork to paint a fish, independently.



CLASS UPDATES

TURTLE DOVE CLASS

Turtle Dove class pupils and their families had so much fun on Sports Day. Well done everyone.



FIVE ACRE WOODSTOCK



The festival opened with a whole school procession, followed by a dance presentation from our FAW Snodland dancers and then our signing choir performed 'Spaceman'. Our Senior Leadership Team took to the stage to entertain everyone with their space dance mash up. There was a performance by our 'FabFAW' band, who were amazing and then a performance from our FAW dancers.

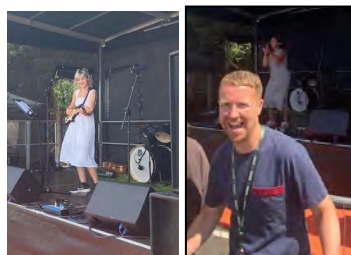
There had been much excitement for this year's space themed Woodstock festival which took place on Wednesday 20 July. There was a wide range of themed activities for pupils to enjoy alongside pupils from other mainstream and special schools, who joined us to share this very special day. The Mayor of Maidstone, Councillor Derek Mortimer, attended the festival and joined in with activities.



Throughout the rest of the day, pupils and staff enjoyed music from a fabulous line up of artists; **Jack Rose, Barney Holmes, Jay Antonio, Jazz Mino, Taryn Charles and Pink Panda.**



An abundant supply of delicious food and drink was available for everyone, including a visit from the ice cream van, which was very popular on a hot sunny day.



Our roaming festival ground performers kept everyone entertained. These included magicians, BounceBots and Stormtroopers.



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:

Kimberly-Clark

Gravity Production and Hire Services who provided a stunning sound set up.

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

Team Tutsham who offered horse riding experiences throughout the day.

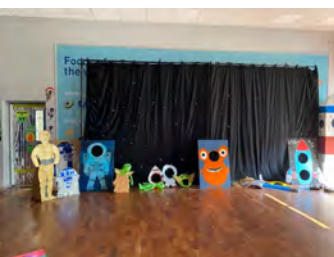


FM Conway who provided all of the barriers which ensured the safety of our pupils at all times.

Rapid Relief Team for keeping everyone fed throughout the day with a tasty barbecue and cold drinks.



Lee Rose (DeeVu Records) and Danielle Knights from Live & Love Music who provided us with a roster of incredibly gifted, extremely hard working, compassionate and exceptionally giving artists.



FIVE ACRE WOODSTOCK

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

John F Hunt Power who kindly provided a state of the art specialist power generator for the day.

Andrew Keeping who captured the event on film throughout the day (and the previous evening). We are looking forward to seeing the film he produces!

Our wonderful kitchen staff who baked and served breakfast rolls in addition to sausage rolls and other tasty treats for all to enjoy.

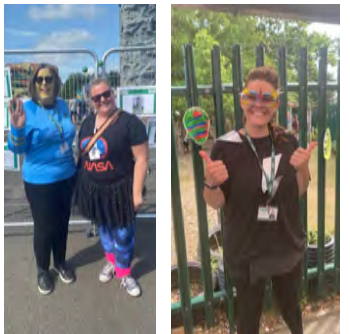


Our other festival performers and activities included dance workshops provided by Tessellation Dance, the UK's largest mobile planetarium which was brought to us by The Astronomy Roadshow, specialist sensory sessions from SenSational, Alex and Tina's archery sessions, visual poetry workshops run by Robert Montgomery and Greta Ballamacina, zorbs, foam parties, laser zone, simulators, meteor climbing, rocket making and much more.



It is a pleasure to work with the above individuals and organisations who are committed to supporting our school. 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.

We would like to say a very big thank you to the Woodstock Committee who have given up so much of their time to the planning and creation of space themed resources and equipment for the event. Their time, energy, ideas and kindness have provided our pupils with an amazing and unforgettable day.



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 container 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 2022/23

Date	Time	Event
<u>Term 1</u>		
Thursday 1 st September 2022	N/A	Staff training day (pupils not in school)
Friday 2 nd September 2022	N/A	Staff training day (pupils not in school)
Monday 5 th September 2022	N/A	Staff training day (pupils not in school)
Tuesday 6 th September 2022	N/A	First day of term 1
Week commencing 12 th September 2022	All day	School photos (individual) – All sites
Tuesday 20 th September 2022	TBC	Class coffee morning
Wednesday 21 st September 2022	TBC	Class coffee morning
Thursday 22 nd September 2022	TBC	Class coffee morning
Wednesday 19 th October 2022	TBC	Harvest Festival (primary pupils)
Friday 21 st October 2022	N/A	Last day of term
<u>Term 2</u>		
Monday 31 st October 2022	N/A	First day of term 2
Tuesday 6 th December 2022	TBC	Nativity performance
Wednesday 7 th December 2022	TBC	Nativity performance
Tuesday 13 th December 2022	10.00-11.30am	Christmas Fair – Session 1
	1.30-3.00pm	Christmas Fair – Session 2
Wednesday 14 th December 2022	Lunchtime	Christmas dinner
Thursday 15 th December 2022	Various	Class Christmas parties and Christmas clothes day
Friday 16 th December 2022	N/A	Last day of term
<u>Term 3</u>		
Tuesday 3 rd January 2023	N/A	First day of term 3
Friday 10 th February 2023	N/A	Last day of term

<u>Term 4</u>		
Monday 20 th February 2023	N/A	First day of term 4
Monday 13 th March 2023	N/A	Staff training day (pupils not in school)
Tuesday 14 th March 2023	N/A	Staff training day (pupils not in school)
Wednesday 29 th March 2023	TBC	Easter Fair
Friday 31 st March 2023	N/A	Last day of term

<u>Term 5</u>		
Monday 17 th April 2023	N/A	First day of term 5

Monday 1 st May 2023	N/A	Bank holiday (pupils and staff not in school)
Friday 26 th May 2023	N/A	Last day of term

Term 6

Monday 5 th June 2023	N/A	First day of term 6 for pupils
June 2023	TBC	Sports day
June 2023	TBC	Sports day
June 2023	TBC	Sports day – FAW Snodland
Friday 7 th July 2023	All day	Transition day
Monday 10 th July 2023	3.45-6.45pm	'Meet the new teacher' parents evening
July 2023	TBC	Secondary summer performance
July 2023	TBC	Secondary prize giving
Friday 21 st July 2023	N/A	Last day of term