

14 February 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Although this has been a relatively short term, it has been a lively and eventful six weeks. I have enjoyed hearing about achievements and updates from around the school, from rebound therapy successes and pupils learning to ride bikes, to classes participating in signing choir, drumming workshops, visiting and working on the FAWrient Express, and dancing at our school disco. There is never a dull moment, and we would not want it any other way. We have also launched a brand-new initiative—one that I am sure you will be eager to learn more about as you read on!

Arbor

Arbor is our school management information service which allows us to communicate effectively with Parents and Carers. To find out how to access the portal or app, please see below.

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 you received the Arbor invitation email on.

To access the Arbor app via mobile phone:

The Arbor app can be downloaded from the Playstore (for android phones) or Apple Store (for iPhones).

If you have any issues accessing the app or portal, please email office@five-acre.kent.sch.uk.

SCERTS training

Our staff training days will be held on Monday 10th and Tuesday 11th March 2025. Pupils will not be in school on these days. A number of our staff will be taking part in SCERTS training, led by international expert Emily Rubin. Emily specialises in Autism, Asperger's Syndrome and related social learning disabilities.

SCERTS is an educational model for individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) or individuals

not on the autism spectrum who are developing social communication and emotional regulation skills. SCERTS provides specific guidelines for helping an individual become a competent and confident social communicator and active learner. It can be adapted to meet the demands of different social settings for youngsters, including home and school.

Emily will also be holding a Parent/Carer session on Tuesday 11th March 2025 in the school hall from 6pm-8pm. There will be an opportunity to ask questions. The session is open to Parents/Carers from other schools, at a cost of £20 per person but will be FREE to Five Acre Wood Parents and Carers. This is a great opportunity, and we hope to see you there. An information poster is attached. If you wish to book a place, please email fturner2@five-acre.kent.sch.uk or call the school office on 01622 743925.

Radio FAW All

I am thrilled to announce that next term, we will be launching our very own online radio station, Radio FAW All! This amazing project will be used as a vehicle for inclusion and learning, creating opportunities to learn industry skills, participate in a hobby, and be creative. Paul and Clive, our Station Managers, have already done an amazing job of sourcing the equipment and setting up the studio in Maidstone, and have had the opportunity to meet some of our pupils already. You can listen to our live stream page here: radiofawall.co.uk/listen-live.

Outdoor Learning Environment

The Willows Project is making steady progress. The concrete base for three buildings went in this term which our BTEC group helped to lay. They worked hard helping Gallagher Group to pump in the concrete, and then tempered and levelled the bases. Pupils on work experience have also helped improve the EYFS outdoor space, adding a new den area, balance beams and play steps.

Our OLE team supported Buttercups Goat Sanctuary with their rehoming campaign by adopting Pascale, a baby goat in need of a home. He has settled in well and his loud bleating has won everyone over. Although our pigs and goats had some recent health issues, I am pleased to report that they have turned a corner and are on the road to recovery.

Therapy

At the beginning of the school year, we received a brand-new trampoline, which has been put to great use during our Rebound Therapy sessions. We are incredibly proud to share that 12 members of staff have successfully completed their Rebound Practitioner Training, enabling them to deliver specialist support. As a result, two of our pupils have already achieved their Grade 1 certificates.

Our hydrotherapy sessions continue to be a highlight for pupils across all our sites. These sessions not only provide therapeutic benefits but also support the development of social and communication skills too.

Additionally, our dedicated Occupational Therapy Team has been working hard to embed the Interoception Curriculum into our universal provision at Five Acre Wood School. This curriculum helps pupils develop their interoceptive awareness— the ability to perceive and understand our internal bodily signals.

Jag, our School Councillor, along with pupils from Oxford Road, have created leaflets aimed at supporting pupils dealing with anxiety, sadness, and anger. These leaflets provide a range of valuable information including common symptoms, self-help strategies, as well as links to mental health organisations that can offer additional resources, information, and support.

Five Acre Wood vs Abbey Court

On Tuesday 21st January, Adepitan Class had the pleasure of hosting a return multisport activity fixture against Abbey Court (a long-awaited rematch after last year’s popular event at Abbey Court’s site). The pupils displayed fantastic teamwork, sportsmanship and moments of shared support; cheering each other on and helping one another throughout the activities which included relay races, passing drills and a “pasta dash”. The event was a brilliant example of teamwork, inclusion and the power of sport to bring pupils together.



Secondary Structured Afternoon Tea

On Wednesday, 12th February, our Secondary Structured pupils hosted a delightful afternoon tea, inviting parents and carers to join them. Pupils showcased the food hygiene and cooking skills they have been developing this term, preparing and serving a variety of treats. Some pupils took on the challenge of making toasties and drinks on the spot, while others carefully pre-prepared their afternoon tea in class. A huge well done to pupils in Gershwin, Holst, Liszt, Ravel and Verdi Classes!



Dates for your diary

World Book Day – Thursday 6th March

Class doors will be decorated in our favourite storybook characters and we are planning an exciting day for pupils.

Comic Relief/Socks for World Down Syndrome Day – Friday 21st March

Pupils can wear red, something that makes them happy, or odd socks for a £1 donation that goes to Comic Relief.

Healthcare Plans

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 and you should therefore notify us of any changes as they arise.

I would like to wish everyone an enjoyable half term and I look forward to welcoming pupils back to school on Monday 24th February 2025.

Kind regards,



Peggy Murphy
Principal

Updates from Hannah, our fundraiser:

Fundraising News - January-February 2025

While this term may seem quieter on the fundraising front compared to the last, rest assured that there is plenty happening behind the scenes! We are busy planning some fantastic events and you can get a sneak peek at what is coming up below. Keep an eye on our Facebook page and Arbor over the next few weeks for more details and updates!

Upcoming Events

Term 4 is set to be an exciting one, with our Spring Fair and Spring Family Fun-Day coming up. More information will be available in the new term, so stay tuned!

Thank you for your support!

We are incredibly grateful to everyone who participated in our fundraising initiatives last term. Many of you ordered Christmas gifts through IQ Cards, which allowed pupils to get creative while raising funds for the school. Thanks to your support, we raised a fantastic £335.00! We hope your family and friends loved receiving these meaningful gifts over the festive season.

A huge thank you also goes to everyone who signed up for Asda Cash Pot for Schools and chose us as their nominated charity. Your generosity helped us raise an incredible £463.82!

If you would like to donate or embark on your own fundraising initiative for the school, please do not hesitate to get in touch via the office or email us at fundraising@five-acre.kent.sch.uk. We also welcome volunteers to help at events or share fundraising ideas—we would love to hear from you!

School Disco

A special thank you to Boogie Nites Disco for their fantastic support at our recent school disco. Events like these would not be possible without them! It was wonderful to see so many of our pupils and their families enjoying themselves. We cannot wait for our summer disco in July.

Charity Raffle

Our charity raffle was a huge success last term, raising an amazing £1,495! This achievement would not have been possible without the support of our families, friends and local community. A special thank you to everyone who purchased raffle tickets and to JEM (Construction and Maintenance Ltd) for supporting the prizes.

We are also thrilled to announce our latest raffle: 'Scrum for School'! We were fortunate enough to receive a rugby shirt signed by Marcus Smith and with the Six Nations in full swing, we felt this was the perfect time to launch this exciting fundraiser. Additional prizes include:

- Two tickets to Harlequins' Big Summer Kick-Off
- Two tickets to any Gillingham FC game
- And lots more!

Tickets are just £2.00 each and you can purchase them here: <https://shorturl.at/ULp9f>

The raffle will be drawn on Friday, 14th March and winners will be contacted directly. A huge thank you to Allie, a dedicated member of staff at FAW, for organising this fantastic raffle! All proceeds will go towards renovating our Sensory Garden.

Hadrian's FAWall Challenge

Between 13th and 17th April 2025, a team of staff and volunteers will take on an incredible challenge: trekking 84 miles across Hadrian's Wall from East to West in just four days! Their goal? To raise funds for our much-loved annual festival, Woodstock.

If you would like to support our team, you can sponsor them here:

<https://www.peoplesfundraising.com/fundraising/TeamHadrianFAWall>

To relive the magic of previous Woodstock festivals, please visit the below links:

Woodstock 2022:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hMzufG_fWf0

Woodstock 2023:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=33G_c38a6Zc

Woodstock 2024:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6r__l7A62q8

We are absolutely blown away by the support we have received so far. Thank you for your generosity and enthusiasm—we cannot wait to share this journey with you!

Term Dates with Diary Dates 2025

<u>Term 4</u>		
Monday 24 th February 2025	N/A	First day of term 4
Tuesday 4 th March 2025	TBC	Parent consultations (Snodland, Palace Wood, Oxford Road sites)
Thursday 6 th March 2025	All day	World Book Day
Monday 10 th March 2025	N/A	Staff training day (pupils not in school)
Tuesday 11 th March 2025	N/A	Staff training day (pupils not in school)
Friday 21 st March 2025	All day	Comic Relief Day
Friday 21 st March 2025	All day	Socks for World Down Syndrome Day
Monday 24 th March 2025	All day	Mother's Day shop (Loose)
Tuesday 25 th March 2025	All day	Mother's Day shop (Loose)
Saturday 29 th March 2025	TBC	Spring family fun day
Wednesday 2 nd April 2025	10.00-11.00am	Spring Fair – Session 1
	1.30-2.30pm	Spring Fair – Session 2
Friday 4 th April 2025	N/A	Last day of term

<u>Term 5</u>		
Tuesday 22 nd April 2025	N/A	First day of term 5
Monday 5 th May 2025	N/A	Bank holiday (pupils and staff not in school)
Friday 16 th May 2025	TBC	FAW charity football match
Friday 23 rd May 2025	N/A	Last day of term

<u>Term 6</u>		
Monday 2 nd June 2025	N/A	First day of term 6
June 2025	TBC	Sports day
June 2025	TBC	Sports day – FAW Snodland
Friday 4 th July 2025	All day	Transition day
Friday 4 th July 2025	EYFS & KS1 – 5.30-6.30PM KS2 & KS3 – 6.45-7.45PM	Summer disco (at Loose site)
Monday 7 th July 2025	3.45-6.45pm	'Meet the new teacher' parents evening
TBC	TBC	Secondary summer performance
TBC	TBC	Secondary prize giving
Tuesday 22 nd July 2025	N/A	Last day of term



SCERTS for Five Acre Wood Families & Carers

A framework to foster active engagement in autistic children and young people

Tuesday 11th March 2024—6pm-8pm

This workshop will provide an overview of the SCERTS[®] (Social Communication, Emotional Regulation, Transactional Support), a comprehensive, multidisciplinary educational approach designed for autistic children and young people. The ethos of SCERTS emphasizes the presence of positive, supportive and trustworthy relationships as the foundation of an effective educational programming. When we, as interactive partners, modify our interactive style and the environment, we can help our neurodivergent learners feel safe, connected, and actively engaged. The workshop will begin with a review of neurodevelopment and the critical role of the interactive partner in providing transactional support for children at different developmental stages. The core developmental domains of SCERTS will be introduced along with the empirical evidence of the model.

Emily Rubin, MS, CCC-SLP is the Director of Communication Crossroads in Atlanta, GA, a private practice specialized in providing professional learning focused on helping families, caregivers, and educators create positive learning environments focused on relationships and an appreciation of the neurodiversity of children. She is a co-author of the SCERTS Model and a speech-language pathologist who is passionate about the relationship between social emotional engagement and the development of language, learning, and well-being. She lectures internationally and provides ongoing technical assistance to school systems and other agencies that care for children and their families.

THIS EVENT IS FREE TO ALL FIVE ACRE WOOD PARENTS/CARERS

There will be an opportunity for you to ask questions.

If you would like to attend, please confirm your attendance by emailing fturner2@five-acre.kent.sch.uk or by calling the school office on 01622 743925.

