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Slade Primary School Newsletter 2020/21 Term 2 Issue 5 / Friday 4 December 2020



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Keep in contact:
office@slade.kent.sch.uk
01732 350354



From the Headteacher

Karen Slade

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's already beginning to look a lot like Christmas! Thank you to the Christmas elves who have once again been at work hanging the Christmas decorations and safely scattering some Christmas sparkle in each of the classes throughout the school!

Today saw the official opening of our Wobble Room which was live streamed into classes and watched on Zoom by specially invited guests too. Many of you will remember the green, unloved building, originally known as the Music Mobile, that we started to convert into a safe space at the start of the last academic year with the help of our Artist in Residence Rob Turner. Despite this work being paused at the start of the first lockdown we were delighted that Rob was able to come into school and continue working with our key worker children throughout the summer and then with the other pupils as they returned to school too. The teamwork of all involved has created a safe space where children and adults alike can take time out when having a bit of a wobble and needing somewhere quiet and calming to retreat to. We are absolutely delighted with the building transformation and finished result. I would like to personally thank all involved in making this happen. Do take a look at our Twitter Feed for further information and photographs including a link to the ribbon cutting ceremony!

Yesterday, as you may have seen reported in the media, the Secretary of State for Education announced measures to support pupils taking exams and assessments in 2021 in light of the ongoing disruption caused by coronavirus (COVID-19). The announcement states that, "We have altered our approach to the 2021 national curriculum assessments, and will focus on the most important summer assessments for schools, pupils and parents." Therefore, in 2021, the following primary school tests have been removed:

- all key stage 1 (KS1) tests
- the key stage 2 (KS2) English grammar, punctuation and spelling test
- the requirement to make and report teacher assessment judgements for science at KS1 and KS2
- a delay to the statutory introduction of the multiplication tables check (Year 4)

We will of course keep you updated with all further statutory assessment news and the impact that this will have for your child in school as and when we receive the information.

Yesterday also saw Ofsted set out their plans for the return to inspection in schools. They announced that Ofsted's return to inspection in 2021 will happen in phases, with no graded inspections for education planned before the summer term. From January 2021, Ofsted will start to reintroduce some inspection activity and will resume monitoring visits of schools focusing on those most in need of support, in particular requires improvement and inadequate schools. Our latest Ofsted inspection was carried out in September 2011 where we were judged to be an outstanding school; a copy of the full report can be found at <https://www.slade.kent.sch.uk/page/?title=OFSTED&pid=30> . Again, we will keep you updated on all Ofsted news and the implications for us as a school as and when we receive it.

Finally, welcome back Phoenix Class; it was great to have you back in school this week! We look forward to welcoming Sphinx Class back on Monday too!

Take care, stay safe and be kind.

Karen Slade



This Week at Slade

The Wobble Room: Official Opening

This morning we were very pleased and proud to host the grand opening of our new Wobble Room. Being 2020 the occasion took place virtually, through Zoom.

Earlier this year, we teamed up with the Animate Arts Company through their Artist in Residence scheme to convert a once unloved mobile into this brand new facility!



Rob Turner, (below right) who through the scheme became our Artist in Residence, worked with the pupils and staff across the school to transform both the inside and outside of the building through a number of different art projects.

The purpose of this space is to provide our pupils with somewhere to go when they are either feeling low or upset to help them to get back into the 'green zone' and in a good place to learn again.

The children's wellbeing at Slade is extremely important to us and as educators we understand that each child needs to be in a good place mentally in order for them to thrive.

It was a proud moment for Rob as he carried out the official ceremony to open the place he has helped make in to the much needed space for the children at the school.

We were honoured and delighted to be joined, from the distance of their offices: Nick Abrahams, West Kent Area Education Officer at Kent County Council, Tel German who is Head of Primary School Improvement at The Education People for KCC, our own Chair of Governors Simon Griffiths as well as the Member of Parliament for Tonbridge and Malling, Tom Tugendhat.

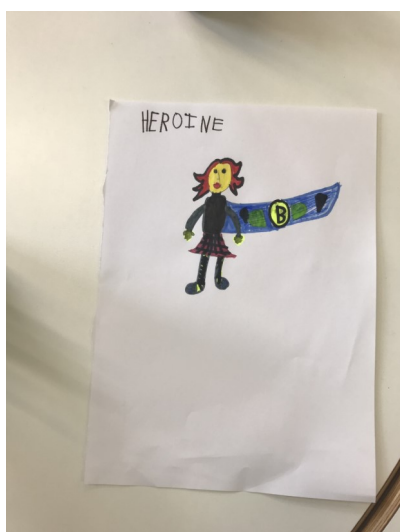


Rob's Not Finished Yet!

No sooner than completing the Wobble Room project, Rob has moved quickly on to the décor design of our new Reading Room.

He had two very productive workshop days with Year 5, Wyvern Class and Year 2, Sprite Class. The children thought about how they would like the reading room to look and feel, and what in literature inspires them, and also their favourite books and authors.

Wyvern class created pieces to be placed in the model to reflect their thoughts and Sprite Class used their imagination to create different characters. Lots of ideas were shared and we look forward to how they are developed over the next few weeks.



These, and other images were first shared with our Twitter followers on Monday, do follow for updates on what is happening in school as it happens.

We will follow the progress of the Reading Room project through to its own opening. Keep an eye on the Reading Corner page of the newsletter in the coming terms.



Around School

Christmas at a Glance

Thankyou for the lovely feedback about our Christmas Events Newsletter, which came out on Monday.

Please take part with the events run by the PTA by joining in with their raffle, the Christmas jumper sale and the Trek to Lapland challenge. Anything you raise, buy or donate goes immediately back in to the PTA's efforts to support every child at Slade.

Find the Christmas Events Newsletter here: <https://www.slade.kent.sch.uk/news/?pid=3&nid=1&storyid=11>

The events by date are also on the back page of this newsletter, but there are a couple of 'different clothes' days which you should be extra aware of:

- Friday 11 December - Christmas Jumper Day with own clothes
- Thursday 17 December - Party Clothes for class parties.

Please don't bring clothes to change in to during the day - you won't be able to.

Starting Primary School in September 2021

There is just over a month until the closing date for applications by parents and carers to choose their preferred primary schools for children born between 1 September 2016 and 31 August 2017.

Applications must be made by the closing date of Friday 15 January 2021.

This includes children who have a family connection (sibling) already at their chosen school. Over 50% of parents and carers who failed to make an application across Kent last year thought they didn't need to apply because they have a sibling at a primary school already. Kent County Council are keen to prevent the same happening this year.

A family connection (sibling) is limited to a child who is living in the same property as brother or sister to an older child already in school, currently in Year R through to Year 5.



It helps to know if you are making a sibling application for a child to start in EYFS in September. Please drop us a quick email to admissions@slade.kent.sch.uk if you have already, or are in the process of making such an application. We have to check and authorise all sibling applications before National Offer Day, so it assists us to know where these applications are being made.

Some dates to look forward to in the process:

Closing date for all applications - Friday 15 January 2021 via the KCC website, link below

<https://kent.cloud.servelec-synergy.com/Synergy/Parents/default.aspx>

National Offer Day - Friday 16 April 2021 You will receive an email from KCC, followed up by one from us within 24 hours if you are allocated Slade (other schools welcome information may vary)

Deadline for places to be accepted or declined - Wednesday 5 May 2021

Please see our website for details on applying for Slade and for this year's online open events. **[Click here for the admissions section on the website.](#)** If you have any questions about anything to do with the application process please don't hesitate to contact us via admissions@slade.kent.sch.uk.

Reading Corner



Mrs Mawson's Books of the Week



Tom's Midnight Garden *by Philippa Pearce*

When Tom is sent to stay at his aunt and uncle's house for the summer, he resigns himself to endless weeks of boredom. As he lies awake in his bed, he hears the grandfather clock downstairs strike . . . eleven . . . twelve . . . thirteen . . . Thirteen! Tom races down the stairs and out the back door, into a garden everyone told him wasn't there. In this enchanted thirteenth hour, the garden comes alive - but Tom is never sure whether the children he meets there are real or ghosts . . .

This entrancing and magical story is one of the best-loved children's books ever written.

Find out more via Book Trust > <https://www.booktrust.org.uk>

The Chronicles of Narnia:

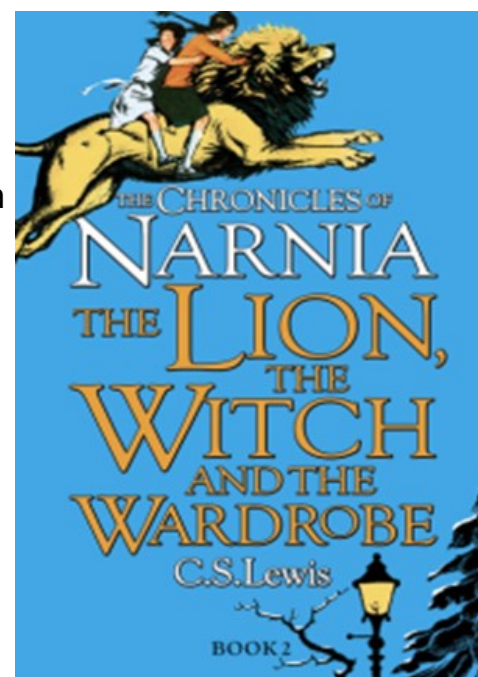
The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe

by C.S. Lewis

Narnia...the land beyond the wardrobe door, a secret place frozen in eternal winter, a magical country waiting to be set free.

Lucy is the first to find the secret of the wardrobe in the professor's mysterious old house. At first her brothers and sister don't believe her when she tells of her visit to the land of Narnia. But soon Edmund, then Peter and Susan step through the wardrobe themselves. In Narnia they find a country buried under the evil enchantment of the White Witch.

When they meet the Lion Aslan, they realize they've been called to a great adventure and bravely join the battle to free Narnia from the Witch's sinister spell.



Find out more about C.S. Lewis and read more reviews via Book Trust > <https://www.booktrust.org.uk>



Forest School

Next Week's Woodland Timetable:

Monday 7 December: Dragon (Miss Meers), Gruffalo (Mrs Hitchcock)

Tuesday 8 December: Gnome (Miss Taylor), Pixie (Mrs McFerran & Miss Elliott)

Wednesday 9 December: Sphinx (Miss Lipman), Sprite (Miss Redden)

Useful Utensils:

If you have any old kitchen utensils at home that you would be happy to donate to Forest School, we would be delighted to receive them; we are looking for non-glass items such as: baking trays, spatulas, large spoons, muffin tins, pans and cake tins. Empty washing up liquid bottles would also be very useful. We will collect any donations in class and will carry out stringent cleaning and quarantine before every use.

Thankyou in advance for any donations.

The word 'attendance' is spelled out using colorful, blocky letters on a corkboard background.

Slade Stats.

Over a school year, we are due to be open for 190 days which equates to 380 sessions (morning and afternoon.)

Attendance is affected if a pupil is not present at school for any whole session including registration.

The class with the best attendance each week will win Attendance Ted.

Attendance Target.

97%

Attendance This Week.

96.8
%

Attendance This Year.

97.0
%

Registers are taken 10 minutes after the school gates close for your child's yeargroup.

It is important that the children are at school on time every day to prevent disruption and upset to their day and for the rest of their class and to prevent unnecessary crossing in to bubble groups by adults escorting late children.

Punctuality Pup is awarded to the class with the best punctuality each week.

Pupils late this week.

7

Find out the winners of Attendance Ted and Punctuality Pup every Friday afternoon on [Twitter](#)



Dear Parents & Carers

Every parent and carer is entitled to access our Slade App and desktop dashboard from Arbor. By signing up you will be able to access personal information relating to your child as well as a one station stop for finding all of our communications to you personally, your child's class or yeargroup as well as all school letters, payment for special lessons and school trips and booking for parents evenings and all ticket events at school.

All we ask is one thing: please take the time to read emails sent to you, we try to make sure that everything you are sent relates to your child, so nothing is irrelevant. If you would like further information on any email we send, please contact the class teacher or the school office for assistance.

We also encourage you to follow us on Twitter, we post reminders, useful information, live updates from school and other community events of interest.

Don't miss out, or let your child miss out, please keep up to date with everything Slade via Arbor and Twitter.

Date of Communication	Subject	Sent To
Sunday 29 November	Nourish Christmas Meal, last orders	All School 
Monday 30 November	Christmas at Slade Newsletter	 
Monday 30 November	Reading Room Project	
Tuesday 1 December	Free School Meals in Christmas Holiday Period	Selected Children 
Tuesday 1 December	Change to Nourish Menu	All School 
Thursday 3 December	Headlice Cases in School	All School 
Thursday 3 December	Change to Nourish Menu, Wednesday 9 December	All School 
Friday 4 December	Christmas Video Filming	Hippogriff Class 
Friday 4 December	Wobble Room Opening	 + More Video

More > Follow us on Twitter <https://twitter.com/SladePrimarySch>

COVID-19


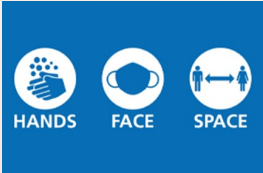
If your child shows symptoms of COVID-19 you should:

- Stay at home, do not attend school or any other place out of the household. This applies to everyone in the household. Telephone 111 if you require advice
- Get a COVID-19 test for the symptomatic person, via the [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) website
- If the test comes back with a positive result, inform school immediately so we can invoke suitable measures. This can be via email if out of office hours and at the weekend: office@slade.kent.sch.uk

Any group who is sent a 14 day self isolation notification will be provided with home learning via the Microsoft Teams page, accessible though the school website and Teams App.

Please contact the class teacher via the class email address if you have any questions about this home learning.

Tonbridge and the rest of Kent is now in Tier 3 of COVID restrictions,
please help keep yourself and others safe by knowing and respecting the law.





Kent County Council

COVID-19 Support

Still Time to Apply for Free School Meals

Kent County Council and Slade Primary School are pleased to be able to provide this support through the Christmas Holiday, and there is still time to check if your family qualifies for help from the Winter Grant.

The changing circumstances facing families at this time mean you could now qualify, especially if you are in receipt of the following:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999#
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)
- Children who get paid these benefits directly, instead of through a parent or guardian, can also get free school meals.

Your child may also get free school meals if you get any of these benefits and your child is both:

- younger than the compulsory age for starting school
- in full-time education

Don't Worry if that is Confusing:

All parents (including those of children in EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2) can see if you receive any qualifying benefits, via this link <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>.

You can then apply online on the basis of income via this link <https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools/free-school-meals#tab-2>.

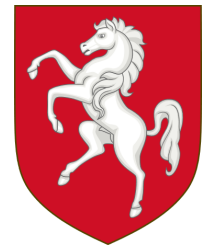
Both you and the school will be notified of the online outcome immediately to prevent you missing out on this valuable support.



Kent Together

The 24 hour Helpline launched by KCC to support vulnerable people in Kent continues to assist across the county every day. If you, or anyone you know of needs urgent help, supplies or medication. It's a single point of contact for anyone in Kent needing urgent help during the Coronavirus outbreak and in Tier 3 restrictions.

More > <https://bit.ly/2QYO2b5>



Kent Support and Assistance Service

If the impact of your children being sent home for a compulsory 14 day self isolation period as a result of their bubble being closed at school and you having to look after them at home has placed you in financial hardship, you may still be eligible for other support schemes, including the [Kent Support & Assistance Service](#).

Test and Trace Support Payment Scheme

We are aware that there has been a lot of confusion over this government support scheme, Kent County Council have been in touch to clarify who this support is aimed for and how to apply:

The Test & Trace Support Payment is only payable if you have been directly asked to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace. Unfortunately, where your children have been sent home from school due to a positive coronavirus case in their bubble or a partial or full school closure, you are not able to claim this funding.

If you have been directly asked to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace on or after 28 September 2020 and you are on a low income, unable to work from home, income reduced as a result, and in receipt of a qualifying benefit (Universal Credit, Working Tax Credit, income-based Employment and Support Allowance, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, Income Support, Housing Benefit, Pension Credit), you may be entitled to a payment of £500 under the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme.

This scheme is administered by your District Council, contact details below. The scheme runs until 31 January 2021.

If the NHS COVID-19 app notifies you to self-isolate because you've been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for coronavirus but you have not been contacted by NHS Test and Trace, you are not currently eligible. However, if you then test positive for coronavirus, even if you booked and receive your test result through the app, you will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace and from that point you can apply for the scheme if you are eligible as set out above.

If you are not in receipt of a qualifying benefit but you are on a low income and are facing financial hardship as a result of not being able to work while you're self-isolating, you may be eligible for a discretionary payment, also administered by your District Council.

If you are eligible for either the Test and Trace Support Payment or the discretionary payment, this will be on top of and will not affect any benefits and Statutory Sick Pay that you currently receive.

For more information and to apply, please see your Local Authority webpages:

[Maidstone Borough Council](#)

[Sevenoaks Borough Council](#)

[Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council](#)

[Tunbridge Wells Borough Council](#)

For more information on the wider national scheme, please visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/test-and-trace-support-payment-scheme-claiming-financial-support/claiming-financial-support-under-the-test-and-trace-support-payment-scheme>



For your Diary

Next Week :

Day	Event
Monday 7 December	Return to school for pupils on 14 day self isolation from Wednesday 25 November* *without developing symptoms of COVID-19
Tuesday 8 December	
Wednesday 9 December	
Thursday 10 December	
Friday 11 December	Christmas Day at Slade See Christmas Events Newsletter for further information Christmas Jumper Day Nourish Christmas Meal** PTA Raffle Draw **Order should have been received before or on Sunday 29 November

Extra Curricular Clubs Next Week :

MONDAY	All Clubs, Extra Curricular Activities and Narnians Wraparound suspended in Term 2
TUESDAY	All Clubs, Extra Curricular Activities and Narnians Wraparound suspended in Term 2
WEDNESDAY	All Clubs, Extra Curricular Activities and Narnians Wraparound suspended in Term 2
THURSDAY	All Clubs, Extra Curricular Activities and Narnians Wraparound suspended in Term 2
FRIDAY	All Clubs, Extra Curricular Activities and Narnians Wraparound suspended in Term 2

Further Ahead :

Thursday 17 December	Christmas Class Bubble Parties Party Clothes Should be Worn to School
Friday 18 December	Last Day of Term 2
Monday 21 December - Friday 1 January	Christmas Break School Closed.
Thursday 31 December	Closing Date for PTA Trek to Lapland monies to be paid online See Christmas Events Newsletter for full details
Monday 4 January	First Day of Term 3
Friday 15 January	Closing Date for Applications for starting Primary School in September 2021 <u>Child born 01.09.2016 - 31.08.2017? Apply here.</u>
Tuesday 9 February	E-Safety Day
Friday 12 February	Last Day of Term 3
Monday 15 February - Friday 19 February	February Break
Monday 22 February	First Day of Term 4

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