



Slade

Primary School

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Slade Primary School Newsletter 2021/22 Term 1 Issue 4
Friday 1 October 2021

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From the
Headteacher

Mrs Slade

Dear Parents and Carers,

Today saw the official opening of our most newly refurbished space in school; our 'Reading Den'! This is a special space in school, purely designated to reading which has been carefully created by children and adults under the watchful eye of our Artist in Residence, Rob Turner. What was once a somewhat neglected storage space has now been transformed into a calm, inspirational environment for children to come; to read, listen to stories and be inspired to write stories of their own.

Earlier today, each class received their magic door key which unlocks the den and leads into our literary world. Thank you to all involved in bringing this project to life, with special mention to Miss Redden and her Reading Team.



This week sees a new feature in our weekly newsletter in which we introduce some of our newer members of staff whilst also outlining their roles and responsibilities to you too. This week we start by introducing Maxine Button, Family Liaison Officer, who works alongside Christina Ekperigin, and is part of our Inclusion Team. Read on to find out more about Maxine, what her role entails and how you can contact her should you need her support. Look out in coming weeks for introductions to other members of the wider staff team too!

The children in both our morning and afternoon wraparound care clubs have been busy these last few days choosing a name for the new provision which is in keeping with the class names of mythical creatures. During the week, the children have been researching the characteristics of a wide range of creatures before selecting their favourite few from which the club members could choose to vote for. Yesterday, the children informed me that the winning vote was 'Yetis'; a creature from Himalayan folklore with the word being derived from the Tibetan for 'bear!' Thank you and well done children to all of you for using your democratic rights to choose our new club name for us! Details of how you can book a childcare place at Yetis for your child can be found on the school website.

Thank you to those parents who last year volunteered to help review the school's Equality Policy and regularly gave of your time to meet on Zoom across the terms as part of a working group. The finished policy is now available for all to read on the school website; thank you to all involved. Following on from this, as a school we are currently in the process of reviewing our Behaviour Policy with all stakeholders, post lockdown. If this is something that you may be interested in being involved with then please contact Amanda Parsons in the school office to register your interest; thank you in anticipation of your involvement.

A reminder please that when dropping off or collecting pupils, parking is not permitted opposite the school car park entrance, outside the former Power Station. We would also ask that parents do not use the junction at Stafford Road and Hawden Road as a turning circle for cars at these times. Thank you for your co-operation with these matters as we aim to keep all of our community safe.

Have a lovely weekend.

Take care and stay safe.

Karen Slade.

Around School



School Photographs

We were joined by Matthew Walker and Sam Yardley from Matthew's company Portrait Days, who were in school on Wednesday to take individual and sibling group photographs.

Each child will have brought home with them, an instruction card which details the steps to take to view and order the photographs. The deadline for ordering to receive free to school delivery is Friday 15 October.

If your child was not in school on Wednesday, Matthew will be returning later in Term 2 to take any missing pictures.

More > www.portraitdays.net

If you have any questions about the photographs or the ordering process, please contact Matthew directly, by emailing info@portraitdays.net



Term 2 Wraparound

The SCOPAY booking system will open at 19:00 tonight for bookings into Breakfast and After School Club for Term 2 (Monday 1 November - Friday 17 December).

Please book places in the normal way with a reminder that your account must be topped up with funds prior to booking unless paying with childcare vouchers and that cancellations can only be made with 48 hours notice for Breakfast and 24 hours for the After School provision. You should contact the Wraparound email box if you require After School Club following a scheduled After School Activity via wraparound@slade.kent.sch.uk.

Healthy Snacks and Lunchboxes

Please remember that all snacks and food within lunchboxes should be of a healthy nature, with no chocolate or nuts included. Snacks can include cheese, fruit or vegetables.

The children's drink should only contain water. Fruit juice and Fruit Shoots and other drinks bottles with attached straws should not be part of their snack or lunch.



House Captains 2021/22

Congratulations to everyone in Year 6 who took part in the recent campaign and election for the position of House Captains for this year. Special congratulations for those who were duly elected by the children across the school:

Air: Lucas and Benjamin

Earth: Tabitha and Luca

Fire: Mia and Charlie

Water: Isobel and Jake

The new House Captains have met with Mrs Slade already to discuss their responsibilities, which have already begun with big thanks to Lucas, Isobel and Tabitha for volunteering to sort and deliver the photograph proof cards for every class with just 10 minutes to go before the end of the school day. First job successfully completed! We look forward to meeting the captains over the next few weeks in the newsletter.

Around School



Special Mealday: Thursday 7 October

It is always a pleasure to join with Nourish Contract Catering to wish their much loved mascot Mr Nourish a very happy birthday as we do at the beginning of every October.

We are all looking forward to celebrating this happy day and we are inviting all children at Slade to his party on Thursday 7 October.

Clare and her new look team will be cooking up a special menu on the day designed to offer something for everyone.

Remember if your child is in an EYFS (Year R) or KS1 class, you do not need to pay as the meal is free to all children in these yeargroups. All you need to do is leave the packed lunch at home and the meal will be served!

Prices for children in KS2 (Years 3-6) are charged £2.20 for the meal, which should be booked via your Nourish ParentPay account.

Competition Time

No birthday would be complete with out Clare's Card Competition. Thankyou to all of the entries we have received so far, including this one from Millie:

Design your own birthday card for Mr Nourish at home and send a photograph of it to office@slade.kent.sch.uk and it could win a super prize courtesy of our fantastic kitchen team.

Entries will be judged on Mr Nourish's birthday (Thursday 7 October) and prizes awarded in celebration assembly the following day.



Food Supply Shortages: Statement from Nourish

You will be acutely aware of supply problems affecting all sectors at this time. Nourish Contract Catering and their providers have also found themselves with some empty shelves. They wrote to us this week to explain that there may be short notice alterations to their menus. Food Development Executive Julie Watson says:

'A shortage of HGV drivers and Brexit as well as other various factors are having a major effect on the food industry. As a food provider for the education sector, our suppliers are prioritising us and we have worked hard, in conjunction with them, to ensure that our service is not affected.'

However, the various issues will not be resolved in the near future and new challenges are occurring all of the time.

Nourish endeavour to continue providing all dishes on their menus and options from our normal service. However, there may be occasions where we will need to adjust the menu depending on the supplies available and we will inform the schools as early as possible.

Please be assured we will always continue to feed the children but may need your (schools) co-operation should dishes advertised not be available.'

Nourish
contract catering

We will keep all parents informed in advance of any changes to the menu. There was one alteration this week which happened at very short notice due to the problems highlighted in the statement from Nourish. This was on Monday where the Shepherdess Pie had to be replaced with tomato pasta.

Slade Stats



Over a school year, we are due to be open for 190 days which equates to 380 sessions with registration in the morning at 08:50 and after lunch in the afternoon.

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

Attendance Target

97.0%

Attendance This Week

95.5%

Attendance This Year

94.9%

Registers are taken 10 minutes after the school gates close at 08:50.

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.

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

Pupils Late This Week

11

For more information on attendance and punctuality, please refer to the policies section on our website and to that of Kent County Council by following these links:

[More > via www.slade.kent.sch.uk](http://www.slade.kent.sch.uk)

[More > via www.kent.gov.uk](http://www.kent.gov.uk)

Meet the Team



Maxine Button: Family Liaison Officer

In the first of a new series, we would like to take this chance to introduce you to members of our team at Slade that have joined recently or have roles at school that you may not have realised. Our first guest is Maxine Button, our Family Liaison Officer who joined us in March 2021. Maxine works in school on a Wednesday and Thursday and can be contacted via the school office email address at anytime.

Where did you go to school, and did you enjoy it?

I went to Pembury Primary School which I loved!! It was nice to go to my village school where my Nan and my dad had also attended many years before when the school was very tiny.

My 3 children all went to Pembury Primary and through all these years I still have friends that I went to school with and we have watched our own children attend. I even became vice chairman of the PTA so it felt that I never left. Fingers crossed I will see grandchildren at some point also going to Pembury. From primary to secondary I moved on to West Kent College where I have re-visited over the years completing courses in social care and then a degree in Early Years.



What jobs have you done before joining Slade?

My work has always been within the care or education field. My first job was working for the NHS supporting adults with learning difficulties who were moving into their own homes in the community.

I think we all remember our first job with fond memories as this was the first time I had worked with a lovely group of people and I was paid for it! Once I had my first child life changed and I became interested in everything about being a mum and bringing up my children. This became my passion and I began working in a pre-school and then moved onto working within Primary Schools soaking up as much experience as I could. I eventually was successful in becoming a Family Liaison Officer which gave me the opportunity to work with children but also their families which was a real privilege. Since this first post I have continued to work in a number of schools and also the Early Help team where I have met amazing families who have been willing to share their good and bad times with me.

What attracted you to join Slade?



Any school that has a wobble room is worth a closer look! Slade School has so many exciting things happening each day with so many opportunities for children, family and staff. Slade provide variety so there is always something to do, look forward to and above all fun!

Can you describe the role of Family Liaison Officer and why it is important to have this resource at Slade?

Family support for children's learning is very important to ensure we achieve the best outcomes for the children. Helping parents and carers to support their children so that they can get the very best from their education is part of the FLO's role. This could be anything from lending a friendly ear to help with housing or advice on parenting. FLO's need to know our families and to work closely with them and with other agencies to support children's pastoral and academic needs.

Meet the Team

Maxine Button

Can you describe an average day for a FLO.

Every day is different which I especially enjoy but what I need every day is:

A sense of humour

Good problem solving ability

Empathy

A positive outlook on life

Excellent communication skills

Calmness

Efficiency

Diplomacy

Patience

A good laugh...everyday!



What outcomes do you wish for most in your role?

If I am able to make a small difference to a family that in turn helps their children to do well in school then that ticks all the boxes for me. Asking for help is not always easy so any family that allows me to be part of their lives for a short time is a huge reward for me.

What is the favourite part of your job?

The variety that the role brings. No day is the same and you can never plan for anything because you will be surprised! Working with so many different families from different cultures, backgrounds and faiths means that I continue to learn something new every day. The best part of my job is when I can see that support I have given has made an impact and the family and children begin to thrive.

What do you like to do away from the job?

Three children keep me busy although they are not toddlers anymore but still need their mum. My husband and I have a new love which is our Schnoodle named Poppy who keeps me fit and entertained. We walk miles with her but it seems the only one who gets tired is me! Lockdown has given me the opportunity to do more baking hence the need to walk lots and of course I love "The Bake Off"



Dear Parents and Carers



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.

For your convenience, in each newsletter we include this reminder of everything sent out in the current week:

Date of Communication	Subject	Sent To
Monday 20 September	This Week at Slade	
Tuesday 28 September	EYFS Dinners	
Tuesday 28 September	Pre Application School Tours	
Wednesday 29 September	ACTIVE 30	Selected Children
Wednesday 29 September	School Photographs	
Thursday 30 September	Wraparound Bookings	All School
Friday 1 October	Celebration Assembly	

Secondary School Application Updates

Hillview School for Girls

Hillview School for Girls have asked us to share this reminder to our Year 6 parents as the closing date for their Performing & Visual Arts Places for entry September 2022 is fast coming. The deadline for receipt of these applications is **7 October 2021**. More information can be found via www.hillview.kent.sch.uk/about-us/admissions/h



Maidstone Grammar School for Girls

Year 6 Virtual Tour Appointments for Tuesday 12 October and Year 5 Kent Test sessions can be booked now via <https://www.mggs.org/>

Tonbridge Grammar School

Year 6 visits to TGS are restricted to one ticket per family allowing entry to two people (either the year 6 child or another adult). Visits will take the form of a self-guided tour with Q&A points around the route. Speeches will be available online from the school website. For more information visit: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/tgs-autumn-2021-open-event-visits>



Tunbridge Wells Grammar School for Boys



TWGSB are preparing to welcome prospective parents and students (Year 5 and 6 ONLY) to their Open Evening on Thursday, 7 October between 16:00 and 19:00. As a large number of guests are expected they request that there be a **maximum of 3 guests per family**. Masks will be compulsory inside buildings (except for those with a medical exemption).

The Open Evening will provide an opportunity to hear from Headteacher Ms Simpson, visit the school and meet staff and students. Headteacher talks will take place at 17:00 and 18:00.

News from the PTA



Term 1 Second Hand Uniform Sale

If your child has grown over the summer holidays or lost a jumper already then we have some good news - Second-hand uniform sales are back!

Our team of lovely volunteers will be putting together orders on Thursday 7 October.

To place an order, please email sladeppta@yahoo.co.uk with the item(s), size and quantity by Wednesday 6 October. You will be able to collect and pay for your order on Thursday 7 October; we will be at the main playground gate from 3.30pm. **Please note it will be card payment only please, no cash or cheques.**

We are also offering a limited number of appointments to come and purchase uniform on the day; to book an appointment please email sladeppta@yahoo.co.uk with your preferred time 3.30pm, 3.40pm or 3.50pm. Appointments will be made on a first come, first served basis.

Fireworks Announcement

Together, Mrs Slade and the PTA have taken the decision not to hold our annual Fireworks display this year.

We feel that given the current situation and the scale of such an event, we cannot comfortably and safely accommodate everyone on the school field and playground and still run a successful event that raises money for the school.

We appreciate this is disappointing – we’re disappointed too – but the health and safety of the school community comes first and we hope you understand why we have had to make this difficult decision.

Forest School



Autumn Forest School Kit

Over the next week or two, our two EYFS classes will be taking part in their very first Forest School sessions with Miss Hall. This serves as a great time to introduce them, and remind everyone, of the ideal kit for Forest School, which should be brought in to school in a spare bag to change into during the day.

Full waterproofs (all in one or two piece) - all year (Terms 1 - 6)

Warm layers (old clothes/thermals)- Winter and Spring (Terms 1 - 4)

Accessories- gloves hats scarves - Winter and Spring (Terms 1 - 4)

Wellies/sturdy outdoor shoes (school shoes or trainers are not suitable) - all year (Terms 1 - 6)

Long sleeved and long-legged old clothes - all year (Terms 1 - 6)

Sun hat and sunscreen - Summer (Term 5 and 6)

All clothing and accessories should be labelled with the correct name.

For Your Diary



Next Week :

Day	Event
Monday 4 October	EYFS (Elmer& Gruffalo) Classes: Full Time Swimming - Year 5 Wyvern Class
Tuesday 5 October	
Wednesday 6 October	Mr Nourish Birthday Card Competition Deadline Please send entries to office@slade.kent.sch.uk - See page 4
Thursday 7 October	Mr Nourish's Birthday Special Mealday - See page 4 Swimming - Year 5 Dragon Class PTA Second Hand Uniform Sale - See page 9
Friday 8 October	

Forest School Next Week:

MONDAY	
TUESDAY	
WEDNESDAY	
THURSDAY	
FRIDAY	Elmer Class (EYFS Year R, Mrs Pearson)

Extra Curricular Clubs Next Week :

MONDAY	First Class Football, Active Sports Gymnastics, Learn Chess
TUESDAY	Gary Marshall Cricket
WEDNESDAY	West Kent Athletics
THURSDAY	First Class Basketball, First Class Netball, The Art Trolley, Next Thing STEM
FRIDAY	Sama Karate

Further Ahead :

Monday 11 October - Friday 15 October	EYFS22 Pre Application Tour of Slade See our website for more details
Thursday 14 October	Harvest Festival
Tuesday 19 October	Parent - Techer Consultations <i>Information on how to book and attend will be sent nearer the time</i>
Thursday 21 October	First Swimming Lesson - Sphinx Class Please make sure you have consented via your Arbor Account
Thursday 21 October	Parent - Techer Consultations <i>Information on how to book and attend will be sent nearer the time</i>