



Slade

Primary School

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Slade Primary School Newsletter 2021/22 Term 3 Issue 4

Friday 28 January 2022

Slade Primary School

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From the
Headteacher

Mrs Slade

Dear Parents and Carers,

Today, all children and staff reluctantly said goodbye to Ali Newman, our School Business Manager who leaves us today to start her secondary school adventure! As I shared with you at the end of last year Ali has been successfully appointed to the same role at Hillview School for Girls and will be joining their Senior Leadership Team from the end of this month. We are delighted for Ali on her promotion and wish her every success for the future. I'm sure that you join with me in wishing Ali all the very best at the start of this next exciting phase of her career and would agree that Hillview will be very lucky to have her. Thank you for everything Ali!

Last night was the first virtual 'Parent Teacher Association' (PTA) meeting of 2022 where sadly we said goodbye to Kerry Taylor-Smith who, due to family commitments, stepped down from her role as PTA chair. Kerry has led the PTA during what has been the most challenging two years and yet has still managed to raise funds to be spent on your children in school for which we are truly thankful. We are particularly grateful for Kerry's fundraising towards our playground markings which are a lovely legacy of her time in post! Thank you from all of us Kerry for all that you have achieved. We are delighted that Jo Johnson has agreed to step into this post full time for the remainder of this year, ably supported by the fabulous committee; thank you to you all. A reminder that the PTA meetings are open to all parents of children in our school and are an opportunity to find out more about the plans for the coming year and how you too can get involved. The provisional date for the next online meeting is Thursday 3 March and I would encourage those of you that are able to come along to find out more!

As I shared in last week's newsletter we are introducing class representatives ('Class Reps') for all classes across the school in order to strengthen the partnership between parents and the school team. Hopefully therefore you will have received further communication from us earlier today regarding this and outlining what the role involves. Do get in touch with either myself or Miss Garrett via the school office or catch us when we're out and about on the school gate if you want to find out more. We look forward to working more closely with our parent community in this way.

Talking of the school gate, it was heartening to see so many parents and staff still choosing to wear face coverings at drop off and pick up times; thank you. Despite face coverings no longer required to be worn in communal areas by staff and visitors to the school, including at the school gate, we would strongly encourage those that are able to continue to do so whilst we still have positive cases across the school as we all work together to try to reduce the risk of transmission as best we can.

At the end of each term the winners of the House point Cup get to democratically agree what their collective reward will be for earning the most amount of House points across the term. Term 2 saw a tie, with both Air and Earth houses crowned joint winners! The House Captains canvassed their houses and have agreed that next Friday will be a Fancy Dress Friday (or own clothes day) for children in these houses. A separate message has been sent to Air and Earth parents regarding this earlier today.

Finally, congratulations also this week to Mrs Stephens who has successfully passed her National Professional Qualification for Senior Leadership (NPQSL), a professional qualification that supports the development of senior leaders in school. A huge well done on achieving this Steph, we are all very proud of you!

Have a lovely weekend.

Karen Slade

Around School



Welcome To Slade, Cillian and James

Everyone at Slade would like to welcome two new starters to the school, Cillian and James, both boys started with us on Monday.

Cillian joined us in Elmer Class with Mrs Pearson whereas James has settled equally as quickly into Pixie Class with Miss Elliott and Mrs McFerran. We hope that you have both had a great first week at Slade.

We extend our warm welcome to the families of both Cillian and James, with who we look forward to sharing a long and happy relationship.



Farewell, Ali Newman

We are all sad that today has been the last at Slade for our Business Manager, Ali Newman.

Ali will be joining Hillview School for Girls as their Business Manager and we all wish her continued success and much happiness in this next chapter of her career at 'big school'!

Ali has overseen the sourcing and development of our new school website, the Arbor parent portal, app and management information system now used across the school both internally and by parents as well as the relaunching of the wraparound care at Slade and the associated booking system. In addition to her Business Manager role, Ali has led and been part of the school office team through its own successful transition and has been a vital part of the senior management of the school through the unprecedented times of the pandemic, working for and with Mrs Slade and as part of the school office to maintain a full service during the lockdowns and since.

Thankyou Ali!



The FLO on Four

Our Family Liaison team are now back to full strength and are available to assist with advice and support. If you would like to contact either of the Family Liaison Officers (FLO) by telephone, their days and hours of work are:

Christina Ekperigin: Monday & Tuesday (09:30 -14:00) and Thursday (09:00 – midday)

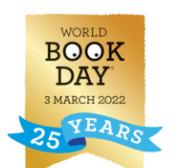
Maxine Button: Wednesday & Thursday (08:30 – 15:30)

Both Christina and Maxine are available via email: flo@slade.kent.sch.uk and via our main telephone number all week by dialing 01732 350354 and choosing option 4. There is an answer message facility where the team are not able to take the call.

25 Years of World Book Day

We will be joining in with schools across Europe and the world to celebrate World Book Day on Thursday 3 March. More details on the events happening in school will be announced shortly.

We have also been lucky to receive book donations from the Rendall family and from the Dessent family over the last two weeks. We are very grateful to these families and to the children in particular for donating their much loved books.



Slade Sport



Slade Sport Competition

**Design a poster
for Children's
Mental Health**

**SPREAD
THE WORD!**

We would like as many children as possible to enter this competition as a prequel to Children's Mental Health Week, which we will be celebrating in school during the week 7-11 February.

Winners will receive:

A Feature in the Kent Sport countywide newsletter; pictured with quotes representing the school as well as a Mental Health and Wellbeing workshop for their class

Rules:

- Children can only submit one entry.
- Children can only enter into their age category.
- Posters must follow the theme of Children's Mental Health.

We are looking for colourful, informative and engaging posters.

Please bring your posters in to the School Office by Friday 4 February, 2022, so that they can be sent to Kent Sport.

Remember to include your name and age on the back.



Class Reps at Slade



Class Reps...



What Is A Class Rep?

The main purpose of a Class Rep is to ensure there is a good level of communication between the school and parents in order to have a positive impact on all pupils at Slade Primary School. The responsibilities of the Class Rep will vary slightly across the school but fundamentally the Class Rep will be responsible for:

- Ensuring all parents are kept informed of activities and events through a well-managed and secure forum e.g. WhatsApp
- Attending termly meetings with the Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher to discuss the chosen 'hot topic'. The Class Rep will be responsible for providing feedback that has been gathered on behalf of the parents within their year group and to be involved in the decision-making process for various school improvements within the school
- Encouraging parents to volunteer when needed as requested by the class teacher
- To be a friendly and supportive member of the parent community for the class teacher to communicate with regarding upcoming events and activities

Why Become A Class Rep?

By becoming a Class Rep at Slade Primary School it provides you with the opportunity to really get involved with school life and to have a positive impact not only on your child's experience at school but on all the children within your child's class. Taking on this role will allow you to be able to make a difference and have a lasting impact on the success of the school.

Volunteering as a Class Rep will also help you to get to know other parents and carers across the school.

Become a Class Rep at Slade

Further to Mrs Slade's notes last week, we are excited to be launching a Class Rep programme across the school.

This is following feedback from parents and carers and will greatly enhance our communication flow between home and school.

We are really looking forward to welcoming the volunteer or elected reps for each class and urge everyone to read the information here to decide if you would like to put your name forward for this role in your child's class.

The Role Of The Class Rep

- To be the main point of contact for new parents/carers and welcome them to the class
- To manage a central forum for all parents within your class to enable everyone to stay up to date with events and activities relevant to your year group
- To enlist any help or support as asked for by the class teacher
- Work in partnership with the school by attending termly meetings with the Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher and provide feedback which has been gathered from the parents you represent
- To support appropriate behaviours on Social Media and ensure parents follow the appropriate school policies if there are any concerns or complaints
- Acting as an extra line of communication between the teacher and parents/carers

How Are Class Reps Chosen?

Class Reps will be chosen by parents volunteering to become a Class Rep. If more than one parent volunteers, then a vote will take place by the parents within the class.

Ideally, Class Reps will remain in position for at least one academic year and a maximum of two years to ensure there is continuity and a good level of commitment.

Apply Here

To apply to be the Class Representative for your child's class, please just click on this link and submit the quick answer form:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=KYD-O4rtzom47TuDL8aBohlUOtojuWxIj8LwmD_bv7FUMktJTk1aMkdaMTFLVUUwTkExVvY4NowoOS4u

The deadline for applications is 16:00 next Friday, 4 February.

THE ROLE AND RECRUITMENT OF CLASS REPRESENTATIVES

Meet the Team

Natalie Pearson



In the latest of our Meet the Team series we were delighted to speak with Natalie Pearson, Elmer Class Teacher and Phase Leader for the Early Years Foundation Stage (Year R) and Year 1.

For most parents, Natalie is one of the first members of staff they will get to know from the annual Parent Information Meetings for new entrants. We haven't been able to hold these meetings in their normal form for two years now, so we thought it would be good to hear from Natalie and to introduce her to the rest of the school, especially as she plays an integral part in arguably the most important part of school; the Early Years.

Where did you go to primary school and what can you remember of your Year R or Year 1 teacher?

I went to St Mark's school in Tunbridge Wells and vividly remember the brown and gold uniform!

The Year R classroom was one of the oldest buildings and it was a very long room with high ceilings. My teacher was a lovely lady called Mrs Cook and she was incredibly kind and caring. I can still remember the role play area and the cloakroom area.



What or who made you want to become a teacher?



I always wanted to be a teacher from a very young age and lots of games were based around schools, especially taking the register and blowing a whistle very loudly in the garden while telling a very empty garden to stop and line up quietly!

I have lots of aunts and uncles and grandparents who were teachers and head teachers so I think that that had an influence too.

Where was your first teaching job, and have you always taught in the early years/KS1?

My first teaching job was in London where I taught the Nursery. It was a diverse school with a range of needs and this is where I really realised how important it is for children to have positive school experiences and a safe, nurturing environment. Having worked in Nursery, I taught in Year R / 1 for a couple of years before moving to Hong Kong.



Hong Kong was amazing and a chance to explore a new part of the world for 4 years. I taught Year 1 at Kellett International school (left) and had a brilliant time there. When I returned to England, we moved back to Tunbridge Wells. I taught Reception at St John's Primary school in Tunbridge Wells for 13 years before moving to Slade.

What is your favourite subject to teach? Do you have a favourite reading book that you use to support a topic?

That is a tricky one, I think it would have to be teaching English. Watching a child suddenly being able to read and realising that they have unlocked the code of words is magical.

I love reading a good book to the children and look forward to our daily story sessions. Nothing beats We're Going on a Bear Hunt and this year we recreated the bear hunt on our school field. There are so many good picture books out there that I would love to use.

Last week, I read Stuck and the children found it very funny – it is all about a boy who is trying to get his kite out of a tree.



Meet the Team

Natalie Pearson

Can you describe why EYFS Year R is so important in a school and for the individual children (lots of parents and others outside of schools believe it is 'just play' and is not as important as the older years). What do we do at Slade that backs this up?

I know that I am biased but I really do think that teaching in the Early Years is the best year group in the school.

It is called the Foundation Stage as we lay the important building blocks for learning further up the school. I'm fascinated by how children think, what interests them and how they learn. And however long I've been teaching, there is always more to learn!

In Reception at Slade, we teach everything through play – from reading and writing to maths and science. Play is a crucial part of learning and we aim to make it fun too.



How much do you value the relationship with a class TA? How do you work as a team on a day-to-day basis?

I can't emphasise enough how much I appreciate and value working with all our teaching assistants. Together we aim to make our classroom a nurturing and fun place to learn. We are very fortunate to be part of a happy team who always look out for and support each other. And, best of all, supply chocolates when you need them.



These children in Elmer Class have been cementing their numbers learning in the outside area by picking a number and then making the Numicon shape out of stones. They counted back to make sure they were happy with their result.

What do you do to relax outside of school?

When it gets to the weekend, there is nothing more I like to do than go for a long walk with my family and our gorgeous, sappy dog, Ossie (right).



Walking in the woods, along the sea front or exploring a new walk across a few muddy fields is probably one of my favourite things to do.

I also spend time with my Book club, being a taxi service for my 3 children, eating out and meeting friends.



Queen's Pudding



Mrs O'Connor has spoken with us about the enthusiasm currently being shown in Year 6 for celebrating the upcoming Platinum Jubilee of the reign of Queen Elizabeth II.

In particular, the children are excited by a competition being organised by plush department store, Fortnum and Mason, who are asking children aged 8+ to invent and create a pudding for the Queen herself.

The winning pudding will be an important part of the celebrations marking Her Majesty's 70 years as Monarch. The creator of the winning pudding will be invited at the centre of the celebrations. The Fortnum and Mason website has full details and a set of Frequently Asked Questions. The deadline for entries is Friday 4 February.

[More > FAQ and to enter via fortnumandmason.com](#)

Chair of Governors



I wanted to thank those of you who attended the recent virtual open morning or have taken the time to watch the recording of the presentations. It was a pleasure to share the governor's strategy for the next 3 to 5 years and I would encourage you to take a look at the 'Vision, Values and Strategy' section of the school website to see more details about the priorities we have set for the school.

I also want to pass on my thanks to Claire Pearson as she steps down from the governing body after over 8 years. We will miss her contribution in meetings and in particular the expertise she has brought to the role of safeguarding governor with responsibility for monitoring this important area.

We wish Claire well as she embarks on a new career opportunity.

Simon Griffiths



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 24 January	This Week at Slade	
Tuesday 25 January	Update Letter	Sphinx Class 
Tuesday 25 January	Update Letter	Pegasus Class 
Tuesday 25 January	Update Letter	Gnome Class 
Tuesday 25 January	Yeti's Booking for Term 4	
Tuesday 25 January	Who Am I?	All School 
Wednesday 26 January	Gruffalo Class This Week	Gruffalo Class 
Wednesday 26 January	Walk on Wednesday	
Thursday 27 January	Update Letter	EYFS Year R 
Thursday 27 January	Update Letter	Hippogriff Class 
Thursday 27 January	KS2 Swimming Lessons	Pegasus Class 
Friday 28 January	Class Rep Invite	All School 
Friday 28 January	Year 6 PE Kits	Selected Children 
Friday 28 January	Housepoint Winners	Earth & Air Children 
Friday 28 January	Celebration Assembly	
Friday 28 January	Bye Bye Ali	
Friday 28 January	EYFS Newsletter	EYFS Year R Parents 
Friday 28 January	Year 6 Residential Trip Update	Year 6 

For Your Diary



Next Week :

Day	Event
Monday 31 January	Swimming Lesson - Hydra Class, Year 6, Miss Lidlow Elmer and Gruffalo Class Parents Event - prebooked visitors only - 10:00
Tuesday 1 February	
Wednesday 2 February	Year 3 Roman Day Elmer and Gruffalo Class Parents Event - prebooked visitors only - 10:00
Thursday 3 February	Swimming Lesson - Griffin Class, Year 6, Mrs Burnside - Last Session
Friday 4 February	Deadline for Class Rep Applications

Forest School Next Week:

MONDAY	Pegasus Class (Year 3, Miss Redden)
TUESDAY	Hippogriff Class (Year 3, Mrs Stephens and Mrs Berrill)
WEDNESDAY	
THURSDAY	Phoenix Class (Year 4, Mr Duffin)
FRIDAY	Sphinx Class (Year 4, Miss Lipman)

Extra Curricular Clubs Next Week :

MONDAY	First Class Football, Active Sports Gymnastics, Learn Chess, mSPORTi Multi Sports
TUESDAY	Gary Marshall Cricket, Dancemode
WEDNESDAY	West Kent Athletics, Wendy Ball Sportshall Athletics
THURSDAY	The Art Trolley, First Class Basketball and Netball
FRIDAY	Wendy Ball Hockey and Netball, Next Thing STEM, SAMA Karate, mSPORTi Football

Further Ahead :

Monday 7 February - Friday 11 February	Children's Mental Health Week
Tuesday 8 February	Safer Internet Day
Thursday 10 February	Hippogriff Class First Swimming Lesson - Available for consent and payment now via Arbor
Friday 11 February	Last Day of Term 3
Monday 21 February	First Day of Term 4
Monday 21 February	Pegasus Class First Swimming Lesson - Available for consent and payment now via Arbor
Monday 21 February - Monday 28 February	Bikeability - Griffin Class
Thursday 24 February	Who Am I? - Please see email sent on Tuesday 26 January
Thursday 3 March	World Book Day
Thursday 10 March	Year 6 Residential Trip Parent Meeting 16:30 - see email sent today for details
Tuesday 22 March and Thursday 24 March	Parent - Teacher Consultations - Further information will appear nearer the time

All timetabled events and scheduled clubs and activities are subject to short notice alteration, postponement or cancellation and are correct as of the date of this newsletter