



# Slade

## Primary School

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Slade Primary School Newsletter 2021/22 Term 4, Issue 5

Friday 25 March 2022

### Slade Primary School

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# From the Headteacher

## Mrs Slade

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been lovely to be back in the building this week catching up with children and staff following my brief Covid absence. Many thanks for your good wishes and kind words during my time away and following my return. It has also been lovely this week to welcome back other members of our school community, children and staff alike, who have also been unwell; it's so great to have you all back!

This week saw the somewhat emotional return of parents coming onto the playground at the end of the day to collect their children from school. It was so lovely to welcome parents of children in Years 1, 2 and 3 through the gate, which for many was the first time coming onto the school site since their child has joined our school! Thank you to all of the parents in these year groups for enabling the transition to these changes to go as smoothly as they did. Next week it's the turn of Years 4, 5 and 6, with details regarding any changes to be made to collection arrangements for children in these year groups being communicated at the start of next week and rolled out across the remainder of the term.

Thank you too to all parents and carers who took the time this week to meet remotely with your child's class teacher to discuss the progress your child is making and to hear of their targets for the coming terms. For those that were unable to attend we would ask that you contact your child's class teacher to arrange a meeting at a mutually convenient time, if you haven't already done so, to discuss your child and their progress to date in order that we can work together during the remainder of this academic year. Please note that a separate communication has been shared with parents of children in Hydra and Elf classes regarding your rearranged parent consultation meetings for next week.

As I shared last week, following on from parent consultation meetings, your child will today be bringing home some of their work from the term to share with you over the weekend. This is an opportunity for you to talk to your child about their work and the learning that has taken place whilst also celebrating their achievements during the term. A reminder that all books and folders need to be returned to school on **Monday** in order for the children to be able to use them in class!

The children have all been out and about in the spring sunshine both here in school, down in the forest and out on the playground, and further afield too at a range of sporting fixtures across the week. Firstly, well done and thank you to all the children in Years 3 and 4 who represented the school so splendidly on Monday at the Year 3 and 4 hockey tournament; I loved being able to present you with your medals in assembly this morning. Then Tuesday saw a Slade team enter our first inclusive Boccia event, with one of our teams remaining unbeaten in all of their games; well-done champs! (Do check out our Twitter feed if you want to find out more about Boccia!) Huge thanks to all the staff and parents for your support with these events; we couldn't do it without you!

Finally, some of you may have heard reports of a dinosaur on the loose here at Slade on Thursday morning! Year 1 were enthralled and entranced by Sophie the T-Rex who stomped into school to support the children with their fossil hunting and dinosaur research. Do read on into the newsletter to find out more and to see some lovely photos too!

**I hope you all have a lovely, safe weekend.**

**Karen Slade**

# Around School



## Welcome to Slade, Abigale

**We are thrilled to welcome Abigale to Slade after she joined us in Sphinx Class with Miss Lipman this week.**

Everyone at the school hopes that you have enjoyed your first week with us and that you have settled in with your new friends and teachers.

Our welcome is, of course, extended to Abigale's family, with who we look forward to a long, happy and successful relationship.



## Choir on the Hill

**Mrs Stephens is delighted to have hosted her first Year 5 and 6 Choir lessons over the last couple of weeks as they prepare for the Hillview Festival on Friday 8 July, the return of the annual event organised by Hillview School for Girls which takes place on the grounds of Tonbridge Castle.**

The choir are practising lots of different songs including Super Trouper from Abba and He's Got the Whole World in his Hands.

Choir is open to all children in Year 5 and 6 and takes place on a Wednesday lunchtime at 12:30 in the Deacon House Hall.



## Buster's Star Reader of the Term

**Congratulations to David in Gnome Class for winning our overall Star Reader this term.**

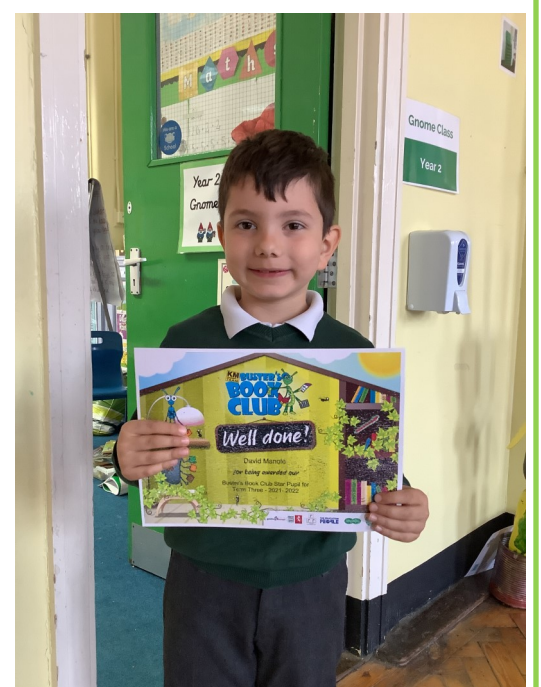
Miss Taylor nominated David for working incredibly hard on his reading, working well with adults in school and making excellent progress. David has continued this learning and enthusiasm at home, gaining lots of minutes for Buster's Book Club.

David was presented with his certificate and letter from Buster's Book Club and School Librarian Caroline Mawson during Celebration Assembly this morning.

Children across the school are nominated for the prize each term, this time they included Uma, Teddy, Zachary, Nicolas, Harvey, Oluwatobi and Shaarav. Congratulations to you all.

For those children who love to read, the library is now reopen at lunchtimes for quiet reading and browsing.

Year 1 visit on a Tuesday at 13:00, Year 4 on Wednesdays at 12:30 and at the same time on Thursday for Year 5 and on Friday for children in Year 6.



# News from the PTA



## PTA Easter Hunt: Next Friday

Caroline Zuber, Slade PTA

The Easter Hunt will take place at 3.30pm next Friday in the school field. There will be drinks and hot cross buns on sale and Easter activity stalls so bring a few extra coins with you and help us raise some funds to renovate and expand the outdoor play and learning equipment for all the children to enjoy.

If you have already sent in money for tickets, the wristbands needed for entry to the event will be being sent home today in your child's bag (or with your eldest child if you ordered a family ticket).

If you would still like to take part in the hunt but have not yet purchased tickets please email the PTA to arrange.

If you have any queries about the wristbands received please message the PTA on [sladepta@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sladepta@yahoo.co.uk)

Thank you so much to all those who have already purchased tickets and offered help - we are looking forward to a fabulous event to start the Easter Holidays.



## Tonbridge and Malling Reconnect

We have been contacted by Natalie Williams, Health and Wellbeing Co-Ordinator at TMActive. Natalie is very excited to have received funding from KCC's Reconnect Fund to deliver a range of activities for young people who live in the borough of Tonbridge & Malling. She would like to let parents, carers and friends know about the Reconnect Programme running here in the borough. Natalie says:

*‘Our new **Reconnect programme** offers young people the opportunity to try exciting new activities at tmaactive leisure facilities.*

*Affordable and accessible to all, it's also ideal for getting active with family and friends and connecting with the community.*

*Running from Easter until August 2022, to qualify for this great programme, all you need to be is 18 years or under and live in the borough of Tonbridge & Malling.*

*To join our Reconnect programme, please visit Larkfield Leisure Centre, The Angel Centre Tonbridge or Tonbridge Swimming Pool from **Friday 25 March 2022** to sign up for our new **‘Reconnect Membership’**.*

*The membership is £5 per child and gives young people access to a variety of fun filled **Reconnect activities** at a discounted price; plus, access to selected tmaactive activities at the member price rate. Proof of address is required when signing up to this exciting offer (for example a School letter, Passport or GP letter).*

*Families who are in receipt of employment and support allowance, income support, housing benefit, universal credit or child disability allowance are entitled to a free **'Reconnect Plus' Membership** and have access to selected activities. Please fill out an eligibility form at reception and bring your supporting documents with you.*

*We have two **Reconnect programmes** - Tonbridge and Larkfield. The Reconnect memberships allow young people to book Reconnect activities at any tmaactive leisure facility.*

[Find out about Reconnect Larkfield](#)

[Find out about Reconnect Tonbridge](#)

*For further information please email: [wellbeing@tmactive.co.uk](mailto:wellbeing@tmactive.co.uk)*

# Around School



## Year 1, Life Long Ago

**Pixie and Elf Classes had a fantastically fun learning experience yesterday morning as they hosted Chris and James and some very special guests from Education Group.**

This term, Year 1 have been learning all about Life Long Ago, including the dinosaur era on Earth. They have understood how dinosaurs lived and about the different types of dinosaurs that we now believe existed on our planet many millions of years ago.

All of the children spent the first part of Thursday morning out in the sunshine of the playground as they found out from the fun learning style of the presenters from Education Group quite how long ago it was that dinosaurs were on Earth. They used the lines on the playground to imagine a timeline and they could see the small portion of time that humans have been the dominant species of the planet. Simply put, they learnt the chronology of the history of the world!



They then met a little dinosaur and had the chance to stroke him and learn about what a dinosaur may feel like. This was just before they were introduced to Sophie, the T-Rex! Followers of our Twitter feed will have already met the giant who mesmerized all of Year 1 (and Year 6 who were completing their Daily Mile at the time as well as Hippogriff Class who had a very different view from their classroom window for the morning!)

Meeting Sophie gave the children a chance to see the difference in size of dinosaurs as they could try to imagine life on the planet with these huge beasts roaming wild.



Following a short break, the classes took turns to visit the main hall to learn about fossils and quite how we know all of the information we do about life so long ago. Chris described the work of scientists and historians and in particular, Paleontologists whose job is to be able to identify a fossil and build their knowledge into being able to show all the characteristics of how the dinosaur would have lived. They loved to find out that a paleontologist can use a fossil of dinosaur poo to find out what they would have eaten - even after all of these years!



Pixie and Elf Classes were pleased to be able to share their own knowledge and that they had picked up from their lessons over the term. They were able to quickly recall the difference between Herbivores and Carnivores as well as being able to identify various sea creatures that were around at the time.



They finished their workshop by being able to search the sands for real fossils, using the information boards provided to be paleontologists themselves and detecting what creature it was from.

Many thanks to both Chris and James from Education Group for producing and presenting such a fun, engaging morning for all of the children which has certainly enhanced and complimented their learning and understanding of this subject.



# Slade Sport



## Teambuilding Challenge Morning: The Angel Centre

Last Friday, we took 22 children along to the Angel Centre in two teams to compete across eight different activities, each which created a challenge where the children had to work hard together using teamwork and great communication. This included blindfolded tasks, ball challenges to 'feed' a ball from one side of a sheet full of holes, without the ball falling through at anytime amongst many others all requiring patience, skill and leadership abilities

Congratulations to all of our squad, who participated with the style, effort and super sporting behaviour that we are all proud to be part of at Slade.



## Year 3 & 4 Hockey Tournament: Hawkenbury Recreation Ground

**Two teams represented Slade at this tournament, for these children their first Hockey matches outside of the school playground.**

Both teams played hard and put in some remarkable performances, notably they improved with each match as the tournament went on throughout Monday evening. They played games against Paddock Wood Primary School, Yalding School, Brenchley and Matfield Primary School and Claremont School amongst others. There were some great goals scored from Sophie, Robert, George and Milo who all scored hat-tricks. Despite their superb performances, they missed out on the final game by one goal in the final table.



Congratulations to everyone involved, our full squad list was published on Twitter from the event in Tunbridge Wells.

## Kent Boccia Finals: Maidstone YMCA

**In a week of firsts, we were proud to be involved in our first ever Boccia tournament in Maidstone on Tuesday.**

Boccia is a target ball sport which tests both muscle control and accuracy. From a seated position, players propel balls to land as close as possible to a white marker ball, known as the Jack. Two sides compete as individuals, pairs or as a team of three over a set number of ends (4 for individuals and pairs, and 6 for teams).



We had two teams who played ten matches, with both producing excellent performances and results against teams from across the county including Greenfields, Five Acre Wood, Helen Alison, The Beacon Academy and the Hartsdown Academy. One of our teams completed their tournament undefeated.

Our players have been practising their Boccia skills during their Slade Champions Club on a Thursday evening at school and took everything they had learnt to the matches they played together.

Congratulations to everyone who competed so well for our school!

A massive thanks to all of the parents who have helped to ferry the children to all of these events and for your wonderful support for all of our players during the matches as well as the invaluable help you have offered to Mrs Ball at the tournaments; we are very grateful.

# 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

93.8%

Attendance This Year

94.0%

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

19

## Attendance Matters

### Procedure if your child is unwell

If your child is not well and not able to come to school then we ask that parents telephone the school office on 01732 350354 **everyday** of their child's absence. With the current COVID pandemic, please follow government guidelines, but please still let us know if your child will be absent from school. If they are having to self-isolate but are well, then they will need to be taking part in home learning.

Please see below some guidance from the government regarding illness and your child's education.

<https://www.gov.uk/illness-child-education>

### Procedure for appointments during school hours

If you have to take your child out of school for **any** reason, including a medical, dental, school visit appointment. Please could you inform the school office **prior** to the appointment along with any supporting evidence of the appointment.

This is so that we can authorise the absence where we can and your child is not marked as unauthorised in our register. Please see below guidance from the government regarding school attendance.

<https://www.gov.uk/school-attendance-absence>

# 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 21 March	This Week at Slade	
Monday 21 March	Parent Teacher Consultations - Hydra Class	Hydra Class Parents 
Monday 21 March	Parent Teacher Consultations - Joining via Teams	All School 
Monday 21 March	Forest School Date - Gnome Class	Gnome Class Parents 
Monday 21 March	Year 3 and 4 Hockey Squad	
Monday 21 March	Year 3 and 4 Hockey - From the Tournament	
Tuesday 22 March	Year 3 Gate Arrangements	Year 3 Parents 
Tuesday 22 March	Boccia Tournament Squad	
Tuesday 22 March	Boccia - From the Tournament	
Wednesday 23 March	Year 5 and 6 Choir	
Thursday 24 March	Meet Sophie!	
Thursday 24 March	Life Long Ago - Year 1	
Thursday 24 March	Kent School Games Prizs	
Thursday 24 March	Spring Planting at Forest School	
Friday 25 March	Chance to Dance	Pupils Involved 
Friday 25 March	Prevent Workshop	Year 5 and Year 6 Parents 

## [Term 5 in Yeti's: Book from Monday 28 March](#)

The booking window to secure places for Yeti's Breakfast and After School Clubs will open on Monday next week at midday.

Just login to your SCOPAY account and top up with money before choosing the sessions that you require.

We have experienced an increase in the number of children being asked to attend After School Club who had not been booked to the session in advance. Please make sure that all of your bookings are made 24 hours in advance of the session.

This is important in keeping all of our children safe, especially during those sessions where we are already full to capacity.



# For Your Diary



## Next Week :

Day	Event
Monday 28 March	Swimming Lesson - Pegasus Class, Year 3, Miss Redden Year 5 and 6 Hockey Tournament
Tuesday 29 March	Parent - Teacher Consultations - Elf and Hydra Classes - 16:00 - 19:00 Chance to Dance - Stag Theatre for Dancemode Club Members
Wednesday 30 March	Year 5 and 6 Prevent Training - Please see letter sent earlier today
Thursday 31 March	
Friday 1 April	Last Day of Term 4

## Forest School Next Week:

MONDAY	Hippogriff Class (Year 3, Mrs Stephens and Mrs Berrill)
TUESDAY	Pegasus Class (Year 3, Miss Redden)
WEDNESDAY	
THURSDAY	
FRIDAY	

## 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 Year 3 and 4 Hockey
THURSDAY	The Art Trolley, First Class Basketball and Netball
FRIDAY	Wendy Ball Year 5 and 6 Hockey, Next Thing STEM, SAMA Karate

## Further Ahead :

Monday 4 April - Monday 18 April inclusive	Easter Holiday - School Closed to all pupils
Tuesday 19 April	First Day of Term 5 - Summertime at Slade!
Tuesday 19 April	EYFS22 Primary School Year R Intake National Offer Day If you have applied for this intake, please await further information on the next steps
Friday 22 April	Year 5 and 6 First Aid Training More information to follow nearer the time
Friday 29 April	Year 5 and 6 First Aid Training
Monday 2 May	National Holiday - School Closed to all pupils
Monday 9 May - Friday 13 May	KS2 Statutory Assessment Tests (SATs) - Year 6
Monday 16 May - Friday 19 May	KS1 Statutory Assessment Tests (SATs) - Year 2
Tuesday 17 May	Matthew Walker Photography - Class Group Photographs
Friday 27 May	Last Day of Term 5
Monday 30 May - Monday 6 June	Summer Terms Break - School Closed to all pupils

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