



# Slade Primary School

School Newsletter: Friday 25 November 2022 / Term 2, Issue 4



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# Karen Slade



**Dear Parents and Carers,**

Week 4 has been another busy one here in school in spite of the weather and the challenges that it has presented!

The beginning of the week saw the start of the clean-up campaign as we inspected the damage, caused by last week's floods, to some of our grounds. Sadly, our Forest School was completely swamped by the flood waters with many of the resources now irretrievably lost or damaged. Sessions earlier this week were postponed to allow time to assess the extent of the flood damage following which a plan of action was swiftly put in place to restore and repair the site.

A huge thank you to Miss Hall who has been working tirelessly to get the site up and running again and to all the staff who have supported with this task too. A special mention to the children in Hydra Class who spent their session on Tuesday helping Miss Hall with the clean-up operation; well done and thank you everyone! We are confident that it won't be too long before our Forest School is once again fully operational; weather permitting!

On Wednesday we held the final Open Morning of the year for prospective parents currently looking to choose a school for children who are due to start in September 2023. The morning was another opportunity for our visitors to hear about the provision on offer here at Slade followed by time to explore and see a typical wet Wednesday morning in action! Due to popular demand for tours we will be holding an additional session in January for anyone who was unable to book a place this time around; please do share this information with anyone you know who would be interested to attend.

Many of you I know will already be planning ahead for Christmas and beginning the task of writing Christmas cards with your children. Whilst we love a 'real life' opportunity for the children to practise their writing skills we are also mindful of the cost involved in sending cards, not to mention the environmental impact that card sending can have too; 420 children each writing just a handful of cards is a lot of paper and card! Therefore, in order to try to reduce both cost and paper waste, we will be encouraging children to either send a virtual card to their class via the class email address or alternatively to send one card to the class which can then be shared and displayed in the classroom. Thank you for considering these options with your children before operation Christmas card writing gets under way!

A reminder that the school gates are closed promptly at 8.50 each morning by which time all children need to be on school site, heading to class in time for their morning registration and getting ready to learn. If your child arrives at school after 8.50 then access to the school site is from the main car park entrance where your child's attendance will be registered at the side gate by either myself, Miss Garrett or Mrs Button. It is really important that all children are at school on time every day in order that they don't miss out on those vital first minutes of lessons at the start of each morning. Many thanks for your help and support in getting your children here and ready to learn on time.

Do look out for the first of our Maths newsletters which will be dropping into your inbox today. Thank you Mr. Duffin for sharing these fun activities to try out at home; enjoy your pasta Maths everyone!

**Have a lovely weekend.**

**Karen Slade.**

# For Your Diary



## Next Week:

Day	Event
Monday 28 November	Bikeability - Group 2F Rearranged Level 2 Completion Phoenix Class Swimming
Tuesday 29 November	
Wednesday 30 November	Year 5/6 Invicta Maths Competition - Competitors aware of details
Thursday 1 December	Sphinx Class Swimming
Friday 2 December	Visit to Slade from Cllr Sue Bell, Mayor of Tonbridge and Malling

## Forest School Next Week:

MONDAY	Elf Class, Year 1, Mrs Hill
TUESDAY	Pixie Class, Year 1, Miss Elliott and Mrs Knee
WEDNESDAY	
THURSDAY	Sprite Class, Year 2, Mr Louth
FRIDAY	Gnome Class, Year 2, Mrs Potter

All sessions are due to cancellation and rearrangement at short notice due to recent flooding

## Extra Curricular Clubs Next Week:

MONDAY	Y1-4 French , Y1-6 Football, Y1-6 Gym, <b>Y3-6 Creative Writing</b> , KS2 BSL, EYFS/KS1 Multi Skills
TUESDAY	<b>Y1 Book Club</b> , Y3-6 Cricket, Y3-6 Dance
WEDNESDAY	<b>Y4-6 Yoga</b> , <b>Y4-6 Choir</b> , <b>Y3/4 Basketball</b> , <b>Y2 Singing</b> , Y3-6 Athletics, Y1-6 Art
THURSDAY	<b>Y3 Signing</b> , Y1-6 Basketball, <b>Y2 Football</b> , Y1-2 Dance
FRIDAY	<b>Y5-6 Sports Club</b> , Karate

Clubs in Green are Free Clubs with spaces available, Clubs in Red are Free Clubs currently full, Clubs in Black are Paid For; check with organiser for availability

## Further Ahead:

Wednesday 30 November	16:30 - Full Governing Body Meeting
Monday 5 December - Thursday 8 December	EYFS and KS1 Performances to parents
Tuesday 6 December	Choir performance at TU3A
Thursday 8 December	Year 5 Visit to The Judd School Primary Music Concert
Friday 9 December	Christmas Day at Slade: Christmas Jumper and non uniform day, PTA Sale, Christmas Meal
Tuesday 13 December	18:30 - Carols by Candlelight: St Saviour's Church
Friday 16 December - Tuesday 3 January	Christmas and New Year Holiday School Closed to all pupils
Wednesday 4 January	First Day of Term 3

# Around School



## Cost of Living Support this Winter

We are acutely aware that all families are feeling the pinch of the financial problems across the country this winter. Everyone at Slade remains very keen to support anyone in our school community who is impacted the most.

**We have uploaded to our website a handy Parent Support Factsheet that deals specifically with the present Cost of Living Crisis. From there you can directly find out what help and support is available to families from local authorities and also a special project from Live Well and Mid Kent Mind. This money management programme is available to anyone from across the county. The programme is tailored to individual's needs delivered personally by trained experts.**

The factsheet also includes help with claiming the correct benefit and government payments, to make sure you are paying the correct tax and how to talk to other support hubs such as Citizen's Advice.



More than anything, don't ever hesitate to contact Maxine and Christina, our Families Team as they are aware of lots of other avenues of support available - they will also offer any assistance that the school can provide to help you through this difficult winter. You can contact Maxine and Christina confidentially on 01732 350354 (Option 4), by email to [flo@slade.kent.sch.uk](mailto:flo@slade.kent.sch.uk) or request a chat through the school office.

Further to the general Cost of Living challenges this winter, Family Liaison Officer Maxine Button has written to all parents this week with regard to Christmas support. If the following is relevant to you, or to a family you know, please contact us via [flo@slade.kent.sch.uk](mailto:flo@slade.kent.sch.uk).



We all have an idea of what we think Christmas should be whether that is spending time with the family, time to reflect, eating far too much and lots of presents. However we are fully aware that Christmas can also bring lots of pressures and expectations that cannot always be fulfilled.

Cost of Living Support Guide via the Slade website <https://www.slade.kent.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=344&type=pdf>

We are very lucky to work alongside various organisations such as Tonbridge Lions Club, Tonbridge School and our local churches who are able to provide extra support over the Christmas period. They kindly put together hampers and gifts for families that need a little extra help over the festive period.

## Young Carers

We are proud to let you know that we offer a young carers support group at Slade. The group is open to all young carers aged 5+ caring for family members with a long-term illness, disability, struggling with mental health and wellbeing or substance misuse issues.

The group is held once a term and we will be having our first meeting for the year soon.

A young person can also be seen as a young carer when they have a sibling with additional needs who they help support at times.

**Do you think your child may be a young carer? Please contact Christina Ekperigin for more information via email: [cekperigin@slade.kent.sch.uk](mailto:cekperigin@slade.kent.sch.uk)**



# Around School



## Thankyou, Helen

Many thanks to local resident, Helen Mackay, who this week generously donated some Christmas craft activity materials to the school.

Amongst other uses across Key Stage 1, if you are coming in to see the Year 2 performances in December, you may just see Helen's donations used in Mrs Dolley's carefully created scenes and props!



## On the Road with Year 6

The children in Year 6 have nearly finished their Bikeability programme after a couple of weather delays. We are very grateful to all of the trainers who have joined us over the last few weeks as the pupils passed their Level 1 and 2 of the vital road safety skills course.



Level 1 takes place on the school playground as we learn how to make good and frequent observations, choose and maintain a suitable riding position, signal our intentions clearly and to understand priorities when negotiating a shared space. Level two takes this knowledge and practical learning out onto the local streets where in addition we practise safely negotiating priorities on the road, particularly at road junctions. Congratulations to all of the children who will receive their certificates as soon as the final group finish the programme on Monday.

## Stonepitts Farm Christmas Tree Offer



As in previous years, Martin and Jackie from Stonepitts Christmas Tree Farm in nearby village Seal Chart would like to offer a £2.00 donation to our PTA for every Christmas tree bought by families and staff.

Simply purchasing a Christmas Tree you will be supporting the school and Stonepitts Farm's chosen charity: Demelza Hospice Care for Children.

**To qualify for the donation all you have to do is show this copy of the newsletter at the cashdesk.**

For details and directions to Stonepitts Farm please visit [www.stonepitts.com](http://www.stonepitts.com)

## The Late Gate

Since September we have seen a gradual rise in the number of children who have been arriving late for school, which in most cases will mean missing the first part of the day and registration - this can have an unsettling effect on the child as well as their classmates.

Recently, we have introduced the late gate, manned by a member of the Leadership Team or Family Liaison Team to try to encourage families who constantly arrive late to be on time, setting the children up for a great start to each day. Today, we were fortunate to be joined by Loveday Potter and Sirin Janes from Kent County Council's Attendance Unit to see what we are doing to combat lateness. Remember the school gates are open between 08:40 and 08:50 each morning.





# Slade Sport



## Team Building Experience

On Wednesday, we took two teams of ten teammates to the Tonbridge and West Kent Partnership Team Building Events Day at the Angel Centre in town.

The teams were set a series of eight challenges to master together as they travelled around the sports halls alongside eight other local schools also competing with each other.



Our teams, listed on our Twitter feed from the event, had a great time and showed super leadership and ability to work together - well done to you all!



## Skinner's School Basketball



On Thursday evening, we sent two teams down to Skinner's School in Tunbridge Wells along with eighteen other schools from Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells for the local partnership's Mixed Basketball Competition.

Both teams competed extremely well with one team taking a fantastic third place in the overall competition after winning their first phase group beating Hildenborough, Southborough and Woodlands Schools to do so. In the finals they continued their winning streak versus St Matthew's School of Tunbridge Wells, but fell against a combative St John's side and also against St James.

Our other team had a super tournament, taking part in the toughest group where they came up against St Johns, Claremont and Bishops Down School. Following these games they played against Yalding who they beat before bowing out against Hildenborough.

Congratulations to all of the squad and many thanks to all of the parents who took the children down to the venue, we appreciate that parking in the area and waiting in the terrible weather was not ideal, so thank you from us all for your continuing support.

Full team line ups appeared from the venue on our Twitter feed.



# Slade Stats



## Attendance

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.**

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

**Attendance Target**

**97%**

**Attendance This Week**

**92.0%**

**Attendance This Year**

**95.4%**

## Punctuality

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**

**41**

Attendance Ted and Punctuality Pup winners are announced each Friday live from the normal celebration assembly via our Twitter feed which also includes the weekly winners of our Pupil of the Week prizes from the EYFS and KS1 Golden Book and KS2 Diamond Book as well as the champion house from the weekly totting up of Housepoints from across KS1 and KS2.

Follow us to find out more [@sladeprimarysch](https://twitter.com/sladeprimarysch).



