Slade
Primary School

School Newsletter: Friday 5 May 2023 / Term 5, Issue 3

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Karen Slade

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week has been an eclectic mix of learning opportunities in the build up to today's fabulous Coronation Celebrations. From learning to sign the national anthem, to designing and making our own crowns through to learning the history of our new monarch there has been something for everyone to enjoy, children and adults alike. Do read on to find out in more detail and see some photos of what has been happening across the school this week!

It was lovely to see all staff and children dressed in their red, white and blue as they arrived in school this morning with the school quickly transformed into a sea of royal colours. The grounds and buildings were looking equally colourful, decked out with flags and bunting both of which the children had created throughout the week. This all added to the buzz of excitement as we all joined together to celebrate this historic occasion, the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III. A particular highlight of our celebrations was when the whole school assembled together for our celebratory lunch which we all ate street-party style out on the playground. Thankfully the weather was kind to us and the rain held off! Our special time together culminated in the whole school singing and signing the national anthem together following which we all joined in singing a new composition 'The Coronation Song'! Huge thanks to all of the adults who enabled us to commemorate this occasion so memorably for our children.

All children have today brought home with them a commemorative Coronation Pin along with a packet of seeds, which are gifts for every pupil here at Slade to help them remember the occasion of the King's Coronation. Many thanks to the PTA who have subsidised the purchase of these gifts for the children which we would not have been able to afford without your support. We look forward to seeing and hearing of how your seeds begin to bloom!

DEAF AWARENESS WEEK

Deaf Awareness Week

This week has also been Deaf Awareness week, which is an annual event to raise awareness of the challenges of deafness and hearing loss whilst also promoting the positive aspects of deafness. On Wednesday, all the children across the school attended a very moving assembly where staff and children from the Titans Team shared their personal stories of hearing loss and truly were an inspiration to all that were watching. The team also reminded us of things to remember when communicating with anyone with a hearing impairment and what we can do in school to support our deaf community. Thank you to all of Team Titans for all that you have done to raise awareness this week!

Planning ahead, Year 5 parents are invited to attend a secondary transfer information meeting on Wednesday 17th May at 7pm here in school. This is an opportunity for you to come along to hear key information at the start of your child's journey onto secondary school and to have any queries that you may have answered. We look forward to seeing you there!

A reminder for Year 6 parents that last week's cancelled School Journey information meeting has now been pre-recorded and sent out to you all along with a copy of the Power Point slides that were shared. Please don't hesitate to get in touch, with your child's class teacher in the first instance, should you have any queries once you have watched the presentation.

Finally, Spotty and Smiggle are both now safe and well following their great escape and adventures earlier this week! Do ask a Reception child should you want to find out more about what our rabbits have been up to!

Have a lovely bank holiday weekend.

Karen Slade.

For Your Diary

Next Week:

Day	Event
Monday 8 May	The Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Consort Camilla School Closed to all Pupils
Tuesday 9 May - Friday 12 May	Key Stage 2 Statutory Assessment Tests Year 6
Tuesday 9 May	KS2 SATs: Grammar Punctuation and Spelling 1 KS2 SATs: Grammar Punctuation and Spelling 2
Wednesday 10 May	KS2 SATs: English Reading
Thursday 11 May	KS2 SATs: Maths 1 (Arithmetic) KS2 SATs: Maths 2 (Reasoning)
Friday 12 May	KS2 SATs: Maths 3 (Reasoning)

Forest School Next Week:

MONDAY	
TUESDAY	Sphinx Class (Year 4, Miss Lipman) Please come dressed in Forest School Clothing
WEDNESDAY	
THURSDAY	Pegasus Class (Year 3, Mrs Berrill) Please come dressed in Forest School Clothing
FRIDAY	Hippogriff Class (Year 3, Miss Taylor) Please come dressed in Forest School Clothing

Extra Curricular Clubs Next Week:

MONDAY	Y1-4 French, KS2 Football, KS1 BSL, EYFS and KS1 Multi Skills
TUESDAY	Y1 Books, KS2 Street Dance, KS2 Cricket, EYFS Pets, KS2 Rugby
WEDNESDAY	Y2,3,4 Golf, Y4,5,6 Yoga, KS2 Choir, KS1,2 Athletics, KS1,2 Art
THURSDAY	Y2 Cricket, Y3,4 Signing Choir, Y3,4 Cricket, KS1,2 Basketball, KS1 Street Dance, Y1 Pets
FRIDAY	Y5,6 Sports, All School 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

For full details see: https://www.slade.kent.sch.uk/page/?title=Extra%2DCurricular+Clubs&pid=25

Further Ahead:

Wednesday 17 May	Year 5 Parents Kent Test Information Evening 19:00 in the School Hall
Friday 19 May	Year 5 Trip to Year 5 trip: Observatory Science Centre at Herstmonceux
Monday 22 May	Mrs Davis from Hugh Christie School in to see their new Year 7 pupils currently in Year 6
Tuesday 23 May	Parents Prevent Training
Friday 26 May	Last Day of Term 5
Monday 5 June	First Day of Term 6

Around School

History Celebrated at Slade

Tomorrow sees the official Coronation of HM King Charles III and HM Majesty, The Queen Consort.

This historic occasion has been the subject of some special learning this week across all yeargroups at Slade and has culminated in today's Red, White and Blue Day with lunch in street party style - even the weather held fine for the occasion , just like our similar event for the late Queen's Jubilee celebrations last year!

The children have been learning about the significance of the Coronation and more specifically about the life and interests and causes backed by the new King.

The links below provide some information on the learning touched on this week in classes:

Schools Coronation Project Learning Resources | Historic Royal Palaces (hrp.org.uk)

About the Coronation – Coronation of His Majesty The King & Her Majesty The Queen Consort

The highlight of today being the signed rendition of the National Anthem 'God Save The King' being demonstrated by Titans Teaching Assistant Susie Martin and attempted by all of the children in school.

You can watch Susie here and try at home! https://sladeschool-my.sharepoint.com/:v:/g/personal/administrator_sladeschool_onmicrosoft_com/Eb-lNIIyO9pDhVpJNbZBA10BMlx7bknT3v5ydi3xd0RoPg

Year 6 SATs Next Week

It's that time of year again when our Year 6 children have the chance to show themselves just how much learning they have packed into their time at Slade with the annual KS2 end of primary phase statutory Assessment Tests that will take place all of next week.

The children are encouraged to treat this time as any other day at school, with the best preparation for them all being a good healthy breakfast before coming in with a full water bottle for the day.

Please make sure extra effort is taken to arrive at school on time throughout next week as a delay to the start of these assessments can be unsettling for the children sitting them and they require a quiet and calm environment through the duration of the test. This is important across all yeargroups as small groups of Year 6 children will be sitting the tests in different locations across the school.

Good luck to all of our Year 6 children (think of it as nearly the beginning of the really fun bit of the year!)

Class Photographs: Order Deadline Sunday 14 May

The class and group photographs by Matthew Walker were handed out for each child to take home on Tuesday.

Orders will be online via the Portrait Days website with a deadline of Sunday 14 May for free postage to school. The link below will assist, but please note your unique reference number when ordering.

Orders can be made after 14 May, but there will be an extra postage fee for home delivery.

More: Visit the Portrait Days Website https://portraitdays.flexschools.co.uk/

Around School

Deaf Awareness Week

It goes without saying that Deaf Awareness Week has a special place in the hearts of all of the children and staff at Slade. We continue to be immensely proud of our Titans Hearing Impaired Provision and it is the children of Titans who have taken centre stage in this week's celebrations.

The children and deaf adults who learn and work at Slade produced a very moving and special video that was played out in Key Stage assemblies on Wednesday - the videos allowed members of our deaf community to describe their own story, the difficulties and the joy. There were more than a few wet eyes watching on!

In addition to general awareness, touched on in our special Meet the Team interview with Teaching Assistant Alex Taylor on pages 7 and 8 of today's newsletter, the classes across Slade each researched a deaf or hearing impaired person from history to present. These facts will form part of a display in school from next week, we will bring you pictures of this in our next newsletter. In the meantime, can you or your child name any of these famous people, who will be featuring on the display and have formed part of this week's research and learning. Each class had one person to write about.

We will give you the answers next week!

Deaf Awareness Week

The Deaf Mosaic

Our regular feature which is usually on the back page of the newsletter and looks at sign language in the community, takes in a very special exhibition this week.

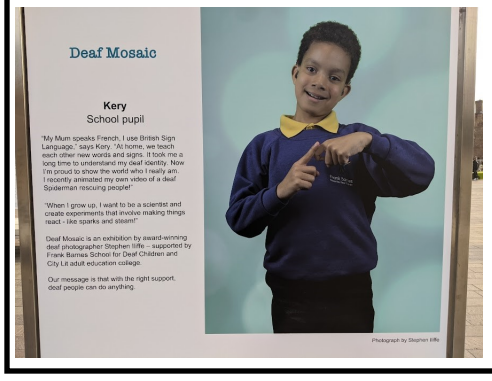
The Deaf Mosaic photographs can be found in and around the Kings Cross and St Pancras area of London. It is a celebration of the 90,000+ users of BSL as their preferred or first language.

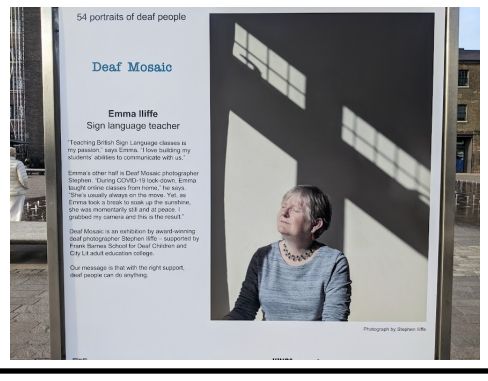
The Deaf Mosaic is a 10 year project by Stephen Iiffe, who has photographed members of the deaf community from all walks of life. Stephen describes the project as his, 'most personal project, (having grown) up the only deaf kid in a mainstream school I had no adult deaf role model for what I could achieve in life. It wasn't until my 20s that I stumbled across the deaf community.' He goes on to say, ' There are so many ways to create access for deaf people - from sign language interpreters to technical aids, from TV and video captions to inclusive classrooms and workplaces.'

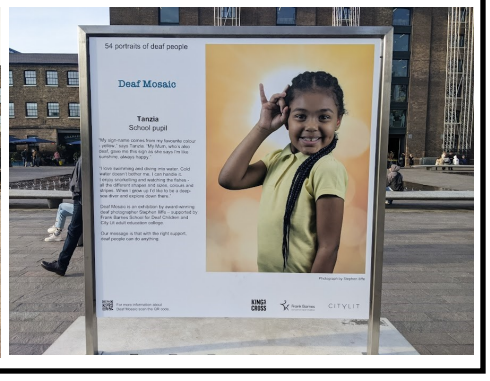
At Slade we are pleased and proud of the very little things we do for our own deaf community and for the future pupils of our Titans Provision.

If you are in the King's Cross, St Pancras and Coal Drops Yard area, take a few minutes to read some of the 54 portraits on show, examples of which can be seen here and on page 11 today.

More: Visit the Deaf Mosaic Website to find out more about this fantastic project







Slade Sport

Culverden Football Finals

Our Year 3 and 4 Girls Football team reached the Tonbrige and Tunbridge Wells football finals which were held at Culverden Stadium, home of Tunbridge Wells FC. The finals took place on Wednesday.
The girls beat Speldhurst and Langton Green in the quarter and semi-finals to play Yalding for the title. Despite fighting hard they lost out to a strong Yalding team who included a future star already on the books of Chelsea FC!
Great goals from Harriet and Lily and some excellent defence work from Juliet and Amber . The team performed well together and have grown so much in confidence and ability.

We will be back next year !

Kent Golf Coaching

On Wednesday, we were joined by Kim Brusadelli who came in from Kent Golf to coach 8 children from Key Stage 2. They practiced putting and chipping in preparation for a golf festival at Kings Hill Golf Club in a couple of weeks. Olawatobi and Harvey showed some excellent chipping skills and Kim was really impressed with how they all progressed.

We are looking forward to travelling to Kings Hill for the tournament and thank Kim for coming in to coach the children.

Handball

We had a team taking part in a Handball Competition at St Gregory's School in Tunbridge Wells on Wednesday evening.

The children faced a strong challenge against 9 other schools in the local sports partnership. They were playing in a tournament aimed at helping transition between year 4 and 5 , so the team was a mix of children working together from these year groups.

The Slade team lost to Hildenborough but had a strong win over Claremont and Temple Grove only to lose narrowly to St Matthews.

Well done to all the team with great goals from everyone.

Meet The Team

Alex Taylor: Titans Teaching Assistant

Alex is the inspiration behind many of our special initiatives involving the wonderful children and adults in Slade's Hearing Impaired Provision, known as Titans in school. It is fitting therefore, that we caught up with Alex this week as the Deaf Community across the country celebrate Deaf Awareness Week.

Alex is not hearing impaired, but has fully immersed herself within the deaf community, the inspiration to do so came from an unlikely source:

It all started with a television advert many years ago, I can't even remember what product they were selling, but it was set in an old fashioned town library with signs everywhere telling people to be quiet - everyone in the scene looked miserable, then the shot scanned to a couple who were signing away to each other, smiling and laughing. It made me laugh out loud at home watching and from that moment I decided, I want to do that!

When did you start to learn to sign with qualifications?

I passed my Level 1 BSL examination in 2015 and two years later achieved my Level 2. By this time the passion behind this language grew and I pushed myself to continue to learn and use BSL as much as possible - this continued through the pandemic when I passed the Level 3 exam in 2021. I am so proud of my colleague, Susie Martin, who is qualified at Level 6, one short of Interpreter qualification.

What opportunities are opened up with these qualifications?

Well, at Level 3, you would be able to work in schools and for public bodies such as the police - to be an interpreter though opens up lots of doors such as being able to sign to assist hearing impaired people with details of medical care including in emergency situations in hospital and to be able to translate the proceedings of a Court case to a witness, victim or defendant. Interpreters earn upwards of £370 a day for this kind of work, so are in demand!

This week has been a big one for the Deaf Community hasn't it?

Oh yes! The 28th of April will always be seen as a very special day, as this is the anniversary of when BSL became a legally recognised language in statute in the UK following many years of campaigning. It remains amazing that this was only completed in 2022 - but well done again to everyone who made it happen.

This week is Deaf Awareness Week, which is different, as this concentrates more on those who do not use sign language, either from the hearing community, or those deaf people who do not use sign. The focus is very much on encouraging good, positive communication towards deaf people using clear facial expressions and speaking with your face and mouth directed towards the deaf person you are talking to, or even being prepared to write some details down. It is easy to do, but vital to prevent yourself from a more patronising way of trying to communicate, such as just speaking louder and slower! We have looked at the good and not so good ways of doing this with class groups across school as part of our awareness sessions.

It is important to recognise sign language like any additional language such as French or German isn't it?

Absolutely. We have families at Slade for who BSL is a first language, some where it is an additional language used by a or a few members, and some in Titan's who do not use it at all at home - in any case, just like learning French or German, you have to keep using it to not lose the ability and to keep improving. Like all modern languages, BSL is also constantly evolving; two examples I can think of immediately is that there is of course a sign now for 'Covid' and even the way that you sign the word 'Parents' which allows for the varied make up of family units and how to best represent these with respect.

Meet The Team

Alex Taylor: Titans Teaching Assistant

On a more personal note Alex, did you grow up with any deaf influences from school?

No, not at all. I attended Michael Hall School in Tunbridge Wells. That was great and I had a good time there. I do remember being introduced to a book about Helen Keller who lost both her sight and hearing after an illness which was important. It gave me the first taste of how one can or should communicate with someone who cannot just see or hear what is going on, including the fascinating methods used to be able to describe colour to a blind person.

You have family connections here at Slade as well though:

I do! My husband attended Slade, and my two children Martha and Wyatt both came here. They had a fantastic time, and of course, I followed them all by getting a job here. Firstly, as a volunteer, then as 1:1 Teaching Assistant which I enjoyed, but the chance to work with Jayne (Laker) and the team in the Hearing Impaired Provision when an opportunity arose was too big a chance to turn down. I was fortunate to get the job in what we now know as Titans when we had three hearing impaired children start in the Early Years Foundation Stage - these children are now in Year6!

We hear that your work at Slade is being used as an inspiration closer to home as well?

I am very proud of my daughter Martha, who is now in her first year of GCSE studies. Martha has always been interested in learning to sign and indeed in everything that the deaf community have to offer. She has an ambition of reaching interpreter level of BSL - and has made a super start having been having lessons online since the pandemic, achieving Level 1 BSL and will be starting her Level 2 course in September. She was actively campaigning for the legal status of BSL and celebrated with everyone who was as delighted as we were on 28 April last year! She has also introduced a 'Sign of the Day' at her secondary school to introduce fellow hearing students to the rich and useful language.

Thankyou to Alex for taking time out of the preparations that the staff in Titans were doing at the time we spoke to her on Tuesday as they readied themselves for today's Coronation celebrations, especially Susie Martin's video of the signed version of the National Anthem, learnt and copied by the children across the school today! Also, many best wishes and good luck to Martha in her BSL learning.

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	95.5%
Attendance This Year	94.3%

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	24

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.

Dear Parents & Carers

Our Communication to You

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
Sunday 30 April	Celebration Assembly: Diamond and Golden Book	Twitter, Arbor
Monday 1 May	Last Week at Slade with School Newsletter	Twitter
Tuesday 2 May	Today at Slade	Twitter
Tuesday 2 May	NEU Industrial Action: Cancellation of Activity Clubs	All School
Tuesday 2 May	Year 5 Trip to Science Centre	Year 5 Parents
Tuesday 2 May	Coronation Celebrations on Friday	All School
Tuesday 2 May	Elmer and Sphinx Winners!	Twitter
Tuesday 2 May	Deaf Awareness Week	Twitter
Tuesday 2 May	Kent Test Information Evening	Year 5 Parents
Wednesday 3 May	Today at Slade	Twitter
Wednesday 3 May	Football Finals Team	Twitter, Arbor
Wednesday 3 May	Year 3 and 4 Cricket Club Cancellation	Participants' Parents
Wednesday 3 May	Year 5 and 6 Sports Club Cancellation	Participants' Parents
Thursday 4 May	Today at Slade	Twitter
Thursday 4 May	Cricket Competition Team	Twitter
Thursday 4 May	KS2 SATs	Year 6 Parents
Thursday 4 May	Cooking at Tonbridge School	Year 6 Parents
Thursday 4 May	Year 6 Activity Week Presentation	Year 6 Parents
Thursday 4 May	Football Action	Twitter
Thursday 4 May	Golf Action	Twitter
Thursday 4 May	Handball Action	Twitter
Thursday 4 May	Cricket Action	Twitter
Thursday 4 May	Coronation Mural	Twitter
Friday 5 May	Today at Slade	Twitter
Friday 5 May	Forest School Clothing in SATs Week	Year 3 and Sphinx Parents
Friday 5 May	Deaf Mosaic and Deaf Awareness Week	Twitter
Friday 5 May	Celebration Assembly	Twitter

Dear Slade

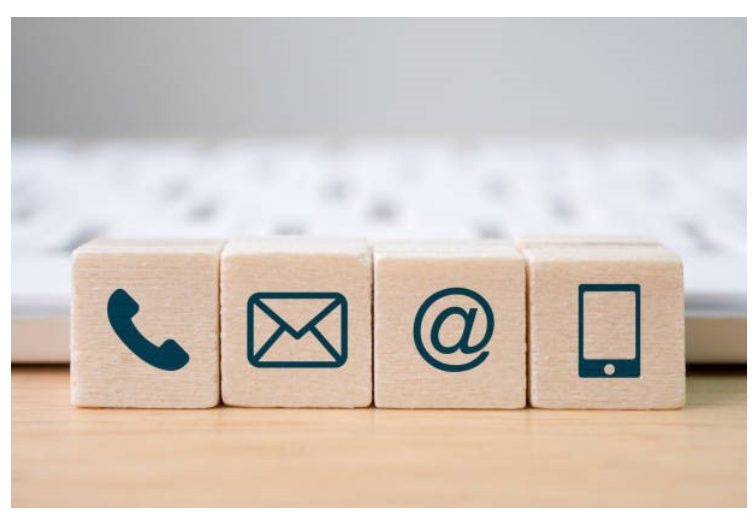
Contacting Us

We are always keen to hear from you if you have a positive, negative comment to make about anything going on at school, or if you have a question or need clarification on anything we have sent or said.

We have a number of ways for you to reach out to us; please see the guide below to see where you should direct your question or comments in the first instance in order to make sure we are able to answer you as quickly as possible.

I HAVE A QUESTION ABOUT...	WHO YOU NEED TO TALK TO
My child's learning/class activities/lessons/homework	Your child's class email address e.g. elmer@slade.kent.sch.uk .
My child's wellbeing/pastoral support	Your child's class email address e.g. elmer@slade.kent.sch.uk
Someone different to collect my child from school	In advance: Your child's class email address e.g. elmer@slade.kent.sch.uk On the day: Call: 01732 350354
Payments	office@slade.kent.sch.uk
School trips	office@slade.kent.sch.uk
Uniform/lost and found	office@slade.kent.sch.uk
Attendance and absence requests	If you need to report your child's absence, call: 01732 350 354 in line with our attendance policy. If you want to request approval for term-time absence, please refer to the attendance policy in the first instance (www.slade.kent.sch.uk) and then email your request to office@slade.kent.sch.uk
Bullying and Behaviour	Your child's class email address e.g. elmer@slade.kent.sch.uk
School events/the school calendar	Please ensure you have read the newsletter first or visited www.slade.kent.sch.uk office@slade.kent.sch.uk
Special educational needs and/or disability (SEND)	office@slade.kent.sch.uk

I HAVE A QUESTION ABOUT...	WHO YOU NEED TO TALK TO
Hiring the school premises	sbm@slade.kent.sch.uk
PTA	sladepta@yahoo.co.uk
Governing Body	governors@slade.kent.sch.uk
Catering/meals	teresa@nourishcontractcatering.co.uk
Admissions	admissions@slade.kent.sch.uk
General Enquires	office@slade.kent.sch.uk
Concern	Please speak to your child's class teacher in the first instance. If your concern is not resolved then please contact your child's phase leader via the school office (office@slade.kent.sch.uk) EYFS/Year 1: Natalie Pearson Year 2/Year 3: Steph Stephens Year 4/Year 5/Year 6: Sarah Meers



The Deaf Mosaic at King's Cross, St Pancras and Coal Drops Yard

More: Visit the Deaf Mosaic Website to find out more about this fantastic project