



SLADE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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School Newsletter

Term 3, Issue 1

Friday 10 January 2025

Karen Slade : From the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year everyone and welcome back to Term 3. I hope that you all had an enjoyable, restful Christmas break and were able to spend time with family and friends.

It has been a busy first full week back with lots of learning taking place both indoors and out in spite of the very wet, cold and sometimes snowy conditions! It really has been lovely to see all the children settling back into school, catching up with friends and sharing their news at the start of their learning journeys for this term. Well done and thank you everyone for a great start to Term!

Having experienced snow flurries in the middle of the week, a reminder that following heavy snowfall any decisions around whether to open or close the school will always be made on the basis of the safety and welfare of all pupils and staff. This includes a daily risk assessment of the school building and grounds whilst ensuring that there are enough staff able to travel into school to enable us to operate safely. A text will be sent to all parents as early as possible once this decision to open or close the school has been made in addition to being communicated through all of our social media channels too, including the KCC school closures website <https://www.kentclosures.co.uk/> Please do ensure that all of your contact details are up to date!

On a bitterly cold Wednesday morning we held our third and final Open Morning for prospective parents currently looking to choose a school for children who are due to start in September 2025. The morning was an opportunity for our visitors to hear once again about the provision on offer here at Slade followed by time to explore and see a typical Wednesday morning in action! As you would expect, our visitors were once again full of praise for all that they saw and were especially complimentary about our confident children! A reminder that the closing date to apply for a Reception school place is this coming Wednesday 15th January, using the online application form on the KCC admissions website. Please do get in touch should you have any last-minute queries.

Look out for the year group newsletters, that will be coming your way on Monday, to find out more of what your child will be learning in the coming weeks. As always, please don't hesitate to contact your child's class teacher via their class email address should you have any queries or concerns about your child in school. However, a reminder that these inboxes are only monitored at the beginning and end of the school day following which a response will be sent out within 48 hours. Therefore, any information for class teachers to be aware of during the school day should be sent by calling the school office, following which the message will be shared with your child's teacher.

At the start of this new year a reminder please of our expectations with regard to school uniform; all of our children are expected to wear regulation school uniform to school every day; a list of all permitted school uniform items can be found on our school website. In addition, a reminder that all items of clothing worn to school should be named in order that we can return any uniform that becomes misplaced to their rightful owner. Our lost property boxes continue to contain unnamed items that haven't been claimed so a reminder please to always ensure items are clearly named in order that we can return your child's missing uniform. Any unclaimed and unnamed items will continue to be donated to the PTA pre-loved uniform store for re-sale.

Finally, many thanks to those of you who responded to our Wraparound provision survey, the results of which are currently being analysed and will be used to inform our future planning.

Have a lovely weekend; stay warm!

Karen Slade

Diary Dates: Next Week at Slade

Monday 13 January 2025

- Griffin Class Forest School
- [Extra Curricular Activity Clubs](#)

Tuesday 14 January 2025

- Dragon Class Forest School
- Griffin Class Swimming
- [Extra Curricular Activity Clubs](#)

Wednesday 15 January 2025

- Deadline for applications to be made for starting primary school (EYFS) in September - See Page 4 for full details
- [Extra Curricular Activity Clubs](#)

Thursday 16 January 2025

- Gruffalo Class Forest School
- Year 1 Educational Visit to Tunbridge Wells
- Census Day Lunch - See Page 7 for full details
- [Extra Curricular Activity Clubs](#)

Friday 17 January 2025

- Elmer Class Forest School
- Change to Lunch Menu - See page 7 for full details
- [Extra Curricular Activity Clubs](#)



Looking further ahead?

Our yearly planner can be found on Page 9 of today's newsletter and online via [the school website](#).

Slade Journal: Around School



We all hope that everyone had a safe and happy Christmas and New Year holiday.

It was lovely to see the school full of excited voices again this week as the children and adults across the school look forward to an event filled Term 3.

Remember, you can keep up to date with everything going on through the diary pages in the newsletter, online via the school website and in our Today at Slade email every morning.

If you have enjoyed a real Christmas Tree in your house this festive time and are now wondering what to do with, let us help!

Tina Hall, Forest School Leader, is grateful to any family who is able to donate an old tree - they are used in Forest School sessions in a number of different ways.

If you would like to pass on your tree, please deliver it to the Hawden Road Gate of school during school hours. We will check daily and will bring them in for the children to use.



We held our final pre application open event on Wednesday; it has been a pleasure meeting well over 150 local families over our three open mornings, as parents of children born between 1 September 2020 and 31 August 2021 make their choices of preferred primary school, with their little ones starting their allocated setting in September 2025.

A reminder if your child was born during this period, that applications must be made by the deadline of 23:59 on Wednesday 15 January. Applications should be made via the [Kent County Council website](#) with allocations emailed to parents in the summer on National Offer Day: Wednesday 16 April.

The new calendar year brings with it the first set of educational visits in the next couple of weeks. Thankyou to every one of the Year 1 parents who have now all consented and paid for the visit to The Amelia Scott Centre in Tunbridge Wells happening next Thursday, we know the children are all excited for the visit and for the train ride!

We are still awaiting for a few parents to consent for the free trip for both Year 2 classes who are visiting the Tonbridge Mosque at the end of January. If you haven't yet provided walking in town consent for this visit, please do so on your Arbor account over the weekend.



Slade Journal: Around School



Winter Weather Warnings

This week has seen the first disruptive weather of the winter across the UK. The River Medway came to say hello to the school field again at the beginning of the week, replaced towards the end with the whiteness of frost and a little snow as the water receded.

In the event of severe weather, we will use Arbor email and SMS to contact parents in case of school closure. Please make sure that you check the contact details we have by logging on to your Arbor account to review your personal details.

On the winter theme, well done to everyone who has completed or started the Reading Agency's Winter Reading Challenge.

By just borrowing and reading three books from your local Kent Library between now and the closing date of 20 February your child will unlock a limited-edition digital badge and a new Winter Mini Challenge certificate to print off and keep. Reading for pleasure is the bedrock of all learning and allows children and adults alike to escape the cold weather blues into another world of fun, fantasy or information and facts.

For more information and to sign up, just visit wintermini.org.uk.



Parking Problems Persist

Complaints have been made to both the school and to local police about constant parking and waiting on and around private property and driveways opposite the school entrance on The Slade.

The area, pictured above is covered by double yellow lines on the public part of the road which indicate that no parking or waiting should be happening, and the other areas are private driveways owned and maintained by residents in the new apartments.

We have been informed that some parents have dismissed these complaints by saying that they 'won't be a minute.'

This is not acceptable and we will support our neighbours in ensuring that any irresponsible or illegal parking and waiting is reported to the relevant authorities. We are already aware that Tonbridge and Malling Council Parking Attendants will be increasing their patrols at busy times in this area.

Thankyou for your help in keeping everyone safe and for respecting our neighbours property.

Nourish News



Spring Census Lunch

Next Thursday, 16 January, Kirsty, Jemma and the team from the kitchen will be providing a special menu to coincide with the second Census Day of the school year.

Census Day takes a snapshot of what is happening in the nation's schools. This snapshot is taken three times - one in September, this one in January and again in the summer term in May. The results are analysed by the Department for Education (DfE) and their colleagues across Government.

The number of school meals that are being eaten each day is a key question on each census. The numbers help the treasury decide their budgets to schools, which as we know are always under threat!

As a result, we are keen for as many of our pupils, especially those who enjoy Universal (EYFS and KS1) and/or Benefits Related and Pupil Premium Free School Meals eligibility to try a school meal from the kitchen on this day - we are aware that many of you already have and love your hot meal every other day as well and would like these already high take up numbers to be reflected in our census return.

Our lunchtime partners at Nourish Contract Catering will be serving the following menu on Thursday*:

- **Fish and Chips with Peas, Baked Beans and/or Coleslaw**
- **Cheese and Tomato Puff with Peas, Baked Beans and/or Coleslaw**
- **Baked Potato**
- **Ginger Biscuit, Yoghurt or Fruit Pots for Dessert**

To enjoy this special Thursday treat all your child has to do is ask for school dinners when asked at registration in the morning.

As indicated, dinners are free to every child in EYFS Classes and Year 1 and Year 2 as well as everyone in receipt of Benefits Related FSM and Pupil Premium funding.

To all other Key Stage Two pupils, meals cost £2.55 - payment should be made in advance by topping up the Meals section on your Arbor account in advance.

*Year 1 are on their Educational Visit to Tunbridge Wells on Thursday. As is the normal process, all children will be provided with a school made packed lunch for the day.

On Friday, Nourish will be providing an alternative to this favourite, and what better way to kick start the weekend than a fine meal with Chinese inspiration - just a week away from Chinese New Year as well!

So, on Friday 17 January the menu will change to be:

- **Chicken Chow Mein with Fried Rice and Oriental Stir Fry Vegetables**
- **Sticky Tofu Bro Buns with Fried Rice and Oriental Stir Fry Vegetables**
- **Chinese Butter Cookies, Melo Melo Jelly or Fruit Pots for Dessert**

Slade Stats

Attendance

Over a school year, we are due to be open for 190 days which equates to 380 sessions.

Registration takes place at 08:50 in the morning 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.

Punctuality

Registers are taken at 08:50. If children arrive after this time, they are registered late.

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.

Our Attendance Target = 97.0%

Our Attendance This Week = 96.0%

Our Attendance This Year = 95.2%

Punctuality: Number of Late Pupils This Week: 40

Congratulations to our winners this week:

Attendance Ted: Dragon Class (100%) Our first 100%ers for a while!

Punctuality Pup: Hydra Class (0 late)

A special well done to Mrs Worley and Mr Duffin and to everyone in Dragon and Hydra Classes for being in school, on time, ready to learn every day!



Our News: Rose



We were very lucky to be invited in to Sprite Class on Wednesday afternoon to see Rose presenting evidence of her new hobby in a 'Show and Tell' session.

Rose has been learning to knit over the Christmas holiday and she brought in a heat mat that was her first knitted piece which came in a Christmas present from her Grandma.

We will let Rose tell you the story from here:

'I was given a parcel from my Grandma Alison for Christmas which was a kit to learn to knit. Grandma Alison enjoys knitting and it was fantastic to be taught by her in the holiday.

It was very hard at first because I had to fiddle my fingers around, moving my hands along with the needles. I did get it wrong a few times, but then I managed to get it right, which made me feel really happy!

You need to use the needles to go through the loop, down and over then to flick off the needle - after all of the practise I now find it all a lot easier!

Rose was very proud of her first piece and the effort that she had put into achieving her goal of producing the heat mat, which is now used regularly at home:

'I was able to count all of the stiches that I had done, there are absolutely loads of them. I have to thank Nanny Alison for showing me how to do knitting and I am looking forward to doing some more.

We use the mat at home to protect the table - especially if we have a pot of green beans that we can take for our dinner. We put the hot pot on to my mat and then we can make sure that the table is not damaged.'

We are grateful to Rose and to Miss Ellis for telling us the story of Rose's knitting - we could see how impressed the rest of Sprite Class were - they especially loved how soft it felt!



In Our Community

Our good friend, Sarah Nicholls from Doc Hearts Films has been in touch this week with an exciting opportunity for our children and their pet dogs!

Sarah explains more: "I'm currently casting for a brand new series on Nick Junior, based on the much loved show, Paw Patrol. I'm looking for children aged between 5-8ish, who have pets that could potentially be one of the real life Paw Patrol pups!

Please see our casting flyer below for more information. The children from Slade were amazing on Monster Makes recently and I really hope to find a few more little superstars!



APPLY NOW!

Doc Hearts Films, makers of the award-winning hit series 'Reu & Harper's Wonderworld' and 'Go Green with the Grimwades', are looking for children aged between 5 - 8 to take part in an exciting NEW series for 'Nick Junior.'

The series will meet families and their dogs, exploring the unique traits and talents of the 'Paw Patrol' rescue dog breeds.

We are looking for children of all abilities and backgrounds who have one of the following **dog breeds** as a pet:

Dalmatian / German Shepherd / Cockapoo / Chocolate Labrador / Chihuahua / British Bull Dog / Siberian Husky / Golden Retriever / Bernese Mountain Dog / Long haired Dachshund / West Highland White Terrier / Mixed Breed



To apply, please send a video of your child and pet dog doing the following...

- Could they please introduce themselves and their dog to the camera (phone), sharing their names, ages, location (town/city), hobbies and any fun facts about themselves?
- Could they show us a fun trick or perform an activity together?

**Video submissions should be emailed to castingkids@dochearts.com
The deadline for submissions is **Monday 20th January 2025** – but the sooner the better!**

Please allow plenty of time to upload your video!



We Are Slade: Contacts & Payments

In class

My child's class learning, class activities, lessons, homework or pastoral support; concerns about bullying and behaviour

classname@slade.kent.sch.uk

Absence

Sickness Reporting, Absence Requests and all Medical Appointments

attendance@slade.kent.sch.uk

School Office

General Enquiries and School Events

office@slade.kent.sch.uk

Wraparound

Yeti's Wraparound: Childcare Voucher questions and all General Enquiries
yetis@slade.kent.sch.uk

Session Cancellations: [Cancellation Form](#)
Late Collections: **01732 37 77 60**

Sport and Activity

Extra Curricular Activity Clubs (booking and queries) Sports Events and Representative Sports Tournaments

sportsandactivities@slade.kent.sch.uk

Slade PTA

Slade PTA

pta@slade.kent.sch.uk

Admissions

In Year and September EYFS Admissions

admissions@slade.kent.sch.uk

Finance

Childcare Vouchers, Payments for Yeti's and School Meals and School Trips and Special Lessons

finance@slade.kent.sch.uk

School Lunches

Comments and questions about school meal provision from Nourish Contract Catering

jasongibbons@nourishcc.co.uk

Family Liaison

If you would like the services of our Family Liaison Officer, Libby, or just wish to talk over a family issue in confidence

flo@slade.kent.sch.uk

01732 350354 / option 4

Complaints

For all complaints, please refer to the [Complaints Policy](#) then contact us:

slaws@slade.kent.sch.uk

GDPR

Reporting of GDPR Breaches, details of our privacy policy and for Subject Access Requests

slaws@slade.kent.sch.uk

School Dinners

School Dinners provided by Nourish Contract Catering are free to the following groups:

EYFS Classes, Year 1 Classes, Year 2 Classes, EYFS, KS1 and KS2 pupils eligible for benefits related Free School Meals

School Dinners provided to KS2 (Year 3-6) children are charged at £2.55 per meal.

Credit should be loaded onto the Meals section of your Arbor account in advance of a meal being taken.

Yeti's Wraparound Provision (Breakfast and After School Clubs)

Breakfast Club is charged at £5.00 per session After School Club is charged at £5.00 per session:

Session 1 (15:30 - 16:30), Session 2 (16:30 - 17:30)

Payment and Booking should be made via your online Arbor account.

For full information please see our website: [Breakfast and After School Clubs](#)


School Visits, Other Special Events and Swimming Lessons

These payments are all made via your Arbor account. You will receive details of the amount owed and the due date as well as information on the event via email in advance.

Payments

Diary Dates: Looking Ahead

September	October	November
		

December	January	February
	<p>Thursday 16 - Year 1 Trip: Tunbridge Wells</p> <p>Tuesday 28 - <i>Sprite Class Visit to Tonbridge Mosque - please make sure walking consent has been provided via your Arbor account</i></p> <p>Wednesday 29 - <i>Gnome Class Visit to Tonbridge Mosque - please make sure walking consent has been provided via your Arbor account</i></p>	<p>Monday 3 - Young Voices 2025 (participants aware of detail)</p> <p>Tuesday 11 - Online Safety Day</p> <p>Friday 14 - Last Day of Term 3</p> <p>Monday 24 - First Day of Term 4</p>

March	April	May
<p>Tuesday 4 - EYFS Trip: Godstone Farm</p> <p>Thursday 6 - World Book Day</p> <p>Friday 21 - Year 4 Trip: Mountfitchet</p> <p>Tuesday 25 - Parent Teacher Consultations</p> <p>Thursday 27 - Parent Teacher Consultations</p>	<p>Tuesday 1 - Summer Concert</p> <p>Friday 4 - Last Day of Term 4</p> <p>Tuesday 22 - First Day of Term 5</p>	<p>Friday 2 - Year 3 Trip: Leavesden</p> <p>Friday 9 - Year 5 Trip: Herstmonceux</p> <p>Monday 12 - Thursday 15 - KS2 (Year 6) Statutory Assessment Tests</p> <p>Thursday 15 - Secondary School Information Evening for Year 5 parents</p> <p>Friday 23 - Last Day of Term 5</p>

June	July
<p>Monday 2 - First Day of Term 6</p> <p>Year 2 Trip: Maidstone</p> <p>Tuesday 17 - Open Evening</p> <p>Thursday 19 - Sports Day</p> <p>Sunday 22 to Wednesday 25 - Year 6 Residential (Kingswood, Ashford)</p>	<p>Thursday 3 - Next Year Transition Day</p> <p>Tuesday 15 - Year 6 Production</p> <p>Thursday 17 - Year 6 Production</p> <p>Friday 18 - Last Day of Term 6</p>

More information about these events will appear nearer the time.

Events and dates are subject to change

Additional events will be posted here throughout the year

2024/25 Term Dates

Changes and additions to the diary from last week's calendar are written in red for ease of reference