



SLADE

PRIMARY SCHOOL

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School Newsletter

Term 3, Issue 4

Friday 31 January 2025

Karen Slade : From the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a week! I do hope that normal service has resumed for all of our families who have at some point been without water. Who knew how much water was needed to flush a toilet!

Yesterday, we welcomed Polly Sharman our Local Authority School Improvement Adviser to the school for her second visit this academic year. Polly spent time with both Miss Garrett and Mrs. Stephens to see the progress that has been made since she last came to visit in the summer. In addition, Polly enjoyed a 'learning walk' of the school spending time in each of the classes, talking to the children, looking at their books and chatting to them about their learning. Well done and thank you to all the children and staff involved in making her so welcome! Polly is also a member of the new headteacher recruitment panel, providing much valued support to our school governors during this significant process.

Today, your child will be bringing home some of their work to share with you over the weekend! Books will be brought home at the end of the day and are to be returned to school on **Monday 3 February**. 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. We ask that all books and folders be returned to school on Monday in order for the children to be able to use them in class during the week! Enjoy everyone!

Still with your child's learning, please do try to find the time to take a look at this term's Maths newsletter which dropped into your inboxes yesterday. This month's edition is once again jam packed with maths-based activities for you to enjoy as a family at home and is a great opportunity for you to find out more about ways in which you can support your child with their maths learning too. The newsletter also explains how to get involved in this month's maths at home competition and provides lovely ideas for some maths board games to play. Don't forget to send us your photos of you enjoying all things mathematical which will then be shared in future Maths newsletters. A special mention to Arjun who features regularly in our Maths news; well done and thank you Arjun!

A huge thank you to the parents and staff who braved the chill at the start of the week to attend this term's PTA meeting which was held in the library on Monday evening. It was great to meet together to discuss the upcoming fundraising events for the remainder of the year. As a school we really do rely on the monies raised through all of the PTA events to enable us to provide some of our school essentials and to keep the cost of all school trips to a minimum. Looking ahead, our next Class Rep meeting is in the diary for the start of Term 4 on March 11th; further details to follow!

A reminder please that in order to avoid congestion around the school gate all parents are expected to leave the school vicinity as soon as they have dropped their child at school in the mornings and also when having collected their child from the class teacher at the end of the school day. Please ensure that all dogs, unless an assistance dog, are safely tied to the railings away from the entrance and not blocking entry and exit into the school grounds. Thank you for your support with both of these safety matters and in helping keep everyone safe at these busy times of the school day.

And finally, congratulations to Mr. Duffin (Hydra Class Teacher) who has asked me to share with the wider Slade community that he is soon to become a first-time dad! Huge congratulations to James and Kelly Duffin on your exciting pregnancy news! We look forward to welcoming your new addition to the Slade family in the Summer!

Have a lovely weekend,

Karen Slade

Diary Dates: Next Week at Slade

Monday 3 February 2025 - Sunday 9 February

- Children's Mental Health Week. See Page 12 for more details

Monday 3 February 2025

- Books Home for the Weekend - Please remember to bring the pack back on Monday
- Pixie Class Forest School
- Young Voices Concert at The o2, Greenwich. Details known to participants
- [Extra Curricular Activity Clubs](#)

Tuesday 4 February 2025

- Elf Class Forest School
- Phoenix Class Swimming - Please make sure payment and consent has been made via your Arbor account in advance of this first lesson.
- [Extra Curricular Activity Clubs](#)

Wednesday 5 February 2025

- [Extra Curricular Activity Clubs](#)

Thursday 6 February 2025

- Elmer Class Forest School
- Dragon Class Swimming
- 09:00 Emotional Resilience Workshop - Details known to those signed up to attend
- [Extra Curricular Activity Clubs](#)

Friday 7 February 2025

- Gruffalo Class Forest School
- [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

Letting You Know



We have been lucky to have not been affected this week by the widespread service break from South East Water which has left many households, schools and businesses across West Kent without water. We know that this issue has impacted on a number of our families and we trust that South East Water have rectified the problem by the time that you are reading this newsletter.

We have had a number of concerned parents and relatives contact us over the week to ask if we were still open, or if we were going to be closing like other schools. We are of course pleased to report that we have been open throughout.

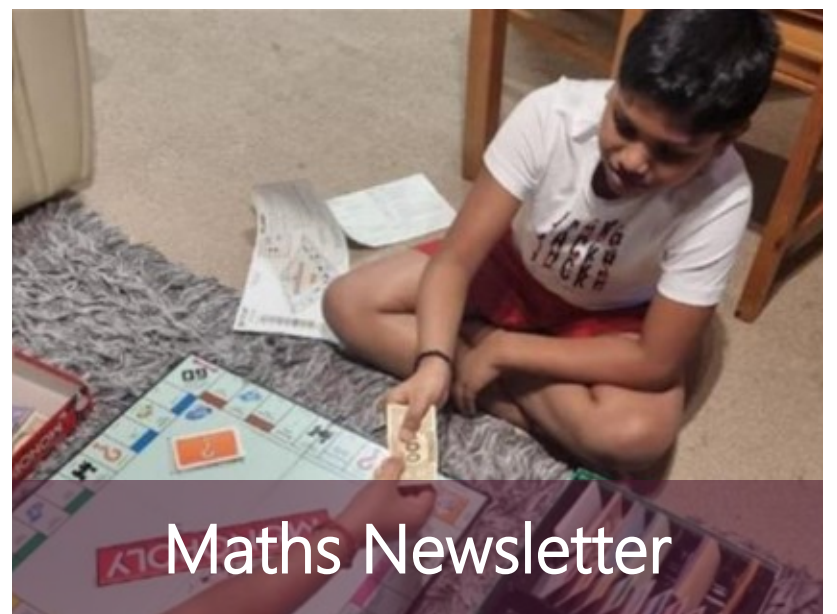
We would like to reassure all parents that we would always keep you up-to-date with any potential and real time problems that may cause the school to close such as winter weather, a water shortage such as this week's situation or any other reason. School closure notices would fall under our emergency plans which would include notifying all parents via SMS direct to your mobile device. We would also send an email and Arbor In-App Message at such a time to make sure we reach everyone.

To ensure you receive all alerts and information from school, please make sure that your contact details (Mobile Telephone Number and Email address in particular) are correct on your Arbor account.

Parents will have found the latest Maths Newsletter dropping into their email inbox yesterday.

Mr Duffin has put together another fun packed issue full of games to play at home with your child whilst at the same time improving the speed and accuracy of the mental and written maths skills.

We hope you enjoy the January Maths Newsletter, and don't forget to send in your stories of the maths you do at home and in the community for a future edition. Send your pictures and information to maths@slade.kent.sch.uk.



Slade Gets Greener

Our Green Rangers have been busy this week as they begin their quest to save energy by preventing heat being lost out of the building (and letting cold in) by shutting doors behind them, as well as encouraging everyone to remember to turn off lights when they do not need to be on.

Every class has been reminded with a short presentation on the benefits of taking these easy actions - which we can all extend to our lives outside of school. See how much you could save by turning off lights or other electrical devices and by shutting doors around the home.

Slade Journal: Around School



Online Security Events

We have been contacted by Aimee Payne of the [Eastern Region Special Operations Unit](#), who are running a series of parent sessions first focusing on cyber choices and online threats with a second session focusing on keeping your family safe online.

The sessions run on various dates throughout the year, so you are able to choose which one suits best.

The parent sessions are designed primarily for families of children in the older yeargroups of primary school and above.

They will provide families with an opportunity to learn and ask questions regarding their online world with an overview for parents and carers on what cybercrime is, the risks to young people and advice to help young people make informed decisions about remaining safe online.

For full information and to sign up for the free sessions, please visit the [For Families section of the school website](#). Please scroll down to the section headed [Parents / Carers Cyber Choices Online Safety Events](#).

Our best wishes for a very speedy recovery to our Fitness, Sport and Wellbeing Champion, Mrs Ball, who suffered an injury last week resulting in a fracture to her leg.

We know Mrs Ball will want to be back on her feet leading our children at various sports and wellbeing events in and out of school very soon.

Mrs Ball's injury has led to some cancellations to clubs and to this week's participation at the local schools Badminton Festival, and we thank the affected children and their families for their understanding.

Thankyou also to Mrs Vokes, Mr Salter, Mrs Bowker and Mrs Fordyce for stepping in where they could to make sure that the majority of our events could still take place.



Get Well Soon, Wendy

TERM 4 ACTIVITIES

Term 4 Clubs and Activities

During her time in the treatment room, Mrs Ball has been busily putting together our Clubs and Activities timetable for Term 4.

The booking window for the school run activity clubs opens this weekend via your Arbor account at 20:00 on Sunday 2 February.

Booking for spaces at Yeti's Wraparound Breakfast and After School Clubs opens on Monday 10 February at 12:00.

A reminder to secure your Activity Club place before booking (and then having to cancel) a place at Yeti's Wraparound and if you pay for Yeti's through Childcare Vouchers to see this account topped up in the next few days to allow time for the amount to be reflected in your Arbor account. Please contact finance@slade.kent.sch.uk if you have any questions.

Focus on Year 2



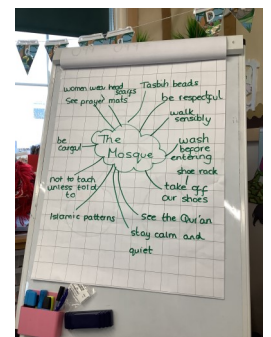
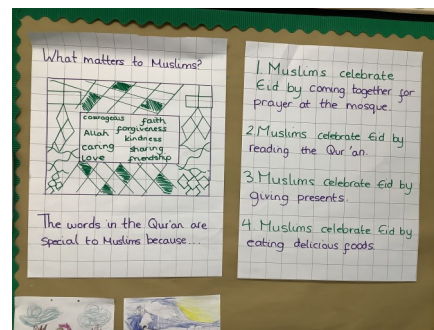
Inside The Mosque

The Year 2 children and staff are very grateful to everyone at the Tonbridge Mosque for throwing open their doors for both Sprite and Gnome Class to come and see their building and to bring to real life, their learning this term on Islam.

Sprite Class visited the Mosque on Tuesday, with Gnome Class following on Wednesday.

The children and adults had a lovely and informative time and were keen to tell us about their visit.

During their lessons this term, Year 2 have been learning about Islam and how Muslims follow their religion, from special festivals to the characteristic of the place of worship: the Mosque and more about the special Holy Book of Islam; the Qur'an.



Upon arriving at the local Mosque, Gnome and Sprite Classes were greeted by Hilal (the Imam) his wife and two young children.

The family took our children on a tour of the building, explaining the different areas and objects, such as where to leave your shoes when entering the Mosque and the prayer mats as they went.

It was especially good to be able to look at the Qur'an, which is written in Arabic. The Imam explained that in the Arabic text that the special book is written in, you would read from right to left across the page, unlike the way we would read English for example as you are now, left to right across the page.



The children also had a chance to practise speaking some Arabic, learning how to correctly say 'Allah', who Muslims believe is the one true God, the supreme being and the creator, designer and sustainer of the world. In addition, we learnt about the different prayers made during the day, as Mama told us, 'There are five daily prayers which all have a different name and a set time to pray.'



We would like to thank Imam Hilal, his family and the community at Tonbridge Mosque for inviting us and for hosting our visit. The Imam was particularly impressed with how much the children already knew from their learning in school and thanked Miss Ellis, Mrs Stephens and Mrs Manktelow for bringing their classes to the place of worship to further that knowledge.

We would also like to thank the parent volunteers for giving up their time; without them, visits such as these are not possible.

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 = 94.1%

Our Attendance This Year = 95.2%

Punctuality: Number of Late Pupils This Week: 36

Congratulations to our winners this week

Attendance Ted: Gruffalo Class (97.3%)

Punctuality Pup: Sphinx Class (No Late Pupils)

A super well done to Mrs Pearson, Mrs Burnside and everyone in Gruffalo (EYFS) and Sphinx (Year 4).



Reading Corner

Here at Slade we are committed to helping every child develop a love of reading, as strong reading skills are key to success in learning and life. Reading regularly at home and at school is one of the most important ways to ensure that each child makes progress.

Sarah Meers, our Reading Leader at school, wrote to parents this week to explain what we will be doing in school and how families can help support the children with their reading at home:



In school, the children will have regular opportunities to read with their teacher or another trained adult. This will be once a week for children in EYFS and Year 1, Fortnightly in Year 2 and 3, twice a term if your child is in Year 4 and 5, and one a term for pupils in Year 6.

If any child has been identified as needing more support with an aspect of their reading they will be heard more frequently.

Once we have heard a child read, we will stamp the reading journal to record this.

This journal is also for you to record when you have listened to your child read and to make any notes about their reading that you would like to flag to the class teacher. Please don't feel that comments need to be made every day, only when you feel something needs to be highlighted. Most of the time a date/page number to show when your child has read will suffice.

As the children progress further through the school, the expectation shifts towards them completing the reading log themselves, if they are able. We would then like to see the children recording whenever they read and, when they finish a book, making notes on what they liked (and disliked!) about it.



While we are looking forward to seeing your comments about your child's reading in the journal, please note that the class email address is still very much the place to go for other communications.

The reading journal will be checked regularly. Up to Year 3, this will be when your child is heard read. From Year 4 upwards this will be weekly and the journal will be stamped to show it has been checked.

Please ensure that the reading journal comes to school daily with your child's banded book so that we have access to it when needed.

Reading Corner



Sarah would also like to share some handy hints on how to encourage and support reading at home, even with reluctant readers!

1. Establish a Reading Routine

Set aside a regular time each day for reading. Whether it's 15 minutes before bed or during quiet afternoon moments, consistency helps build a habit of reading.

2. Make Reading Fun and Enjoyable

Encourage your child to choose books that interest them. Visit the local library or browse online resources for age-appropriate materials. Variety keeps reading exciting!

3. Read Aloud Together

Reading aloud is a fantastic way to build vocabulary and listening skills. Take turns reading pages or acting out characters to make it more interactive.

4. Ask Questions and Discuss

Engage your child by asking questions about the story. Discuss characters, plot twists, and predictions to deepen comprehension and critical thinking.

5. Model Good Reading Habits

Let your child see you reading. Whether it's a book, magazine, or newspaper, your enthusiasm for reading will inspire them.

6. Celebrate Progress

Recognise your child's achievements in reading, whether it's finishing a challenging book or mastering a tricky word. Positive reinforcement builds confidence.

Thank you for partnering with us to foster a lifelong love of reading. Your involvement at home makes a significant difference!



Sport, Fitness and Wellbeing



It was fantastic to hear of more dance success for pupils at Slade, this time at the Future Cheer Essentials South competition last weekend. Many thanks to Michelle for sharing the details of what sounds like a wonderful event for our girls - with more to come later in the year.

'Last weekend we saw some Slade pupils take to Surrey Sports Park for the Future Cheer Essentials South competition.

Daisy (Hippogriff), Alice, and Savannah (both Pegasus) plus Bryher and Hallie (both Dragon class) attend Ice Athletics Cheer which runs at Hillview School for Girls every Wednesday evening.

Daisy, Alice and Savannah competed in their squad, Ice Cubes, on Saturday. The mini novice level 1 team were graded 'Excellent' in their category and awarded with 'Hit Zero', a term where no mistakes were made and no points were deducted.

Bryher and Hallie competed on Sunday. Bryher competed in Ice Creams in the Youth Novice Level 1 division. Bryher's team was also awarded 'Excellent' in her category and Hit Zero!

Hallie competed in Ice Crystals in the Youth Prep Level 1 and her team came an amazing 4th place!

All the girls had lots of fun and are already looking forward to their next competition in a few months.'

Congratulations to Daisy, Alice, Savannah, Bryher and Hallie for a great weekend of competitive action.



News and Events from the PTA



The PTA invites all children un Year 3-6 to the KS2 Discos on Friday 7 February.

Years 3 and 4 5-6.30pm
Years 5 and 6 6.30-8pm

Arrival will be through the main school playground gates and staff will be at the event to sign children in and ensure that children are handed over to their grown-ups at the end of their disco.

Entry is £3 on the door and you can also purchase credits at the entry desk to go on your entry wristband at 50p each; each of these will buy you a drink, some sweets and/or a packet of crisps. Glow sticks will be on sale for £1 also. Please bring the correct money if possible for the £3 entry wristband plus the number of 50p credits you want to purchase.

Whilst children are welcome to bring additional money if their grown-ups allow, we're offering this option to minimise the risk of cash getting lost whilst the boogie-ing is in full swing!!

Wristbands will also be on sale on Wednesday 5th and Thursday 6th February on the playground at pick-up to reduce the queues on the night.

In Our Community

Place2Be's

CHILDREN'S
MENTAL HEALTH
WEEK

3-9
FEB
2025

Mental Health Week

Next week is Children's Mental Health Week from Place2Be. The children at Slade will be taking a look at this important subject through the week with an assembly and different activities with the theme, 'Know Yourself, Grow Yourself' which we will cover in more detail on these pages next Friday.

In the meantime, Mrs Ball is pleased to share some tips for families that may help children and adults alike. For more information reach out to [Place2Be](#) and [Here4You](#). We are here to help as well, contact flo@slade.kent.sch.uk if you would like to talk anything through.

TIPS FOR FAMILIES

Place2Be's
CHILDREN'S
MENTAL HEALTH
WEEK

1 Encourage journaling

Just like Riley, encourage your older children and young people to express their emotions and thoughts through journaling. It can be less confronting than speaking out loud and is a helpful way to process what is going on.

2 Make space for reflection

When children and young people reflect on their different emotions, it can help them better understand themselves and what they need. Go for a walk, drive, or try some mindful colouring or baking together.

3 Be visual

Use imagery, such as emojis or flashcards to help children and young people recognise and label their feelings.

4 Practice mindfulness

Try mindful activities, and quiet family time, to enjoy being in the present moment. This can help children and young people be aware of their thoughts and emotions and learn a useful new coping technique.

5 Communicate

Feedback is crucial for helping us see our blind spots and gain greater insight. Children and young people are no different. Creating safe and supportive ways to share your own experience with your child can help them understand themselves and their impact on the world around them.



If you're a parent or teacher, you'll find loads of useful advice to help you support the brilliant young people in your lives – from FAQs to downloadable packs. [Here4You.co.uk](#)



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>Monday 3 - Young Voices 2025 (participants aware of detail)</p> <p>Friday 7 - PTA KS2 Discos (17:00 - Year 3 and 4; 18:30 - Year 5 and 6)</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>More information about these events will appear nearer the time.</p> <p>Events and dates are subject to change</p> <p>Additional events will be posted here throughout the year</p> <p><u>2024/25 Term Dates</u></p>
<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>	

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

