



SLADE

PRIMARY SCHOOL

Friday 16 January 2026

Term 3, Issue 2

Dear Parents and Families,

This Wednesday marked the start of some very exciting changes to lunchtime and it has been a pleasure to see just how positively the children have responded. There has been a real buzz of excitement since Friday's assembly right through to Wednesday itself, with pupils embracing the changes and approaching lunchtime with enthusiasm. What struck me most was how thankful the children were. This is a true reflection of how wonderful our pupils are as they do not take anything for granted and recognise the effort and care that goes on behind the scenes to make their school experience the best it can be. Please read on to find out more about what lunchtimes have looked like this week and we will continue to keep you updated as lunchtimes continue to be developed!

Earlier in the week, I also re-started my weekly Headteacher assemblies following a pause during the Christmas events at the end of last term. The theme for the coming weeks and term focuses on our school vision, helping children to better understand what we want for each of them during their time at Slade. This week we explored the first part of the vision, which is about loving and respecting themselves as individuals, being proud of their behaviour and achieving personal success and happiness. The children reflected on what each part means and identified where they already see the vision being lived out in their own experiences. I also shared how we currently support every child in achieving the vision we have for them. If you would like to revisit our school vision, a copy can be found on our website.

Finally, I would like to begin a conversation around smart devices. This is a topic frequently discussed in the media and was also highlighted in our recent parent survey. While we already have clear systems in place regarding smart devices being brought into school from home when children are in Upper Key Stage 2, we will be reviewing this policy later in the year with the School Leadership Team and Governors. Therefore, as part of this process, I would value the views of our parent community which will help us to make a well-informed decision that reflects our school community and aligns with current safeguarding guidance, research and best practice. Please follow the link to complete the survey which will remain open for the rest of this term.

[Smart Device Survey 2026 – Fill out form](#)

I hope you all have a lovely weekend and if you were lucky enough to get one of the free tickets for the football tomorrow then I hope you have a lovely time!

Warm regards,

Viki

Saturday 17 January

- Tonbridge Angels School Partner Day (See Page 7)

Read More: [School Partner Day – TAFC](#)

View from the Opposition: [AFC Totton](#)

First Visit to Longmead? Your handy guide: [Visitors' Guide – TAFC](#)

Monday 19 January

- PC Toni Matthew visit to Year 5 and 6 Classes (See Page 4)

Tuesday 20 January

- Hydra Class Swimming Lesson

Wednesday 21 January

- Green Rangers Forest School Working Party

Thursday 22 January

- Pegasus Class Forest School
- Wyvern Class Swimming Lesson
- 14:00 - Parent Rep Meeting
- 16:00 - Girls Football (St Gregory's School - Details known to participants)

Friday 23 January

- Hippogriff Class Forest School
- Interactive Football (TAFC - Details known to participants)

Looking Further Ahead?

Our yearly planner can be found on Page 11 of today's newsletter and online via [the school website](#).

YEAR 6 BIKEABILITY

We apologise to families who have signed up for the Year 6 Bikeability courses who are still awaiting details of the dates that their child will be taking part in the programme.

The delay has been caused by a very late influx of new participants which has meant that the planning of the groups which Mrs Worley and Mrs Fordyce had begun has had to be restarted. It is fantastic to see that we now have 46 children signed up from our Year 6 classes.

The course comprises of two stages; Stage 1 which takes a look at control and maintenance of a bicycle and takes place on the school playground and Stage 2 which sees the children out on the local streets learning and showing their confidence in on-road conditions under the expert tutelage of the Kent County Council Bikeability instructors.

The first set of riders will head out on 23 - 26 February, with the remaining participants out between 16 - 19 March.

FOSTER IN KENT

Fostering is caring for a child in your own home when they are unable to live with their birth family. By becoming a foster carer, you can improve a child's life by offering them support, guidance and care, in a safe and nurturing environment.

We are proud to support the team at Kent Fostering as they promote their service and try to encourage families across the county to discover the rewards of fostering and how becoming a foster parent can make a lasting impact on a child's life. Our new banner will be displayed along the front of the school and includes details on how to contact Kent Fostering for more information.



The Kent Fostering information events are a great way to find out more about what's involved in fostering children or becoming a supported homes host. If you think you have what it takes to change a child's future or support a young person, please join one of the online events to find out more.

The next online event takes place on Wednesday 11 February at 19:00. For information on the subjects to be covered and to book a place, please visit the Kent Fostering website:

[Online information event - February - Kent Fostering](#)

KENT POLICE VISIT

Next Monday, we are delighted to be welcoming to Slade, PC Toni Matthew from Kent Police.

PC Matthew will be speaking to the children in Year 5 and 6 about the importance of keeping ourselves and each other safe in the community. We will be there to report in next week's newsletter about the children's learning in this important session.



SALAD BONUS FROM EMMA'S KITCHEN



Business Manager Jill Westwood is very pleased to report that the school has purchased a brand new salad bar for all of the children to use each lunchtime.

The salad bar is filled every day with fresh produce to help supplement the children's chosen meal with a very healthy side dish.

We would like to thank Emma's Kitchen for their support in providing the salad each day after the request by Jill and Headteacher Viki Garrett and we are very glad to see that the children are using the salad bar sensibly in order to bulk out their meal in a healthy way.

Emma's Kitchen
Cooking With Love



MEAL COUNT



Sticking with the lunchtime theme of today's newsletter, yesterday was the Spring Census for all schools in England; the latest day where the Department for Education count up the number of school meals eaten by those children who are eligible for free meals either through Universal Free School meals or Benefits Related Pupil Premium funding. The Government also surveyed the lessons our classes were taking at 09:45 yesterday! For the record, there were 98% of children in EYFS and Key Stage 1 taking a school lunch, and slightly less of our Pupil Premium Free School Meals eligible children which has all been submitted to the DfE to assist with their budgeting for schools, including Slade for the year ahead.

SMARTPHONE SURVEY



Miss Garrett has today opened a school community discussion about smart devices; a subject often featured in the national media. In advance of our regular policy reviews, we are interested in hearing from our families about their views and experiences of using smart devices. To complete the survey, please use the link below. The survey closes on Friday 13 February: [Smart Device Survey 2026](#)

CLASS REP MEETING

The Term 3 Parent Class Rep meeting takes place on Thursday 22 January.

The class parent representatives will be meeting together at school to discuss, amongst other things, previous actions, lunchtimes at Slade and any other business thrown up on the class chats.

We look forward to seeing our reps next week and to hearing the views of parents, especially in light of our new lunchtime schedule of activities.

ZONAL LUNCHTIMES TAKE EFFECT

Mrs Stephens has been incredibly happy to have introduced our new lunchtime schedule, which has been in effect since Wednesday. Introduced in last week's Friday assembly, the children have been looking forward to the new range of activities available to them at lunchtime in separate zones across our outside areas.

Our team of Midday Supervisors have been tasked with overlooking two of the zones and the children are aware that they should wait for the Midday Supervisor to be in position before beginning their play, the children are also encouraged to speak to the supervisor of the zone if they encounter a problem or become unhappy. This way any incidents can be sorted out quickly and without escalation.

We hope the children have enjoyed the new layout for their valuable breaktime and we would also like to thank the PTA for funding the new equipment and storage boxes and to everyone who donated items after reading the recent articles in the newsletter. Our special thanks to Alsford Tonbridge for donating five scaffold boards for use with our sand pits.

Alsford is your local Timber and Builder's Merchant, supplying timber, tools and building materials to Trade and DIY customers since 1882 and is the largest independent Timber and Builder's Merchant in South East England.



Our zones of fun include:



Road Traffic Role Play



Giant Games, Stilts and Dressing Up



Parachutes and Skipping



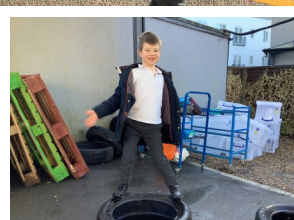
Soft Ball Games



The Adventure Playground



Construction and Sand Pit



ANGELS GIVEAWAY

We were thrilled to be selected by Tonbridge Angels FC to have the opportunity of taking part in their [School Partner Day – TAFC](#) which takes place tomorrow. We were selected in recognition of our continued support of our local professional club and for our consistent sporting success in the area over recent years.



Tonbridge Angels are providing 2000 free adult tickets which includes a free child ticket as well for tomorrow's National League South match vs AFC Totton to 12 local schools and we are lucky to have received 300 tickets which have been handed out by Mrs Ball to families wishing to take advantage of this fantastic offer today.

If you have grabbed your freebie for tomorrow's match, we hope you have a great time - send us in your reports of the day and any photographs you take, especially if this is your first match!

The Angels currently sit in 17th place in the extremely competitive National League South table and have enjoyed two draws since the turn of the year; a thrilling 2:2 with high flying and high profile Dorking Wanderers at Longmead, and then 1:1 at Enfield Town last weekend.

They play Totton tomorrow. The team from the edge of the New Forest are having a super first season at this level and are 11th in the table, just 6 points from the play-off places. The Stags have not played since 3 January after their match at Chesham United was postponed last weekend due to a frozen pitch. No such worries the Yeomans Community Stadium, Longmead though as Tonbridge play on their FIFA Quality Pro 3G pitch which has been used by children from Slade Primary School weekly and for local schools tournaments.

Let's have loads of Slade representation at Longmead tomorrow, cheer on the boys and;

Come on You Angels!



Maidstone Grammar School
for Girls

Non sibi sed omnibus

MGGS Year 5 Taster Lessons!



We are excited to announce the release of dates for our next **Year 5 Taster Lesson!** These events are a wonderful opportunity for both parents and students to experience the vibrant community and outstanding education offered at Maidstone Grammar School for Girls (MGGS).

Give your daughter the chance to ignite her curiosity with our interactive Taster Sessions. These sessions are a fantastic way for Year 5 students to get a taste of life at MGGS:

- **A Medley of MFL**
Wednesday, 4th February 2026
4.00pm - 5.00pm
Girls will be introduced to French at MGGS. At MGGS Year 7 students currently study two language options, French and also either Spanish or German.

How to Book

Booking a place is quick and easy! Simply visit our [online booking page](#) secure your spot at any of the events. Don't wait too long - spaces fill up fast due to the popularity of these events. Feel free to share this information with friends and classmates, as they, too, are welcome to experience MGGS!

Stay Informed

We will be announcing more **Year 5 Taster Lessons** for the upcoming term soon. Once registered, you will receive regular updates about future events. If your daughter is unable to attend a pre-booked event, please notify us in advance so we can offer the place to another student.

Play 'n Grow
Childcare Ltd.

HOLIDAY CLUB
Angel Centre, Tonbridge

Suitable for those 4-11 years (must be in primary school)

Wednesday 18th and Friday 20th February

Open: 8:30 - 3:30

Soft play, bouncy castle and Trampoline on Wednesday

Arts and craft

Sports

Trip to **Clip 'n Climb** Friday Afternoon

<https://playngrowholidayclub.ipalbookings.com/>

WINNERS OF THE WEEK

TED AND PUP

Attendance: Elmer, Sprite and Hydra Classes

Punctuality: Phoenix Class in Year 4

TIDY CLASSROOMS

As judged by our House Captains

Key Stage 1: Sprite

Key Stage 2: Hippogriff

SUPERSTARS OF THE WEEK



EYFS: Rosie and Rowen

Year 1: Eliza and William



Year 2: Oliver and Thomas

Year 3: Isabella and Jaden



Year 4: Joshua and Jaxon

Year 5: Nicolas and Theo

Year 6: Damien and Rohan

CELEBRATING OUR SCHOOL VALUES

Special congratulations to the following children for earning a certificate from Miss Garrett for demonstrating that they understand and constantly show our school values:

Amelia (Year 5), William (Year 6), Joshua (Year 4) for resilience

Blake (Year 6), Aadhya (Year 5), Nellie (EYFS), Beth (Year 2), Theo (Year 5) for kindness

HOUSE POINTS THIS WEEK

1. Earth - 871 Points
2. Air - 741 Points
3. Fire - 692 Points
4. Water - 663 Points

WALK ON WEDNESDAY

The number of pupils walking, riding or scooting to or part of the way to school through Park and Stride.

Key Stage 1 - Sprite Class (24 out of 30)

Key Stage 2 - Griffin Class (26 out of 30)

TIMES TABLES ROCKSTARS WEEKLY CHAMPIONS

Year 2: Reyona (Gnome)

Year 5: Reuben (Hydra)

Year 3: Joni (Hippogriff)

Year 6: Isaac (Dragon)

Year 4: Jack (Sphinx)



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.

Please try not to book routine medical appointments or holidays (even travel) in school time. You should notify us of any planned absence immediately via attendance@slade.kent.sch.uk

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

Another three way championship win this week and three unfamiliar names on the podium; so special well done to Elmer, Sprite and Hydra Classes for your attendance this week!



Our Attendance Target = 97.0%

Our Attendance This Year = 95.6%

Our Attendance This Week = 96.5%

Attendance Ted This Week

Position	Class	Year Group	Attendance this Week
1	Elmer	EYFS, Mrs Mulhern	98.0%
1	Sprite	Year 2, Mrs Curtis	98.0%
1	Hydra	Year 5, Mr Duffin	98.0%
4	Elf	Year 1, Mrs Hitchcock	97.7%
4	Pixie	Year 1, Mr Clark	97.7%
6	Gnome	Year 2, Mrs Manktelow	97.3%
7	Phoenix	Year 4, Miss Taylor and Miss Maple	97.3%
8	Hippogriff	Year 3, Mr Louth	97.3%
9	Gruffalo	EYFS, Mrs Pearson	97.2%
9	Pegasus	Year 3, Miss Meers and Miss Elliott	96.3%
11	Dragon	Year 6, Mrs Worley	95.0%
12	Sphinx	Year 4, Mrs Burnside	94.3%
13	Griffin	Year 6, Mrs Fordyce	94.0%
14	Wyvern	Year 5, Miss Hall and Mrs Potter	90.7%

Late Children This Week - 75



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.

Punctuality Pup This Week

Well done to all of the classes with no late pupils this week: Phoenix, Dragon

A more regular winner of Punctuality Pup as he returns to Miss Taylor and Miss Maple's Phoenix Class in Year 4 and pip Dragon Class to the prize by having a higher attendance during the week.

An unwanted record though this week with 75 late marks recorded.

SPORTSHALL ATHLETICS

On Wednesday afternoon, we were represented by a near 30 strong team competing at the local schools Sportshall Athletics competition held at Tunbridge Wells Sports Centre.

Arya from Dragon Class was amongst our star performers and she spoke to us for the newsletter yesterday:

'The event was held over 2 days and 4 sessions, Slade were competing on Wednesday afternoon with three other schools, but over the sessions there would have been lots more schools taking part. The first half of the competition saw the running races, both individual and relay which were typically one length of the hall and back - everyone took part in at least one race. In the second half there was a carousel of activities which included speed bounce, javelin, vertical and long jump and chest push. I was very pleased with my own personal performance, especially in the vertical jump where we have to jump high from a standing start with our arms stretching as high as we can. I scored 51, which was one of my best.'

Arya also competes for Tonbridge Athletic Club and has recently taken part in a successful trial to compete for the county team.



'I train with Tonbridge Athletic Club and I was invited to take part in trials for the Kent County team; at the trial we competed individually in pretty much all the same events as we did at the Sportshall Athletics, but all of the races were individual and in addition we also took part in long jump and balance. I was very excited to hear that I had been selected for the Kent team a few days after the trial - especially as I was so nervous when competing as the other athletes there were really great, so the competition to be selected was very tough. I am looking forward to our first indoor training session in March and then to competing in the Spring and Summer.'

Our massive congratulations to Arya for this selection, coming so soon after her similar success with the Kent Cricket trials; we wish you well for the upcoming season.



Thankyou to all of our team at the Sportshall Athletics competition for representing Slade so well all afternoon, and to the parents and carers who took time to take the children to the event and back home again afterwards, making the participation at this event possible. We are very grateful to you all.

September	October	November
		

December	FRIDAY 6TH FEBRUARY	February
		<p>Year 3 Living History Workshop</p> <p>Monday 5 - T&MBC Mayor's Debate</p> <p>Tuesday 10 - Online Safety Day</p> <p>Friday 13 - Last Day of Term 3</p> <p>Monday 16 - Friday 20 - February Break</p> <p>Monday 23 - First Day of Term 4</p> <p>Monday 23 - Bikeability Group 1</p> <p>Tuesday 24 - Bikeability Group 1A</p> <p>Wednesday 25 - Bikeability Group 1B</p> <p>Thursday 26 - Bikeability Group 1C</p> <p>Tuesday 24 - EYFS Godstone Farm Visit</p> <p>Tuesday 24 - Young Voices Concert o2</p>

March	April	May
<p>Thursday 5 - World Book Day</p> <p>Wednesday 11 - Year 4 Maidstone Visit</p> <p>Monday 16 - Bikeability Group 2</p> <p>Tuesday 17 - Bikeability Group 2D</p> <p>Wednesday 18 - Bikeability Group 2E</p> <p>Thursday 19 - Bikeability Group 2F</p> <p>Wednesday 18 - Year 1 Tunbridge Wells Visit</p> <p>Friday 20 - Year 5 Herstmonceux Visit</p> <p>Tuesday 24 - Parent - Teacher Consultations (16:00 - 19:00)</p> <p>Thursday 26 - Parent - Teacher Consultations (16:00 - 19:00)</p> <p>Tuesday 31 - Spring Concert (18:30)</p>	<p>Thursday 2 - Last Day of Term 4</p> <p>Friday 3 - Friday 17 - Easter and Early Summer Holiday</p> <p>Monday 20 - First Day of Term 5</p>	<p>Monday 4 - National Holiday</p> <p>Tuesday 5 - Sphinx Hindu Temple Visit</p> <p>Wednesday 6 - Phoenix Hindu Temple Visit</p> <p>Thursday 7 - Year 3 Leavesden Visit</p> <p>Thursday 7 - Year 6 Activity Week Video Meeting Release</p> <p>Monday 11 - Thursday 14 - KS2 SATs Week</p> <p>Friday 22 - Last Day of Term 5</p>

June	July
<p>Monday 1 - First Day of Term 6</p> <p>Monday 1 - Friday 5 - Multiplication Screening for Year 4 pupils</p> <p>Monday 8 - Friday 12 - Phonics Screening for Year 1 pupils</p> <p>Wednesday 10 - Year 4 Hands on History Workshop</p> <p>Friday 12 - Year 2 Kent Life Visit</p> <p>Thursday 18 - Sports Day</p> <p>Thursday 25 - Reserve Sports Day</p> <p>Tuesday 30 - EYFS26 New Parents Information Meeting</p>	<p>Wednesday 1 - EYFS26 New Parents Information Meeting</p> <p>Thursday 2 - Transition Day</p> <p>Tuesday 7 - Open Evening (17:00 - 19:00)</p> <p>Monday 13 - School Reports Sent to Parents</p> <p>Monday 13 - Year 6 Production (18:30)</p> <p>Wednesday 15 - Year 6 Production (18:30)</p> <p>Friday 17 July - Last Day of Term 6</p>

More information about these events will appear nearer the time.

Events and dates are subject to change

[Full Online Calendar](#)

[2025/26 Term Dates](#)

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

Slade PTA

Slade PTA

pta@slade.kent.sch.uk

Wraparound

Yeti's Wraparound: Childcare Voucher questions and all General Enquiries

yetis@slade.kent.sch.uk

Sport and Activity

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

sportsandactivities@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 Emma's Kitchen

emma@emmaskitchen.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

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

Payments

School Dinners

School Dinners provided by Emma's Kitchen 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 £2.60 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 £5.25 per session After School Club is charged at £5.25 per session:
 Session 1 (15:30 - 16:30), Session 2 (16:30 - 17:30), Session 3 (17:30 - 18:00 Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday Only)
 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.