



SLADE

PRIMARY SCHOOL

Friday 5 June 2026

Term 6, Issue 1

Dear Parents and Families,

I hope you all had a wonderful half-term break and were able to enjoy the fantastic weather we were lucky enough to have. Sunshine during a school holiday always feels like a bonus, and it was lovely to hear from the children how they had made the most of it! The weather has certainly taken a different turn this week, with cooler temperatures and a number of drizzly days reminding us that we are, after all, in England! With this in mind, please ensure that your child comes to school each day with a waterproof coat or suitable outerwear. We still have a number of children arriving without appropriate clothing, and as the weather can change very quickly, it is important that they are prepared for outdoor play and activities.

Many of you will have noticed from the playground that the main school gates have now been reinstated and that work on the new building is almost complete, remaining very much on schedule. On Monday, Ms Westwood (School Business Manager) and I met with representatives from Integra and KCC to carry out the official 'snagging' process. There are only a handful of minor issues left for the contractors to address before we can arrange the final handover.

We are absolutely delighted with how the building has turned out. It blends beautifully with the existing school site and has been thoughtfully designed to complement the character of the school. The internal space is bright, spacious, and incredibly versatile, and we are all looking forward to making use of it in the near future. If everything continues as planned, we hope that parents and families attending our Open Evening later this term will have the opportunity to take a look inside and see the finished result for themselves!

Back in school, the week has been very much a case of business as usual as the children have settled quickly and positively back into their routines following the half-term break. It has been lovely to see classrooms buzzing with learning and to witness the enthusiasm with which the children have returned to their learning.

Looking ahead, next week promises to be a particularly busy and exciting one across the school. Our Year 4 children will be taking part in a History workshop on Wednesday, bringing their learning about the Ancient Maya to life through a range of engaging activities and experiences. On Thursday, we will welcome an external speaker who will be working with the children across the school from EYFS to Year 6 to promote fire safety awareness and help them understand how to stay safe in and around the home and community. The week will conclude with an exciting trip for Year 2 on Friday, as they travel to Kent Life in Maidstone to enrich their learning through hands-on experiences and exploration.

As always, there is a great deal happening across the school, and we are grateful for your continued support in helping the children make the most of these opportunities.

Have a lovely weekend!

Viki

Monday 8 June - Friday 12 June

- Year 1 Phonics Screening - email sent on Monday to parents in Year 1 refers

Monday 8 June

- Year 5 and 6 Dynamo Cricket. Details known to participants

Tuesday 9 June

- Pegasus Class Swimming

Wednesday 10 June

- Year 4 Mayan Day (In school workshop) with Hands on History
- Leigh Academy Tonbridge to visit new Year 7 pupils
- Elmer Class Forest School

Thursday 11 June

- Pegasus Class Forest School
- Hippogriff Class Swimming
- Kent Fire and Rescue talks to all yeargroups

Friday 12 June

- Year 2 Educational Visit to Kent Life, Maidstone
- Hippogriff Class Forest School

Looking Further Ahead?

Our yearly planner can be found on Page 13 of today's newsletter and online via [the school website](#).

SUMMER PART TWO, ON

Welcome back after a week of glorious weather over the bank holiday and half-term week. We hope you all had a lovely break as we gear up for a packed term of activities and learning all the way through to the end of term on Friday 22 July.

Notable dates include:

Week beginning 8 June - Year 1 Phonics Screening

Wednesday 10 June - Year 4 Mayan Day in school

Thursday 11 June - Kent Fire and Rescue visit to Slade

Friday 12 June - Year 2 Educational Visit to Kent Life, Maidstone

Wednesday 17 June - Class and Group Photographs by Matthew Walker

Thursday 18 June - Sports Day (See Page 10)

Friday 19 June - Year 5 Educational Visit to Folkestone

Sunday 21 June to Wednesday 24 June - Year 6 Residential Activity Week, Ashford

Friday 26 June - NHS Vision Screening for EYFS pupils

Thursday 2 July - Transition Day - Time in next year's classes!

Thursday 9 July - Kent Police visit to Year 6

Friday 10 July - Year 6 Haysden Hike

Monday 13 July and Wednesday 15 July - Year 6 Production of Oliver - Ticket details out soon

Monday 13 July - Leavers' and End of Year Assembly at EM Forster Theatre

Wednesday 15 July - Year 4 Haysden Hike

Friday 17 July - Last Day of Term 6

STATUTORY ASSESSMENTS IN YEAR 4 AND YEAR 1

This week, our Year 4 children have been taking part in the national Multiplication Screening assessments. The Year 4 teaching team are very proud of how the children have performed in the assessments, especially given the time pressure that forms part of the test. Individual results to the Multiplication Tables screening included in the annual end of year report due to be downloaded in the week of 13 July.

Next week is Year 1's chance to shine as they show off all of their phonics learning from the past two years at school. These assessments take place with a familiar member of staff with all details in the email sent to parents on Monday. Contact your class teacher in the first instance if you have any questions or concerns

WELCOME TO SLADE, JUAN

We would like to welcome Juan to Slade, who joined us this week in Year 1. We extend that welcome to all of Juan's family, with who we hope to share a long, happy and successful relationship.



MUSIC WITH MADELEINE



We are delighted to hear that Madeleine Butcher will be returning in September to continue her series of private lessons for children who wish to learn to play the violin or the piano.

You do not need to have any experience playing an instrument to begin - just a eagerness to give this new skill a try.

Madeleine visits Slade each week and has spaces available for September for children currently in Year 1-5 (Year 2-6 from the next school year).

To find out more and to book, just drop Madeleine an email to madeleine.butcher@icloud.com

SNAGGING AT SLADE

We took one step closer to the transfer of ownership of our new building on Monday as Business Manager Jill Westwood and Headteacher Viki Garrett were walked around the site and inside the new rooms by Integra Buildings' head of site Vic Andrews as they conducted the snagging session alongside members of the project team from Kent County Council.

Snagging is a crucial quality control process that occurs towards the end of a construction project. It involves a thorough inspection to identify any defects, incomplete tasks, or quality issues that need to be addressed before the final handover. The primary goal of snagging is to ensure that the property meets the required standards and specifications, providing a safe and functional environment for its occupants

There are only a few minor 'snags' to iron out, which Vic and his team are already putting right before the final handover ceremony in a couple of weeks.



GREEN RANGERS WORKING PARTY

Miss Hall was very happy to share Tuesday afternoon with her Year 5 Green Rangers as they took part in their regular start of term working party.

They helped to clear some bramble from the pathways in order to make the Forest School fully accessible - they always work with such keenness and Miss Hall describes them as 'such a pleasure to spend the afternoon with.'



COLOUR IN MOTION, TUNBRIDGE WELLS

Last night, Slade took part in a wonderful exhibition show at the Assembly Hall Theatre in Tunbridge Wells which showcased the dance and cheerleading talent throughout schools in the district.

In total 14 schools took part in front of a full house at the local venue with each school performing one dance and one cheerleading routine all with a colour theme.

It was a fantastic evening's entertainment for everyone, especially those representing our school after their tuition at one of our regular Activity Clubs run by Lauren Mersh at Trinity Dance.

The performers have been practising hard for many weeks to perfect their routines as these pictures show from their last in school rehearsal that took place on Wednesday. What the pictures can't show is the energy, concentration and passion that they all had for their show.

Congratulations to you all for magnificent performances in both your routines: [Gold \(Spandau Ballet\)](#) and [Blue \(Da Ba Dee\) by Eiffel 65](#).



COOKING WITH BSL!

Tesco has launched its 'Now We're Cooking' campaign, which is designed to promote accessibility and inclusivity in the kitchen.



Now We're Cooking features 100 popular Tesco recipes in more accessible formats. They are re-written with shorter steps, precise detail and timings, plus new accessible cooking tips. They're ideal if you're searching for easy dinners, flavoursome fakeaways, throw-together traybakes or something sweet.



Visit the Tesco website by clicking the link below to view and listen to the accessible recipe ebook, request a braille version and see the BSL and closed caption versions: [Tesco Real Food - Home](#)

Watch the ad here: [Now We're Cooking](#)

KEEPING SAFE ON THE RAILWAY

Recently, the children across the school have watched age related videos promoting safety around the rail network.

The charity behind the vital message - Rail Safe Friendly - are keen for families to be aware of their work and how we can all help to keep each other safe on and around the railway.



You can find out more by visiting the Rail Safe Friendly website:

[The Rail Safe Friendly Programme - Rail Safe Friendly](#)



Discover our FREE rail safety videos and keep your children safe by visiting railsafefriendly.com

THE RAIL SAFE FRIENDLY PROGRAMME

The Rail Safe Friendly programme has educated over **3 million young people** on the dangers of the railways.





DON'T LET YOUR CHILDREN BECOME THE NEXT STATISTIC



"I implore you to listen to Harrison's story"

Simon Frazer, Principal, Guilsborough Academy

According to the **ORR Report**, April 23 - March 24 on UK railways:

12

people died in accidents while trespassing

58%

were struck by a train or tram

42%

were electrocuted

According to **Rail Safe Friendly**, July 25:

120+

companies support the programme

11,000+

schools in the UK have engaged

20,000+

UK schools still need to be reached

INDEPENDENCE AT HOME



Designated Safeguarding Lead, Mrs Stephens.

Developing independence is an important part of growing up and plays a key role in children's confidence, resilience and wellbeing. When children are encouraged to do things for themselves, they learn valuable life skills and develop a sense of responsibility. As parents and carers, it can sometimes be quicker and easier to do things for our children. However, allowing them opportunities to practise tasks independently helps them build confidence and prepares them for future challenges.

How You Can Encourage Independence at Home:

Give Children Age-Appropriate Responsibilities

Simple tasks such as tidying away toys, packing their school bag, laying the table or helping with household chores can help children feel capable and valued.

Encourage Problem-Solving

When your child encounters a difficulty, try asking questions such as:

- "What do you think you could do?"
- "What have you tried already?"
- "Who could help you if you need support?"

This helps children develop confidence in their own abilities.

Establish Routines

Consistent routines help children learn to manage their own responsibilities. Encouraging them to organise their belongings, prepare for the next school day and follow a bedtime routine promotes independence and self-management.

Allow Children to Make Choices

Offering simple choices, such as selecting their clothes, choosing a book to read or deciding between healthy snacks, helps children develop decision-making skills.

Praise Effort, Not Just Success

Recognise your child's efforts and perseverance, even when things do not go perfectly. This helps them understand that learning new skills takes time and practice.

Why Independence Matters

Children who are encouraged to be independent often:

- Develop greater self-confidence.
- Build resilience when faced with challenges.
- Learn responsibility and accountability.
- Feel more prepared for transitions and new experiences.
- Develop important life skills that support future success.

Remember, independence develops gradually. Small steps and consistent encouragement can make a big difference in helping children become confident, capable and resilient individuals.

Family Challenge of the Week: Ask your child to take responsibility for one new task at home and celebrate their success together.

JOLLY HOLIDAY FOR OUR DANCE TRIO

The Hawth Theatre in Crawley was the host venue last weekend for this year's South East Regional finals of the All England Dance Championships.

Taking part after qualifying in the local heats of the competition were Tonbridge based Associates Dance which includes Slade pupils Harriet in Year 5, Clara in Year 4 and Elliot also in Year 4.

The Slade trio won gold for their junior musical theatre group dance, Jolly Holiday which means that they will go on to compete at the All England Dance National Finals in July to be held at the Winter Garden and Congress Centre in Eastbourne.

They also came runners up for their Oliver junior character group dance, which they are taking to the National Finals too. What a weekend!



Everyone at Slade is very proud and pleased for Harriet, Clara and Elliot. They were very excited to tell us about the weekend of dance in West Sussex. Clara described the scene for the group dances: 'The stage at the theatre was huge, we danced for Associates Dance School in Tonbridge which is a great place to learn how to dance - we danced to Jolly Holiday from Mary Poppins and also two songs from Oliver; Food Glorious Food and Pick a Pocket. I enjoy listening to songs from the musicals.'

Elliot had the extra thrill of qualifying for the finals in Eastbourne in the solo category as well. He vividly remembers the feeling going out onto stage, 'The atmosphere backstage was great, very busy with dancers from all categories nervously doing their last practice. My nerves were like lava in a volcano, building up ready to explode - but when you are out there everything seems dark in front of you - there is a large audience, but you can not see them and the judges are all busy making notes on their i-pads. For my solo dance, I danced to a track from Hook. It is a very characterful dance, with lots of emotion and anger at the beginning as the character smashes a watch as he is frustrated at his father. By the end of the dance, the performance turns on its head and it all ends happily with a game of baseball.

We're so proud of our superstars and wanted to share their success story with you with many thanks to Mrs Bayley for sharing this fantastic photograph at the show in Crawley last weekend.

For more information about All England Dance visit their website:

[AED Dance Competition - All England Dance](#)

SPORTS DAY: THURSDAY 18 JUNE

Parents, Carers, friends and family are all invited to our annual Sports Day, held on the school field and all going to plan weather wise on Thursday 18 June.

EYFS, Key Stage 1 (Year 1 and 2) and Year 3

The event for children in EYFS, Key Stage 1 and Year 3 takes place in the morning between 09:15 and 11:15. Anyone who wishes to come to support should enter via the Hawden Road Gate after dropping off the children in the normal places at the normal time. The gates will be opened shortly after 9:00 and will be manned throughout the event for those that need to arrive later or leave earlier than the scheduled finish.

Carousel Events will include Hurdles, Egg and Spoon, Bean Bag Throws, Obstacle Course, Javelin, Space Hopper Bounce, Football Dribble and Shuttle Runs before the traditional 100m running races and relays with the results and presentations taking us to the finish time of approximately 11:15.

Years 4, 5 and 6

The event for children in Year 4, 5 and 6 will take place in the afternoon between 13:30 and 15:00. Anyone who wishes to come to support should enter via the Hawden Road Gate. The gates will be opened at 13:15 and will be manned throughout the event for those that need to arrive later or leave earlier than the scheduled finish.

Carousel Events will include Hockey Dribble, Hurdles, Ladder, Speed Bounce, Bench Circuit, Javelin, Bean Bag Throw and Space Hopper Bounce before the traditional 100m running races and relays with the results and presentations taking us to the finish time of approximately 15:00.



Supporters at both events are positioned in the middle of the track and follow their child's class around the carousel events before watching the races from the inside straight of the track. We ask that supporters do not attempt to cross the track to where the children are waiting or performing.

We look forward to seeing you for Sports Day on 18 June.



In the event of bad weather or forecast bad weather on the day, we will endeavour to make sure parents are informed as early as possible of any postponement or alteration to the scheduled programme- this will be via SMS message as soon as the postponement or alteration is known. The reserve day is Thursday 25 June.

If you have any questions, please contact your class teacher via the class email address in the first instance.

WINNERS OF THE WEEK

TED AND PUP

Attendance: Pegasus Class in Year 3

Punctuality: Gnome Class in Year 2

SUPERSTARS OF THE WEEK



EYFS: Joseph and Ethan

Year 1: Maya and Raisa



Year 2: Beth and Evie

Year 3: Matilda and Theo



Year 4: Elsie and Katie

Year 5: Chris and Sophie

Year 6: Everyone in Griffin & Isaac

HOUSE POINTS THIS WEEK

1. Fire - 457 Points
2. Water - 448 Points
3. Air - 423 Points
4. Earth - 413 Points

TIDY CLASSROOMS

As judged by our House Captains

Key Stage 1: Pixie Class in Year 1

Key Stage 2: Griffin Class in Year 6

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 - Gnome Class (25/30)

Key Stage 2 - Dragon Class (26/30)

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:
Mr Louth for Kindness



TIMES TABLES ROCKSTARS CHAMPIONS



Individual Champions This Week

Year 2: Reno (Gnome) Year 5: Melwyn (Wyvern)

Year 3: Sonny (Pegasus) Year 6: Charlie (Dragon)

Year 4: Isaac (Phoenix)

Summer Class Competition (Current Table)

DAILY MILE TERMLY COMPETITION



Class Champions This Week

Key Stage 1: Sprite (360 Laps)

Key Stage 2: Griffin (1045 Laps)

Summer Competition (Weeks Won)

Key Stage 1: Sprite (3), Gnome, Elf (1)

Key Stage 2: Sphinx (2), Griffin (1)

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.

Congratulations to Pegasus Class in Year 3 for maintaining fantastic attendance this week. Just one session missing with an attendance of 99.6%!



Late Children This Week = 18



Our Attendance Target = 97.0%

Our Attendance This Year = 95.8%

Our Attendance This Week = 95.6%

Attendance Ted This Week

Position	Class	Year Group	Attendance this Week
1	Pegasus	Year 3, Miss Meers and Miss Elliott	99.6%
1	Gnome	Year 2, Mrs Manktelow	98.8%
3	Pixie	Year 1, Mr Clark	98.3%
4	Sphinx	Year 4, Mrs Burnside	97.9%
5	Hydra	Year 5, Mr Duffin	97.9%
5	Dragon	Year 6, Mrs Worley	97.5%
7	Hippogriff	Year 3, Mr Louth	97.1%
7	Griffin	Year 6, Mrs Fordyce	96.7%
9	Elmer	EYFS, Mrs Mulhern	96.1%
10	Wyvern	Year 5, Miss Hall and Mrs Potter	95.4%
11	Phoenix	Year 4, Miss Taylor and Miss Maple	94.6%
12	Gruffalo	EYFS, Mrs Pearson	90.0%
12	Sprite	Year 2, Mrs Shrimpton	89.6%
14	Elf	Year 1, Mrs Hitchcock	89.1%

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: Gnome, Sphinx, Griffin, Wyvern, Gruffalo

It's been a while, but previous regular winners of Punctuality Pup, Gnome Class, are back on the podium as class with the highest attendance and zero late marks. Well done to all of the classes with no late marks this week. On time and ready to learn!

September	October	November
		
December	January	February
		
March	April	May
		

June	July
<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>Saturday 11 - PTA Music Festival (15:00 - 18:30)</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:
 After School Club 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.