

Newsletter

Issue 1, October 2023



WE ARE OFFICIALLY OPEN!

We were delighted to celebrate the official opening of Sladewood Academy and thank all those who have been part of the £1 million refurbishment project. We have a wonderful team in a spectacular setting with Headteacher, Katy Hanna, saying: "I would like to say a big thank you to all the staff in making term one as smooth as possible for the children. It has been an incredible 8-week journey for everyone. When walking around the classrooms I can see lots of happy but tired children who are ready for their half term break. I hope the children have a truly fabulous break and maybe enjoy some Halloween activities or fireworks." We would love to see some photos of what the children have been up to over the break.



*Katy Hanna, Headteacher, with pupils at the opening ceremony
Picture: Matt Bigwood, Stroud Times*

"Finally, I would like to say a big thank you to all of you for your help and support during our first term. The Sladewood community feels very special and this is largely due to your involvement. Enjoy your half term and we will see you all on Monday 6th November for term two."

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MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD



Welcome to the first official newsletter of Sladewood Academy. Wow what a term we have had! It is hard to believe that the children have only been here a term. The journey they have been on is incredible and I am so proud of each and every one of them for their personal progress and achievements. This term has been about developing relationships and a sense of belonging with their class groups. Which, when I go around the groups, I can really see a class community developing that feels safe and all the children becoming more aware of their peers. There are some wonderful friendships developing which is fantastic to see. The children have been involved in our opening events, harvest activities, 'All Sorts' (PE sessions), celebration assemblies and eating in the dining hall. For many of the children these are all new experiences.

As a school, our next projects will be to develop a sensory garden trail and forest school area as the children really do thrive in the outdoors. On this note our sensory room is nearly complete — watch out on dojo for some photos of the finished space.

“Our next projects will be to develop a sensory garden trail and forest school area”

I would like to thank everyone for the donations they have made to our foodbank contribution. The community hub on site is really going to benefit from this.

I would also like to thank you all for the kind donations for our library area — we have been blown away by the generosity of you all. We are still working on developing our outdoor areas. We are aiming to create a sensory trail and some art areas outside. If you have anything that you think that would be of benefit to our playgrounds, we would really appreciate it. Children from Badgers have been giving me some great ideas of what to include for the future.

Katy Hanna

PEDESTRIAN GATE ACCESS

We are working towards opening our pedestrian gate so that it is safer for all those who walk into the school grounds. We will keep you updated on the progress of this.

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LEARNING CONVERSATIONS

It was lovely to see so many of you at our recent learning conversations and speak about both the progress within and outside of school. During our learning conversations we will always try and put some other information on such as Makaton, OT or information from CAHMS. If there is anything you would value as parents and carers then please let us know and we will aim to include in our next evenings.

Thank you to all those who have returned feedback following the learning conversations. If you have not already done this, please can we ask you to complete this. We really value your feedback to understand what is going well and what we could do better.





The Pied Piper Appeal have delivered our 8-seater bus

HARVEST FESTIVAL

We marked the Harvest Festival with a visit from Steve Saville, a Curate from Stroud Parish Churches. Steve visited each class in turn giving each child a vegetable but poor Steve only had a stone! He wanted to make soup but needed help from his new friends – all of whom were willing to share their vegetables with him to help him. Steve reinforced that Harvest is time for collecting and sharing food with others, and then we sang a silly song which made everyone laugh! It was wonderful to see how welcoming all of the children were, and, how well they were able to manage a visit from a new person. Steve will become a regular visitor here at Sladewood and it is likely that you will have chance to meet him during future celebrations and festivals. For now though, we would like to say a huge 'thank you' to Steve from all of us here at Sladewood – you really helped us to understand the meaning of Harvest!



NEXT TERM

At the start of term 2, you will be sent the curriculum overview for your child's class so that you are aware of what your child is learning. We will be taking part in 'Children in Need Day' on the 17th November with the children participating in a free dress day (with a donation). We hope to include a Christmas celebration to which parent/carers will be invited — details to follow.

BUS & THE PIED PIPER

We would like to say a big thank you to The Pied Piper Appeal who have supported us with lots of projects to get the school up and running this year. They have funded our EYFS garden, sensory room and more recently our school bus. We are very excited to be able to take the children out on school trips in the coming terms. Watch this space for Trips and Visits.

REMEMBRANCE DAY:

Poppies for sale — if you would like to make a donation, we have some poppies for sale in our reception area. This can be sent in with your child and we will send them home with something or you are very welcome to pop into reception to make a donation yourself.

SCHOOL DINNERS:

After half term school dinners will be cooked on site in our brand new kitchen. The new menu is attached. Please continue to support your children in making their lunch choices and letting the class team know.



CLASSES

We have opened the school with four woodland themed classes.

In **Mice** the pupils are learning lots through play and sensory activities.

In **Hedgehogs** the pupils are starting to sit more for some Bucket introductions and then complete short work activities but also with lots of learning through play.

Our **Squirrels** are also learning a lot from Bucket activities and individualised work-based activities.

Finally, our **Badgers** are beginning to see some more structured work-based tasks with lots of motivating activities set up around this.

All the classes have a total communication approach taking into account sensory processing needs and occupational therapy assessments.

MICE CLASS UPDATE

What a fantastic start to the year the children (and staff) in Mice class have had! Our topic this term has been 'Marvellous Me' and we have been thinking about who is in our family and what we like and dislike. We have been learning new routines and making new friends. All of the children have already made huge progress in so many areas and are engaging in more and more every day!



A typical day in Mice class involves plenty of opportunities for playing, singing and dancing. These activities allow the children to explore sharing and turn taking, develop fine and gross motor skills, improve listening skills and, most importantly, have lots of fun! We all like to keep active with regular movement breaks, outdoor sessions and Active skills too. Developing and supporting communication underpins everything we do in the classroom so we have all been learning Makaton signs and finding other ways to communicate what we want, using words, photos, pictures and symbols to make choices.

HEDGEHOG CLASS UPDATE

We have all settled into Hedgehogs class fantastically and have made some lovely relationships with our peers and



adults! This term we have enjoyed learning through our topic of Mr Men and Little Miss. We have helped Mr Strong smash pumpkins, made bouncy ball paintings with Mr Bounce and have explored slime experiments with Mr Messy. We have also been learning about the concept 'who' and have enjoyed playing silly games to find who in the class such as 'who is wearing the hat?', 'who is hiding in the box?' and some of us used our understanding to complete silly 'who' sentences. Finally, we have all loved exploring our likes and dislikes in our food tech lessons.



SQUIRREL CLASS UPDATE

Is it really half-term already? Time flies when you're having fun in Squirrels Class! This term, we have focused on setting in to our school routine. We've also spent time learning about kindness and applying this when making new friends. Our topic of 'the senses' has involved touching, tasting and smelling different items – some we liked and some we definitely did not like!

We've loved learning about the story 'Brown Bear, Brown Bear' and have learned to identify and build some description of characters. We have been developing our knowledge of different ways to communicate

using Makaton, symbols and pictures. Well done, Squirrels – you have all had a successful first term at Sladewood Academy and we are so proud of you!



“Blindfolded drawing and tower building was a particular highlight in Badger class”.

BADGER CLASS UPDATE

Wow, what an amazing first term Badger Class! The children have done so well to settle into their new school. This term, we have been on a Bear Hunt in English, with Badger Class thinking of new settings with some fantastic adjectives to describe these. We have also enjoyed being scientists in Our World, and have been learning about the senses. Blindfolded drawing and tower building was a particular highlight in this subject!

We have also been learning how to play and work together in PSHE, which has helped us to get to know each other and learn that by working together, we can have fun and thrive! Badger class have also

created some wonderful artwork, from printing with string and paint to mark making to different sounds. Well done Badger Class, what a start to your time at Sladewood!



THE CHAMWELL CENTRE

Based at The Milestone School campus, Longford Lane, Gloucester GL2 9EU there are activities aimed at children and young people with disabilities and additional needs taking place year round.

They have a 3-tier soft play area open daily during half term week and a Hydro pool (bookable with membership which is £10 for a year). The 15 metre pool has a maximum depth of 1.35 metres and is heated to 34 degrees.

For more information,

01452 767700

www.chamwellcentre.org.uk



The **Chamwell Centre** Charity
Overcoming disability in Gloucestershire



HALF TERM - FRIENDLY ACCESSIBLE FUN! for children & young people with disabilities & their families

TUE OCT 31 TWIT TWOO OWL EXPERIENCE

A hands on, fully accessible OWL EXPERIENCE.

Meet & fly owls Wally, Hibou & Henry

1 PM - 2 PM **£11 EACH**

TUE OCT 31 BOCCIA - HALLOWEEN

No experience necessary for this fully accessible sport hosted by National champion Archie

3 PM - 4 PM **£4 EACH**

THU NOV 2ND FUN & FANCY DRESS

Lots of accessible fun, games & fancy dress for Halloween.

Tin Can Alley, Giant Connect 4, Bow & Arrows, Ball games & lots more from 'Goals Beyond Grass'

11 AM - 3 PM - **FREE!**

FRI NOV 3RD BALL FUN & GAMES

'With The Ball Coaching' are bringing lots of fun and ball games - fully accessible!

10 AM - 1 PM - **FREE!**

BOOKING IS REQUIRED FOR **ALL** EVENTS AS SPACES ARE NUMBERED.
CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED AT ALL TIMES

Email Bookings@chamwellcentre.org.uk or call 01452 767700

OUR CAFE WILL BE OPEN DURING THE WEEK
WITH HALLOWEEN TREATS TOO!



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