

Newsletter Issue 2, December 2023



MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD

WOW! I continue to be blown away by the pupils and how well they are doing in school. It has been a pleasure to watch them grow and develop as individuals and as classes. They are making positive strides in their learning and I am sure will continue to do so. We have had some lovely experiences this term including music and signing sessions with Ceilidh-Jo, Children In Need Day where everyone enjoyed wearing their pyjamas to school along with all the Christmas festivities.

I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy Next Year and I look forward to welcoming the Sladewood Community back in the new year.

Once again, many thanks for all your continued support, I feel truly blessed to have such a wonderful community surrounding Sladewood. *Merry Christmas from Team Sladewood.*

Katy Hanna



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STAFFING UPDATE



I would like to take this opportunity to update you with some staffing news, unfortunately we will be losing our Assistant Head: Sophie Collier Hall and Badgers class teacher: Ali Bebbington at the end of this term. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their hard work and commitment to Sladewood Academy and the children within their care. I wish them all the best and success for the next steps in their careers.

To update you our new Badgers teacher will be Leanne Davies who will be starting with us at the start of January, next term. We have also recruited a new Assistant Head teacher, Kathryn Baker, who will be starting full time with us at Easter. However, she is able to work with us each Thursday from January. I am sure you will support me in welcoming them to the team.

We are still looking to make a permanent appointment for the Squirrels team but the class will be working closely with Flossy Kline and Rachael Daniel who have covered PPA within this class. I will continue to keep you informed on the developments of the squirrel class. If you have any questions about staffing within school then please do get in touch.

“Our CAMHs nurses kindly donated some fantastic musical instruments”

NEXT TERM STARTS TUESDAY 9 JAN

Just a reminder that the children return to school on Tuesday, 9th January 2024 as there is an INSET day for staff only on Monday 8th January.

TERM 3 ENDS THURS 8 FEBRUARY

Term 3 will finish on Thursday, 8th February 2024 due to a staff INSET day on Friday 9th Feb.

FULL 2023/24 TERM DATES

Available on the website
— parents tab.

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MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS DONATION

Earlier this term, our CAMHs nurses kindly donated some fantastic musical instruments. The children have enjoyed using these in class with our music visitor this term learning to play quietly and loudly and always with much joy. Thank you!



CHRISTMAS CRAFTS

During our Christmas week it was lovely to be able to invite you in to create a Christmas craft with your child. I know the children all really enjoyed being able to share their class with you. The teachers are so thankful of the continued support you all provide.



CHRISTMAS DINNER

It was great to see the children sitting and eating their first Christmas Dinner at Sladewood - a very special moment for everyone who is part of Team Sladewood and to top things off we had a very special visitor to each of the classes. Sleigh bells jingled and Christmas songs were sung making us all feel very festive. Thank you for finding the time to visit us Father Christmas!



SLADEWOOD COFFEE MORNING

On Friday 2nd February, Sladewood will be hosting a coffee morning with support from CAMHS. All of our parents/carers will be invited to arrive from 9.30am for a chance to meet and chat to others before the first talk at 10am. Advice will be shared on how to support your child's sleep and diet, as well as an opportunity to ask questions and share your own experiences. We hope to see many of you there and look forward to welcoming you back into school. Further details on Dojo.

ODD SOCK DAY:

We have had our odd sock day and Children In Need days this term. The classes all did some fantastic activities around being kind and recognising Children in Need and Pudsey bear.



£59 raised. THANK YOU SLADEWOOD!



CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

The children all looked fabulous in their Christmas Jumpers and we managed to raise £18 for the Pied Piper appeal. It has been great to be able to give something back to the Pied Piper who have supported us through opening with our EYFS garden, minibus & sensory room.

COFFEE MORNING Friday 2 FEBRUARY

Diary date—9.30am Friday 2nd February, Sladewood Coffee Morning. Advice will be shared on how to support your child's sleep and diet.



THIS TERM

The children have taken part in music and signing sessions with Ceilidh-Jo.

Children and staff are still signing many of the songs she introduced us too. We hope to continue to work with Ceilidh-Jo in the new year.

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

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

We would like to thank Steve Saville for once again working with our children in running a special story in class for them to learn more about why we celebrate Christmas.

MICE CLASS UPDATE

This term our topic has been 'Once Upon a Time'. We started with the story of Jack and the beanstalk, enjoying watching the story, listening to the book being read to by a grown up and using puppets to remember parts of the story too. Our next story was the Three Little Pigs, we enjoyed the repeated parts in this story, anticipating when they

were coming and even joining in sometimes. We have spent the last couple of weeks learning Nursery Rhymes - Humpty Dumpty, Twinkle Twinkle and Incy Wincy Spider. We enjoyed using puppets to help us remember the rhymes and have been singing them too! This term we welcomed some fun musical sessions from Ceilidh-Jo and Steve and Karen came to tell us a Christmas story.

The children in Mice class are getting better every day at learning the routines and expectations at school, there is a lot to learn and the staff notice how the children are all developing so quickly. Well done Mice class - have a great Christmas!



HEDGEHOG CLASS UPDATE

In Hedgehogs this term we have been learning all about toys that we play with now and toys from the past. We have loved exploring different types of toys in our bucket activities and we have been working on taking turns with toys. Our favourite story about toys that we read in English was about the toy car race which we all re-enacted together! We have also been getting into the Christmas spirit in The Arts and have been practicing our singing and signing to Jingle Bells, which the Hedgehogs are fantastic at! We continued our Christmas activities in RE learning about the Nativity story and our favourite lesson was our Nativity sensory story. The Hedgehogs team wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy new year everyone!



SQUIRREL CLASS UPDATE

Squirrels Class have had another busy half-term! We've enjoyed interactive singing and signing sessions, lots of festive art and craft activities, and more.

Through our topic of 'Belonging', the children have started to develop their understanding of what makes someone a 'friend' and have identified who their special friends are in school.

Squirrels Class have also shared family photos with their friends and enjoyed naming their family members.

Our class book, 'You Choose', has been a real hit - the children have enjoyed finding details within pictures! Squirrels Class, well done on another amazing half-term at Sladewood! We are looking forward to 2024 already!



The children have started to develop their understanding of what makes someone a 'friend'

BADGER CLASS UPDATE



Wow, Badgers Class, what an amazing term we have had! In English, we have made brilliant progress in our reading, writing, speaking and listening. Badger Class loved their Monster Meal topic, and were able to construct and write some disgustingly brilliant sentences for a new Monster Meal recipe. We have also continued to develop our Maths skills, with our counting, addition and subtraction skills continuing to improve. Badger Class have really shown their artistic skills in Product Design and Art, with bird-feeders and Autumn trees made from fallen leaves being particular highlights.

More importantly, Badgers Class have continued to thrive and grow together, with some fantastic friendships forming over the last four months. It has been an absolute pleasure teaching all of

the children in Badgers Class, and I know that they will continue to shine during their time at Sladewood and beyond.



CHRISTMAS 2023

We had very special end of term Christmas celebrations:



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