

Newsletter

Issue 3, February 2024



UPDATE FROM THE HEAD

Wow! What a term the children have had again. It is great to see the children developing friendships and growing in confidence every day. I am so proud when walking around the school about all the achievements they are making.

This term the children have continued to enjoy their class topics, all sorts sessions, taking part in mental health and well being activities, learning about online safety and learning about Shrove Tuesday with Steve. Whilst the term has been short the children's attitude to learning is not.

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

This week we have been thinking about our mental health and wellbeing and being kind during the week. We have really focused on the word "kindness" how this looks and how we show it to one another. The children have all earned some love hearts when we have seen them being kind to one another. We have been thinking about expressing ourselves and our identity during this week.



During this week we also raised money for "place2be" with our theme of express yourself with our non- school uniform day. Thank you all so much for your donations on the day.

NEXT TERM

A few dates to share—7th March is World Book Day; 15th March is Red Nose Day, 18th March is Easter session with Steve Saville. In the last week of term we will hold an event for parents to attend. More details will be shared next term. We will be returning to our school murals which we can't wait to share with you. We look forward to welcoming you all back on **Monday 19th February**.

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STAFFING

As you know Flossy has been covering the Squirrels class and she has been doing a brilliant job within the group and the children continue to thrive and impress me with their learning in all areas every day. I would like to thank Flossy for stepping in to cover. We have recently interviewed and will update you early next term.

As some of you may know Jeanine broke her arm just before Christmas. I would like to thank all the staff who have stepped in to cover Jeanine. Unfortunately, Jeanine's break was worse than originally thought, so she will not be back with us quite yet but we are continuing to miss her and wish her a speedy recovery. To support with class, cover and needs within the classroom and following recent interviews for an additional learning partner, we hope to update you in the new term.

Katy



“Attendance at school will have the biggest impact on a child's learning in all areas of their development”

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

As you know nationally there is a big drive on school attendance. Attendance at school will have the biggest impact on a child's learning in all areas of their development whether it be academic learning or learning to become more independent and making friends. We know that it can be tricky at times to get children to school but we are here to help and support. So, if the children are finding things hard- let us know and we can try and support with wider professionals linked to the school.

PSA (FRIENDS OF SLADEWOOD)

Further to the recent dojo about a Parent and Staff Association, we are really keen to get this up and running. We need a parent team who would be happy to run this and raise funds for the school and organise school-based events. Please see attached document for information about PSAs. We would really value working with a parent team on this.

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We understand that children can be ill and when they are, the best place for them is at home, but if they are well enough to be in school, we love to see them here. We understand that medical appointments can need to happen but where possible if you can arrange them for the holidays this would really support the teaching and learning for our pupils. For those medical appointments that need to happen in school time please remember we would love to see them before or after if this is possible for you as a family.

Whole school attendance: **Term 1:** 93.39%; **Term 2:** 92.05%; **Term 3:** 92.83%

We have been sharing the class attendance with the children each week, you may have seen some with a special sticker when their class wins. This term, our overall winners of the class attendance are the hedgehogs. They had a special squash and biscuit at snack time.

STEVE SAVILLE

I would like to thank Steve again for engaging the children in his Shrove Tuesday story where he visited all the classes. The children really enjoyed his session and are looking forward to when he comes back again at Easter.



OUTDOOR SPACES

As you all know we have fabulous grounds within school and we are now starting to look at making better use of our spaces for learning outdoors. This will begin with successfully securing a grant for a sensory garden area for the children to use. We are now trying to finalise quotes for this project but we hope our new space will be up and running by the end of the year.

In the future we are looking to develop a forest school area and a horticulture area for planting and growing. At the end of this academic year, we will be looking at our journey to becoming an OPAL school for playtime and some initial work is being done with our play practitioners on the playground. If you know of any companies/ organisations who would be willing to support us within this area then please get in touch.

I would also like to thank Bethany and Sarah who have supported us to secure a £500 grant from The Ernest Cook Trust to supply us with waterproofs and wellies so we can enjoy the outdoors in all-weather.

ONLINE SAFETY DAY

On the 7th February we also focused on online safety day, this is where we thought about how we can be safe online and ensuring we are kind to one another online too. We starting to get the children to think about how technology can be wonderful but also dangerous.

Our top tip is to check you filters at home when using the internet. Filters can easily be applied which will help your child to be safer when using technology.

SLADEWOOD'S COFFEE MORNING

I would like to thank Flossy for all of her work in linking with CAHMS and being proactive in putting on events /mornings that can support us as a school community. It was great to have the advice from the two CAMHS nurses, Leigh and Helen, as well as the opportunity to share and discuss any concerns around children's sleep and diet. It was fantastic to see so many parents attend and share their experiences and ideas. If you need anymore support or advice - please do get in touch.



SCHOOL MILK

Unfortunately, due to insufficient interest at this time we are unable to offer subsidised school milk. As the school grows, we will revisit this option. Responses to the survey : Yes (7) ; No (11) ; No Response (14).

BREAKFAST CLUB:

Sladewood's Breakfast Club is up and running—with drop off at school each morning from 8am. Currently priced at £2.00 per session per child (those entitled to FSM can attend for free) . Please let your class teacher know if you would like your child to start attending.

SCHOOL DINNERS:

After half term we have a new school lunch menu running for 5 weeks (sent to you via Dojo). All our school dinners are freshly prepared on site and are a great way to introduce healthy, nutritious foods to your child. All pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are eligible for Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM) with some opting for a taster portion to accompany their packed lunch from home.

For our Y3 and Y4 pupils lunches are priced at £2.54 per day.



MICE CLASS UPDATE

This term the children in Mice class have been busy learning all about healthy foods - we have used books to spark interest. We started our topic with 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar'. The children tasted the healthy fruits that the caterpillar eats and used puppets to help tell the story. 'Supertato' came next with lots of fun, painting with vegetables and tasting lots of different vegetables too, boiled, roast, mashed...thank you Carly! Some of the children liked pretending that Evil Pea was coming and even made their very own Supertato to save the day!

The children have been engaging with activities more and more, their communication skills are improving every day, and we are seeing them develop in all areas. Keep up the good work Mice Class.



HEDGEHOG CLASS UPDATE

This term in Hedgehogs we have loved learning with the theme of 'Room on the broom'. We have been describing the different images from the story using our colourful semantics and have been practicing our fine motor skills with lots of witchy tasks – one of our favourites was making our own frogs to go on the broom using playdough. In maths we have been exploring shape and pattern and have made movement patterns, fruit kebab patterns and we have made patterns using musical instruments! In our world we have been learning about forces and motion. We all really enjoyed riding the witches broom forwards, backwards, fast and slow. We then looked at what would be perfect flying weather on our broom and explored a range of different weathers using sensory trays. One of the highlights this term was learning about the people who help us and the Hedgehog's were fantastic firefighters. They used our water sprayers to put out our pretend fires, what a great team they were!



SQUIRREL CLASS UPDATE

In Squirrels class, we have been learning 'All About Animals!' Everyone has enjoyed reading 'Dear Zoo' and we have all been joining in with the names of the animals. The children have enjoyed looking at pictures of animals from the farm, the zoo, the ocean and the arctic and are able to recognise so many of these. We have been learning about where the animals live (in the sea, on land or in the sky) and what they need to survive. In our PSHE lessons, we have engaged with the 5 Ways to Wellbeing and have enjoyed participating in connecting, giving and active activities with our friends. We have also been learning to identify our mouths and have explored many different feelings, such as hot, cold and fizzy.



BADGER CLASS UPDATE

Badgers class have had a fantastic first half-term with their new teacher. We have been developing our communication, language and interaction skills through sensory objects, and had lots of sensory tuff trays to explore.

Badgers have been working extremely hard in English, where we have been writing a recount of our Christmas Holidays- it has been lovely to see what everyone got up to. We have also been working hard in Maths, learning about different fractions and playing lots of fraction games. The children have really enjoyed our RE lessons this half term, where we have been learning about ceremonies. We even re-enacted our own wedding in class, which was super fun. Well done Badger Class, you are doing great work and we can't wait to see what the next half term brings!



NATIONAL PLAY DAY 2024

A free day of play for all alongside Play Gloucestershire's Play Rangers. There will be den building, arts and crafts, sporting activities as well as some risky play and sensory play all with household items that you can replicate. They offer open access free play which means you are free to come and go as much or as little as you want, no fixed activity schedule, just flexible to you. Alongside the Play Rangers there are a few additional activities which will also be free to use.

For more information about this event and more community play sessions over February half-term, see www.playgloucestershire.org.uk



PLAY GLOUCESTERSHIRE'S PLAY RANGERS

FREE

You are invited to join us to celebrate

National Play Day

Wednesday 7th August, 10.30am to 3.30pm
Walls Social Club Field, Gloucester

GL4 3YL what3words ///heads.hush.noted

Our Play Rangers will be onsite for a day of activities, adventure and fun.
Bring a picnic and spend the day

Den Building Sports Pop Up Activities Junk Model Making Inflatables
Trashion Circus Skills Active Spaces Quiet Spaces Climbing Wall

Access to the field is from the carpark. Indoor and outdoor picnic space

To secure your space, contact Neeta by 1st May:

Neeta.Dhanak@gloucestershire.gov.uk or 07961 305916



Thanks to
Gloucestershire
Virtual School for
funding this day

The Virtual School



Our Play Ranger activities take place outdoors in all weathers.

Our Activities are aimed at school aged children. Under 8's are welcome and should be accompanied by an adult.

We believe all children have the right to play. Please talk to us if your child needs additional mobility or other support to enjoy Play Rangers.



Play Gloucestershire

Transforming lives through the power of play
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