

Newsletter

Issue 4, March 2024



UPDATE FROM THE HEAD

Well, where has this 5-week gone! It has been an excellent term and the children are continuing to shine. It has been great to hear more of the children's voices and see them all progressing academically and socially.

This has been a busy 5 weeks for us- starting off with our new school Murals in our reception area, mindfulness corner and library area. We are so pleased with how they look and help us to capture the Sladewood identity (pictures on page 2).

During the Easter holidays we should be getting our sensory Garden and Nurture camp (outdoor learning space) fitted. We will keep you updated on the progress of these projects in the new term. Thanks to the Ernest Cook Trust we now have lots of wellies and water proof clothing in school to support our outdoor learning. We have just been successful for another £500 grant which will be going towards our planting and horticulture areas, hopefully you will see this taking shape in the next terms.

Finally, I would just like to say thank you for all your help & support this term and I wish you and all the children a very Happy Easter and a lovely Easter break. Of course, all members of our community celebrating Eid, I wish you Eid Mubarak.

We look forward to welcoming you all back on the **Monday 8th April**.

Katy Hanna

REMINDERS FOR NEXT TERM

Tuesday 9th and Wednesday 10th of April: Learning conversations - if you have not already done so, please book in a time to talk to your child's teacher. On the evening members from the intervention and SLT team will be around.

Friday 12th April: wear colourful clothes to school. Autism Acceptance week 2nd to 8th April so we will be celebrating on return to school 8th to 12th April, with a colour walk or dance on 12th April.

Thursday 23rd of May: Cattle country trip - more information about this trip will come out next term. Thank you to everyone who is supporting this.

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OUR NEW MURALS

We returned after February half term to our new welcoming and inspiring wall murals in the lobby and library with the creation of our new mindfulness area:



Our new welcoming and inspiring wall murals "Together We Will Thrive"

EASTER EVENTS

On Monday we had the pleasure of having Steve Saville in to share an Easter story with the children. We enjoyed singing Easter songs and washing our feet.



Tuesday saw us have our "Easter craft-a-noon". Thank you so much for attending the invite. It is great being able to share fun afternoons with you as parents and carers alongside the children. It was a lovely way to bring



in the end of the term and it was great to see all the lovely Easter crafts that were made. We did enjoy the Easter egg hunt and I am very pleased to hear the Easter Bunny did appear!



COMIC RELIEF COFFEE & CAKE MORNING

It was fantastic to see some of you at our Coffee and Cake Morning for Comic Relief. In total, we raised £150.50. The cakes were also a "yummy" way to finish the week. Thank you all, for sharing the morning with us and helping us raise some funds.



STAFFING UPDATE

Kathryn, our Assistant Head, is starting full time with us from April. Kathryn has been working with us on a Thursday and has been getting to know all the children and staff. Kathryn will be covering planning time in the Badger class and will be leading on our inclusion and pastoral support.



Kathryn Baker



Lorraine Cooper

Our new class teacher Lorraine will be starting in the Squirrel class. We are looking forward to welcoming Lorraine to the team as an experienced SEND teacher. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Flossy for all of her hard work in the Squirrel class. She has done a marvellous job in leading the group and ensuring that everyone's needs are met and that everyone is progressing well. Flossy will continue to

provide the planning time for the Squirrel class, which I know the team are pleased about. This now means Flossy can continue more with her mental health and well being role.

Unfortunately, Anthea, the OT who was working with us has decided to leave us for new ventures. We would like to thank Anthea for all of her help and wish her all the best for the future. We are looking to recruit replacement OT support and will keep you updated on progress.

Finally, we will be welcoming another LP to our team due to a recent round of successful interviews. We will provide you with more details on this next term.

PUPIL UPDATE

Next term we will be welcoming 3 new faces. The children in Mice, Squirrels and Badgers and have all made them feel so welcome on their visits and we are looking forward to them starting with us.

ATTENDANCE



Our attendance year-to-date at the end of Term 4 is 92.95%. We continue to strive towards outstanding attendance. The children have been motivated to see which class is leading on the weekly and then termly attendance. The attendance winners for this term are Badgers.

We are sharing the motto with the children "It's a great day to learn something new"

WHATS APP GROUPS:

Please can we ask that if you have a worry or concern about something at school, that you talk to a member of staff rather than putting it on your child's whats app group. We will do our best to sort out any worries and concerns that you may have and, hopefully, be able to give you the most up-to-date and accurate advice/information.

SCHOOL DINNERS:

After the Easter Holiday we have a new school lunch menu running for terms 5 and 6 (sent to you via dojo).

CELEBRATIONS:

It has been a wonderful term where all the children have been celebrated with their personal achievements. Some of our term winners will be arriving home with a medal.

COMMUNICATION BOARDS TO USE AT HOME:

If anyone would find a bespoke communication sheet useful at home (see page 6 for examples) please contact Amy Craig, SALT, via dojo.



MICE CLASS UPDATE

Mice class have been enjoying a transport based topic this term 'Zoom! Zoom!' The children have really engaged with the stories we have been reading, particularly enjoying 'Naughty Bus' by Jan and Jerry Oke - we recreated some of the naughtiness during our 'Bucket' sessions which was a real attention grabber. In maths the children have been comparing BIG and small objects, sorting and labelling them using words, Makaton signs or gestures. We have seen a huge increase in the amount of interaction and communication over the last few weeks which is fantastic, the children are really starting to develop as a group, playing alongside each other more, we have spent a lot of time practicing sharing and taking turns too. In our topic lessons the children have enjoyed model making and some of them are now beginning to play imaginatively, pretending to be on a train or in a bus! We have also enjoyed celebrating World Book day in our pyjamas and singing songs with a music therapist this term. Happy Easter!



HEDGEHOG CLASS UPDATE

This term in Hedgehogs we have loved learning through our story 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar'. In Our World we have been learning about growth and all took part in an experiment growing kitchen roll caterpillars and we have also learnt about how we grow and have looked at our baby pictures and compared them to how we look now. We have also been developing our understanding of size and have learnt about big, small, bigger, smaller, biggest and smallest. The children were able to order the sizes of our wiggly caterpillars. The hedgehogs also had a fantastic world book day and enjoyed being cozy in our Pyjamas. We enjoyed choosing our favourite stories for adults to read to the class. In our PSHE lessons we have been learning about healthy and unhealthy foods and have looked at all the different foods the caterpillar ate and we even tried some of them! Finally, we have learnt about the Easter story in RE and we all took part in a lesson about surprises, like the surprise of Jesus now being in the cave, and the children enjoyed all the silly surprises the adults had planned. The Hedgehogs team hope you all have a very lovely Easter holiday.



SQUIRREL CLASS UPDATE

Our topic this term has been 'Wonderful Weather' and we have enjoyed learning the names and signs of many different types of weather. We have explored how the weather changes throughout the four seasons and have learnt a weather song, created some beautiful artwork and have enjoyed reading many weather-related stories! In PSHE, we have been learning to identify many different emotions and have focused on feeling calm. We have engaged in many calm activities, including: puzzles, yoga, colouring, and listening to music.



BADGER CLASS UPDATE

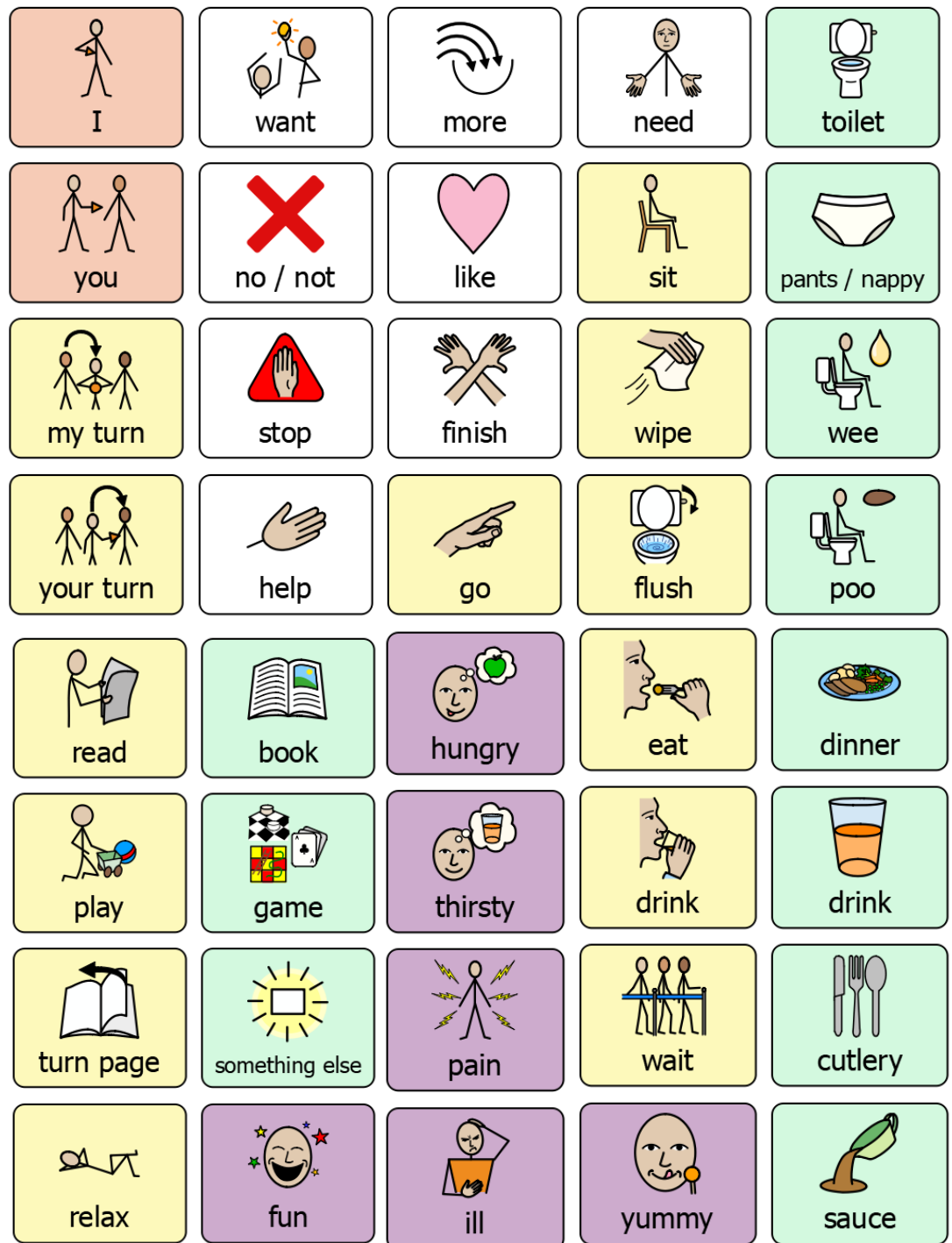
This term in English, Badgers have been writing a fact file all about themselves! They have been working very hard all term. In Maths this term, Badgers have been learning all about money and measuring. We have been busy measuring the goal posts and the trees. In PSHE we have been doing lots of activities that can help improve our mental health. We have had a brilliant term and are looking forward to next term already!



Communication Boards

As you all know Communication & Interaction is a massive strand of what we do here at Sladewood and we are really proud of our communication boards that are now up and around the school. It has been great to see the children using them more and finding the vocabulary they want in the right context. We have also recently had Grid training and we are all trying to use this software on our interactive whiteboards and iPads now more frequently.

If anyone would like a bespoke communication sheet for home use, please dojo Amy Craig, our SALT.



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