

Newsletter

Issue 6, July 2024



UPDATE FROM THE HEAD

So, here I am writing my final newsletter of our first year of opening. What a year it has been! So many magical moments, so much progress from all the children and the start of a wonderful thriving community and team. It has been my absolute pleasure to witness these moments and work with you all. There are no words to describe how proud I am of all the children and how far they have come in a year. I know they will continue to do amazing things and succeed next year.

As always, the end of year is very busy but we have had lots of fun and memorable moments with the summer fete, the transition sessions, the sports day and visiting magician. The class teams have coped with this really well.

I just wanted to say I hope you all have the most amazing 6 weeks holiday and we will very much be looking forward to welcoming our new children and having our existing children back and hearing all about their holidays. I would like to thank you all for your continued help and support. You have helped shape Sladewood into being the loving and safe community that it is. We are very lucky to have the support of you all.

Katy Hanna

REMINDERS FOR THE NEW ACADEMIC YEAR

Just a few bits in preparation for next year. Hopefully, all of your transport should be sorted but if you have any issues please get in contact via email or dojo.

If you have any safeguarding concerns, please contact the following numbers: 07385 005081 or 07385 005144



During the Summer holiday your dojo classes will be swapped over so that you can have regular contact with the class team.

First Day Back Wednesday 4th September (starting at **9am**, finishing at **3pm** each day).



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STAFFING

I am sure you will join me in thanking the whole school team on an incredible year. I have a wonderful staff team who ensure the very best for the children supporting them in their development. Next year, as our pupil numbers increase, we will be welcoming lots more members to our team including, two new teachers, Katharine and Jess.



Katharine Dudley: Teacher



Jess Wadley: Teacher

Our new Learning Partners are: Jenn, Cat, Danielle, Dawn, Melanie, Julie, Jules, Leanne & Jake.

I would like to congratulate Eva on a successful promotion to one of our Higher-Level Learner partners. Eva will now be joining Flossy and Rachael in covering Teachers PPA.

We are also looking to appoint another admin post to support Sarah in the office who, I think we will all agree, does a fantastic job front of house and making sure we are all doing what we should be.

Whilst we welcome so many to our team for next year, we are saying goodbye to another. Unfortunately, Meg has made the decision that she would like to return to Nursery and pre-school work. Meg has been a wonderful flexible friend to us this year and worked in many of the classes, building up strong relationships with the children. We would like to wish Meg all the best in her next chapter and thank her for everything she has done at Sladewood.

The children have thoroughly loved working with Reverend Steve

TRANSITIONS

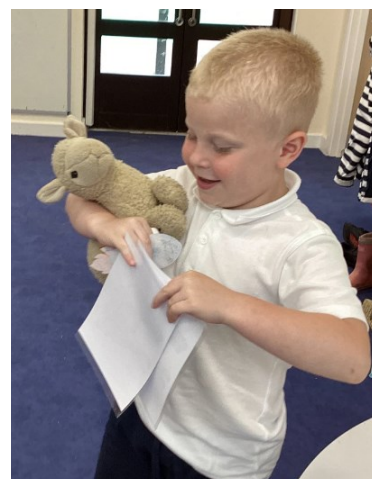
I just wanted to take a minute to acknowledge how wonderful all of the children have been with transitions. They settled so well into their new classes and were very welcoming to the new children for next year. It was wonderful to see how much the children have grown in confidence and were able to socialise and support others who may have been a bit shy to start with. The school was pulsating with wonderful energy and lots of happy, effervescent children playing in the courtyard.

REVEREND STEVE SESSIONS



I would like to thank Reverend Steve Saville for his ongoing support this year. The children have thoroughly loved working with him. This term they learnt about "The Lost sheep". The children helped to find lost sheep around the classrooms.

We hope we can continue to work with Reverend Steve next year.



VEGETABLE GROWING SUCCESS



We hope to build on our food growing success next year. The children really enjoyed picking the vegetables: carrots, lettuce, beetroot, spring onions and a little rhubarb for Carly to prepare for school lunches. Even enough for some to go home too!



FOREST SCHOOL SESSIONS



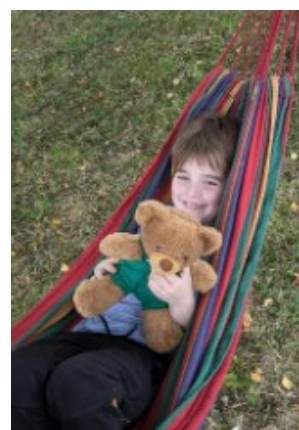
We would also like to thank Craig from Widkids who did some forest school taster sessions with our children this term. The children absolutely loved the sessions. I think some of their favourite activities were lying in the hammocks. It was a shame that the weather did not always match with bright sunshine for this. Craig will continue to offer some project days for us next year.



SCHOOL FETE



We had such a lovely day for our school fete. We even had a fire engine drop by at the start. We wanted to thank everyone who attended and supported us to make it such an amazing success. Once we tallied up all of the money before and after the event, we made a wonderful **£1491.57.**



SCHOOL LUNCHES

Attached is the menu for the new academic year. For those who pay for lunches, they are priced at £2.54 per day. A Parentpay activation letter will be issued as soon as possible in September for all our new pupils, any lunches taken will be logged from day 1 ready for payment to be made. We won't be able to take cash payment for lunches.

The children have had such a fantastic year, it was only right to celebrate

MAGICIAN

As the children have had such a fantastic year it was only right to celebrate. So, we invited in magician, Colin Dymond, for the morning. He visited each class in turn and lots of the children helped with the magic. They met Elvis the dog, a very mischievous dog, who ate all the coloured handkerchiefs! We were all blown away by his magic colour changing book—it went from blank pages to drawings and then coloured in drawings. MAGIC! Lots of the children were included and helped Colin with his magic tricks. We all had such an amazing time and it was a wonderful treat for the children.



SPORTS DAY



I would like to thank All Sorts for their continued support with our physical activity support. They helped us to put on our version of Sladewood's sports day. We are so pleased that so many of you could make it to enjoy the afternoon with the children. Louise will continue to support us with this program next year. Additionally next year we are happy to be involved in more of the Gloucestershire Active programmed events with other special needs schools. We will keep you posted.



ATTENDANCE

This has been a good term for attendance and its being wonderful to see lots of individual success with this. Our attendance currently at 93.03%. Our winning class for the overall attendance is MICE. However, I believe all of the children have been winners and I hope to see attendance continue to improve next year.

MICE CLASS UPDATE



I cannot believe I am writing this - the last newsletter for the year - it's been so rewarding to watch the children in Mice class learn the routines of the school day and to see how they have taken everything in their stride. They have all enjoyed the transition sessions to their new classes and I hope they are looking forward to moving on!

This term we have focused on learning about how we grow and change from being a baby to a child to a grown up through our topic 'Ready, Steady, Grow!' The children particularly enjoyed the two stories we used as a starting point 'Titch' and 'Ten little fingers, Ten little toes'. Through our group time sessions the children have developed their attention skills and the progress made with communication has been

incredible. We have enjoyed more outdoor play this term as the weather has been a little kinder to us! A highlight for the term was our forest school sessions with Craig, exploring the forest school area and engaging in different activities too. The children enjoyed cooking with Carly again and weekly sessions with the music therapist, Emily, proved incredibly popular.

Sports day was a great success, I was so proud of the way in which the children engaged with the activities in the morning and afternoon sessions. What a year! Your children have been amazing and we will miss them a lot!

Thank you for your continued support throughout the year, have a restful summer and we will see you in September!



HEDGEHOG CLASS UPDATE



In our final term we have been learning through the theme of 'at the seaside'. We have gone on an imaginary train ride to the beach, built magnificent sandcastles, joined in with lots of fun water play, explored rock pools and made our delicious ice creams. The children have also been very creative and have written their own stories in English about a trip to the seaside. In maths we learnt about money and all enjoyed visiting our imaginary shop to buy bubbles and biscuits. The class have been working very hard on their sports day skills and on their Slade-wood's got talent performance. We are very proud of how well the Hedgehogs class have done this year not only have they worked really hard and

made good academic progress but they have all developed wonderful friendships and play skills. We hope you all have a brilliant summer filled with lots of fun and sunshine!



SQUIRREL CLASS UPDATE



Squirrels have really enjoyed our dinosaur topic this term. We have made dinosaur masks and paper plate dinosaurs in art and we have enjoyed listening to our story Dinosaur Roar! We particularly loved getting the dinosaurs slimy and then cleaning them with a water spray. This term we have been going swimming every Friday morning. All the children have made such fantastic progress, developing in confidence and exploring the pool and toys. We hope everyone has a great summer holiday.



BADGER CLASS UPDATE

This term, Badgers have had lots of fun activities with Rhian and Kathryn. We had the opportunity to harvest fruit and veg from our very own garden and were lucky enough to taste them. We have enjoyed our topic of Jack and the beanstalk, with lots of fun activities. We also had lots of fun learning all about capacity and had lots of sand and water activities to help us learn. Our favourite part of this term was making cakes with Meg! Great work this term Badgers- have a lovely summer and we will see you in September.



In loving memory of Mike:

Hey Mike,
No job too big, no job too small,
End of the day, just one last call
Across the Yard, here he comes
With a wry smile and his useful thumbs!

A mop, a bucket, a saw, a drill
If it can be sorted you know he will
Share his Italian, Spanish and French!
Chat to the children as he sits on the bench.

A big part of Sladewood, a flexible friend
Someone on who you could always depend
We 'shared' our office
And you shared your laughter
You'll be in our hearts
For ever after.

Thank you, Mike!

by Jane Elgharbawy

On a final note I would like to dedicate this newsletter and our year to Mike:

Whilst there have been so many positive moments from this term/year we also had the very sad news of Mike's death. Mike was our Premises Assistant and whilst he was not here with us a long time, the impact that he made across the school was huge. Mike was very passionate about making the school the best for the children and loved working on projects that he knew the children would benefit from. He was the first to volunteer for many wider events such as Cattle Country and he would have been a big part of our school fete. There are many areas of Sladewood that will remind us of Mike. In the near future we will be planting a tree in memory of Mike and our first year of opening and he really wanted to get a bench for staff and pupils to relax and enjoy our wonderful surroundings.



Bisley Old Road,
Stroud, Gloucestershire GL5 1NL

T: 01453 709300

E: admin@sladewood.sandmat.uk

W: Sladewood.sandmat.uk