

Newsletter

Issue 9, April 2025



UPDATE FROM THE HEAD

Wow—what a term it's been, and what a wonderful year it's shaping up to be! We've shared so many magical moments already, and it continues to be an absolute joy and privilege to lead our amazing school. Watching the children grow, shine and thrive each day is nothing short of inspiring. Our newsletter gives a few insights and highlights from this term .

We look forward to welcoming you all back on the **Monday 28th April**.

We hope you enjoy a peaceful and sunny Easter break. Our staff will be taking a well-deserved rest, but if you have any **safeguarding concerns**, please contact myself or Kathryn via Dojo or on:

07385 005144 or 07835 005081

Thank you once again for your continued support—it truly means so much to us all.

Happy Easter!

Warmest wishes

Katy Hanna

LOOKING AHEAD

Saturday 12th April, 1-3pm Sladewood's Easter Fair

Fridays will be swimming for the Rabbits /Squirrels class in Terms 5 & 6. More details will be sent out soon with specific dates for each class.

More trips & visits—including our new membership with Bournestream!

Fri 16th May—Fun Bingo Night Fundraiser in Sladewood's Hall —Adults only

New Enrichment Pilot—launching in Term 6

Thurs 26th June—Pub Quiz Fundraiser—Adults only

Weds 16th July—Sladewood Celebration Event—(parents invited too)

New Class Transition days—taking place 9th, 10th and 11th July.

End of Year Reports—to be sent home before the summer holidays.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Boccia Tournament.....	2
Comic Relief update...	2
Staffing Update.....	3
Attendance	3
Mice/Hedgehog	4
Squirrel.....	5
Rabbit/Badger/Owl....	6
Fundraising Update.....	7
Stagecoach visit.....	8
Bingo.....	9
Pub Quiz.....	10



BOCCIA TOURNAMENT

Our Squirrels class made us incredibly proud at their recent Boccia tournament! For many, it was their first trip out—and they were brilliant, showing confidence, teamwork, and enthusiasm. A huge well done to our superstar throwers and a big thank you to Jess for organising such a successful event.



Squirrels class made us incredibly proud at their recent Boccia tournament!

AUTISM AWARENESS DAY & CRAFTERNOON

Our children thoroughly enjoyed participating in Autism Awareness Week, especially learning and performing their colourful dances. It was fantastic to welcome so many of you to our celebration afternoon. A big thank you to Louise and the All-Sorts team for their help and support. We raised **£87.50**.

LEARNING CONVERSATIONS

We are grateful to everyone who attended and contributed to this term's learning conversations. Sharing your children's progress and achievements with you is one of the highlights of our term. If you have any follow-up questions, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Thank you also to those who completed the OFSTED Parent View survey—it's not too late if you haven't done so yet!

WEAR RED/CRAZY HAIR FOR

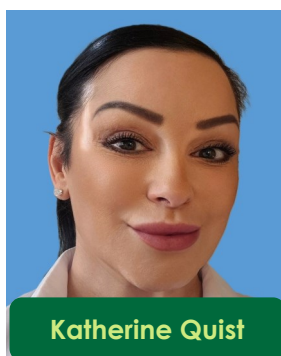
COMIC RELIEF

Thank you to everyone who supported our fun-filled crazy hair day for Red Nose Day. The children absolutely loved it—especially seeing their friends and staff looking delightfully silly! We raised **£60**, and your generosity is truly appreciated.



STAFFING UPDATE

This term, we've welcomed some fantastic new team members:



Katherine is our new Badger class teacher (Wednesday to Friday). Mia is the HLLP in the Rabbits class and Elly is our new Learning Partner, mainly based in Owls class.

After the Easter break, we're excited to welcome Sarah, who will join the Badgers teaching team (Monday to Wednesday).



Sadly, we'll be saying goodbye to Jenn from the Mice team at the end of term, as she's chosen to work closer to home. Jenn will be greatly missed and we thank her for everything she's done at Sladewood.

ATTENDANCE

Our whole school attendance currently stands at 93.16% which is truly amazing for a special school. At Sladewood, we believe that every school day is an opportunity for children to learn, grow and connect. Good attendance plays a huge role in helping your child feel confident, build friendships, and make steady progress in their learning.

We understand that children may sometimes need time off due to illness or other circumstances, and we appreciate you keeping us informed. However, we do encourage all families to aim for consistent attendance and punctuality wherever possible.

If you are experiencing any difficulties around attendance or getting to school on time, please don't hesitate to get in touch. We're here to support you and work together to help every child thrive.

Thank you for your continued support in making every day count!

CURRICULUM REVIEW:

We've undertaken a comprehensive curriculum review this term, and we're proud to share that our teaching and learning practices have been recognised as strong, with a well-designed curriculum tailored to our pupils' needs.

A heartfelt thank you to all who completed curriculum feedback forms—your input helped shape our vision. And a special thank you to our dedicated staff for their passion, hard work, and constant commitment.

SCHOOL DINNERS:

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

NEXT YEARS' CLASSES:

As we start planning for the next academic year, we'll let you know about class groupings after transition events have taken place in July.

DID YOU KNOW?

Missing just one day a week can add up to nearly eight weeks of lost learning across the school year.

MICE CLASS UPDATE

Mice class have enjoyed their topic 'Zoom! Zoom!' this term. We read lots of different stories about transport and vehicles but our focus texts have been 'Naughty Bus' and 'Trains, trains, trains'. The children loved playing with many different types of vehicles too. Each day we begin with a sensory circuits/PSHE target time session where the adults engage the children in meaningful interactions and activities designed to encourage shared attention.

In our literacy sessions we focused on supporting the children's communication skills, using high tech GRIDs on the iPads alongside the paper-based communication aids during group times and snack times too. Through our focus texts we explored and developed fine and gross motor skills linked to our topic. We listened to different vehicle sounds in phonics activities and enjoyed listening to songs about buses and other vehicles too - the wheels on the bus is a firm favourite!



In maths we learnt about 'big' and 'small', identifying **big** buses and trains, and **small** ones too! We explored positional vocabulary - putting people 'in' the bus, 'on' the bus and hiding 'under' blankets and scarves. We continued learning about the concept of 'more' through daily activities - lots of the children request more food at snack times! We practiced completing inset puzzles and building with Duplo blocks too.

In our topic lessons we explored joining paper using tape and glue, fixing wheels onto buses and trains. The children have really enjoyed playing the 'stop' and 'go' game too, learning skills to stay safe. We spent a few sessions exploring activities to learn about Easter - eating hot cross buns, sticking flowers onto a cross and enjoying an easter egg hunt. We have noticed a huge improvement in the children's ability to transition around the school over the term - we love visiting soft play and the sensory room each week, and playing on the big playground too!

Have a great Easter break - thank you for your continued support!

HEDGEHOG CLASS UPDATE

Hedgehogs have had a brilliant term and we are all very proud of the progress they have made. We've been focussing on communicating at snack time and all of Hedgehogs class are now choosing what they would like to eat using their preferred method of communication (words, symbols, TOBIs, Makaton or their AAC device). We have also been working on independence and we are encouraging Hedgehogs to hang their coat and bag on their peg when they arrive in the morning and to put on their coat and shoes independently for outside play - we hope they are showing off these skills at home too.



Our most recent topic has been 'On the move' so we practiced listening to stop and go, moving our bodies forwards and backwards and exploring push and pull. We loved looking at 'The Train Ride' in English. The highlight of the term was the children making a train in the classroom and going on a 'train ride'.

In Maths, we developed our understanding of big



and small and day and night through different sensory activities.

In PSHE, we have been learning about happy and sad and what may make us feel these emotions. We had a hot chocolate cafe in Food Tech to learn about where we can buy food from - we loved the squirty cream and marshmallows. We all loved seeing the chicks and using communication boards to comment on what we could see!

SQUIRREL CLASS UPDATE

Another fantastic term in Squirrels class! We have enjoyed all of our extra-curricular days, including world book day, number day, crazy hair day! And thoroughly enjoyed our day trip out to Plock Court for our Boccia tournament.

We have loved learning about labels in English, improving our mark making and writing skills. We have enjoyed learning time in Maths - we are able to communicate daily routines and which part of the day they occur in. In Our World, we have explored growing, planting potatoes, cress, and sunflower seeds.

We have been working really hard and look forward to our new topics next term!



RABBITS CLASS UPDATE

It has been a busy term in Rabbits class. Our story has been The Enormous Turnip and we have been exploring shape and size in maths. We have been working on expressing our emotions in PSHE and in RE we have been learning about Easter. We have particularly enjoyed our Easter activities as we often linked it to food - pancakes for Shrove Tuesday, bread and grape juice when we learned about The Last Supper, Hot Cross Buns for Good Friday and chocolate eggs for Easter Sunday. We hope you have a lovely holiday from The Rabbits Team.



BADGER CLASS UPDATE



This term in badgers we have been learning through our story 'the oak tree'- as a class we have learnt about what plants and animals need to grow, created art from natural resources and have even followed instructions to make our own leaf necklaces. Badgers class have also been learning about money and have all really enjoyed using their knowledge within our class shop, additionally, we have also been learning about time and have increased

our time vocabulary. Within English we have been learning all about instructions - we have followed instructions for planting, making slime and making a coke explosion! We finished the term making our own instructions with adult support - if you would like a copy of any of our experiment instructions to do at home please ask. The children were also very excited to meet their new class teachers Sarah and Katherine who came in for transition days. Katherine joined us at the end of the term and Sarah will join us straight after Easter. The Badgers team hope you have a fantastic Easter holiday!

OWL CLASS UPDATE

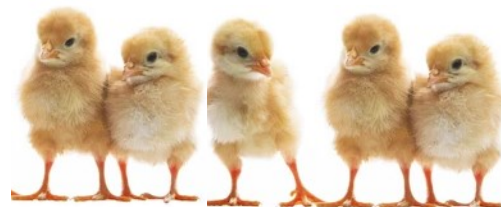
Owls class have had a very busy term! We have been doing lots of learning about where we live and our local area, We have been exploring stories about people travelling the world and we have been focusing on measuring weight and capacity in maths! We enjoyed a trip to the post box and learnt about the difference in sending email and letters. We have all enjoyed watching the chicks hatch and grow. We have also been busy planning lots of fundraising activities to help fund our new playground - a staff carwash event, cake sale and a stall at the Easter Fun Day. Have a wonderful Easter!



Some of the Owls Carwash Team - they did a great job!

EASTER FUN

As you may have spotted on dojo, we have all loved seeing the live eggs hatch and grow so rapidly. Our LP in Badgers, Dawn, has found homes for 5 of the chicks and 5 have been returned to the scheme. We had such a wonderful afternoon with our Autism Awareness Celebration—the children enjoyed sharing their colourful dances with you. We've wrapped up the end of term with Easter celebrations, including a visit from the Easter Bunny and Rev. Steve Saville. It's been a lovely way to end a busy and successful term, celebrating all the children's achievements.



FUNDRAISING UPDATE

We're thrilled to share that we've raised **£37,881** towards our exciting new playground project! During the summer holidays, we'll complete our new ramped access, and we're now moving forward with playground designs.

Recent and upcoming fundraising activities include:

- **Rags 2 Riches** – Raised £56 this time (so total now is £174)
- **Bingo Night** – Friday 16th May. See page 9 for details.
- **Quiz Night** – Thursday 26th June @7.30pm at The Crown Inn, Minchinhampton. GL6 9BN. If you would like to take part book yourself a team slot (max 6 per team). See page 10 for details.
- **Stroud Half Marathon** – Look out for more info about Team Sladewood!
- **Sponsored Walk** – 14th June, more info to come!

Owls class have been working hard to help raise money for the playground. The children have planned some events and completed all the admin themselves, including creating shopping lists for resources and creating posters for events. We have held a cake sale, a car wash and will have a stall selling lots of Easter goodies at the Easter fair on **Saturday 12th April, 1pm until 3pm**. We hope to see you there!

We also have a **JustGiving page** (QR Code below) to support ongoing fundraising efforts:



STAGECOACH DOUBLE DECKER VISITS SLADEWOOD

It was so exciting to see the double decker bus at Sladewood at the 'Sladewood temporary bus stop'. We were issued with our very own tickets from the bus driver and got to explore the top and lower decks of the bus, to see which seats gave us the best views.

Thank you Stagecoach for giving us a wonderful experience.



OWL CLASS CAKE SALE

At the time of publishing, we are so proud of all the work our Owls class have put in to their fundraising efforts. Their staff carwash was a success along with their bake sale—with the total raised so far a stunning £200. This is before their stall on Saturday. We look forward to totting up the grand total of their efforts. Thanks to our community for supporting them.





Adults only!

BINGO

Night

Sladewood Fundraising Bingo – raising money for our Adventure Playground!

£5 for your ticket and pen!

Prizes available: cash prizes, bottles of fizz and chocolates!

To book your tickets please email:

admin@sladewood.sandmat.uk

FRIDAY

**EYES DOWN
AT 6:30PM**

**16TH
MAY**

**Location: Sladewood
Academy, Bisley Old Rd,
GL5 1NL**

FUNDRAISING IDEAS / PTA?

If you have ideas or would like to support our fundraising efforts, please do get in touch.

We're still looking to set up a PTA and are seeking a Chairperson to help us get started—if that might be YOU, do let us know!

WORLD JUNGLE EVENT (HAF EVENT @SLADEWOOD)

Thursday 17th April , 10-1pm World Jungle Event at Sladewood Academy. This FREE event is run by HAF — more details can be found on their website <https://gloucestershirehaf.com/stroud-district-haf/family-activities-stroud-district-haf/>



PUB QUIZ Night

Are you ready for a night of trivia and fun in aid of Sladewood Academy? Join us for a Pub Quiz Night! Winning team gets a £50 bar tab! Sladewood Academy is a SEND school in Stroud, aiming to raise money to create a playground that is accessible to all.

**Thursday 26th June
7.30PM**
**The Crown Inn
Minchinhampton
GL6 9BN**
£2 per person
Max teams of 6 people

To book your team call The Crown on 01453 608010
or book via their website
www.thecrown-minchinhampton.com



Bisley Old Road,
Stroud, Gloucestershire GL5 1NL

T: 01453 709300
E: admin@sladewood.sandmat.uk
W: Sladewood.sandmat.uk