

Newsletter

Issue 10, July 2025



UPDATE FROM THE HEAD

What an extraordinary year it has been at Sladewood! It's hard to believe we're coming to the close of another academic year—and preparing to enter our third year since opening. We are proud to share that, as of September, we will exceed our projected pupil numbers with 63 children on roll!

Reflecting on a Year of Growth and Joy As I often say, and wholeheartedly mean, I am incredibly proud of every single child and the incredible progress they've made this year. It has been a privilege to witness their individual growth and unique achievements—each child shines in their own way, and it's an absolute joy to be part of their journey. The summer term, in particular, has been filled with magical moments—swimming lessons, Bournstream trips, water play, Little City, Quackers Day, enrichment sessions, and so much more. Watching the children thrive in these experiences has been a highlight for us all.

Warm regards
Katy Hanna



LOOKING AHEAD

- ◆ We look forward to seeing all our existing children and our new intake children on **Wednesday 3rd September**. (Staff are in on the Monday and Tuesday for staff only training days) For term dates and new term lunch menu, please visit the 'parent tab' on our website www.sladewood.sandmat.uk
- ◆ **REMINDER SCHOOL ABSENCES MUST** be reported on the school's absence line **01453 709300 option 1**. It is crucial that we have one method of informing the school. Please do not email or dojo as these can sometimes be missed in the busy mornings or if the contacted staff member is not in.

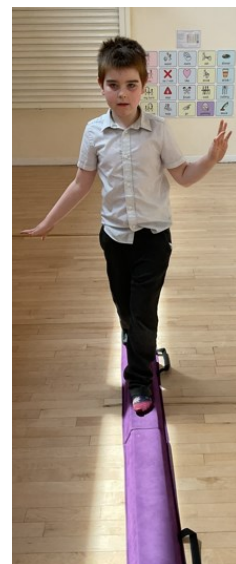
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ENRICHMENT FRIDAYS

Our much-loved enrichment afternoons have brought joy across the school every Friday. These sessions allow pupils to explore their interests, with activities ranging from cooking and dancing to art, sensory play, and gardening. It's been wonderful to see the children mixing with peers from other classes and ending their week with creativity and fun.

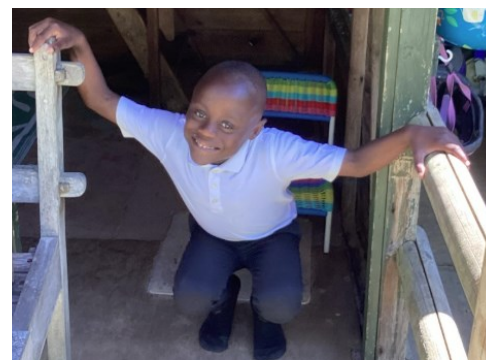
Looking ahead, enrichment will connect closely with our new initiative: **"Our Futures."** This exciting focus for next year will centre on developing essential life skills — whether it's managing time, preparing food, navigating shops, exploring job roles, or learning about independence. Through this, we aim to help every child build confidence, skills, and passions for their future.



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SWIMMING AND SCHOOL TRIPS

We've been thrilled to see swimming reintroduced this year—it's a favourite for many of our pupils. We're actively working to secure even more swimming opportunities for next year. Our school trips, particularly the adventures at Bournstream, have been hugely successful. A big thank you to all the families who joined us—we can't wait to offer even more trips and experiences in the coming year.



INTRODUCING THE SLADEWOOD SCHOOL COUNCIL

We are excited to announce that Sladewood now has an active **School Council**! They've already made an impact, helping raise funds for the Chamwell Centre's hydrotherapy pool during our Quackers afternoon and leading our Pride Month celebrations. Special thanks to Jasmine for her leadership—there are big things ahead from this brilliant group!



OPAL UPDATE: OUTSTANDING PLAY OPPORTUNITIES

We continue our journey toward becoming an officially recognised **OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning)** school. With recent training and ongoing mentorship, Jess and Eva have been instrumental in transforming our playground into a space of imagination, communication, and joy. From water play to construction zones, the children have embraced these opportunities to explore, collaborate, and grow.



STAFF FAREWELL

We will be saying goodbye to Jeanine at the end of this academic year. She has decided to leave us for a new opportunity. We would like to thank Jeanine for all of her help and support and wish her all the best for the future.

FRIENDS OF SLADEWOOD (FoS)

We've had our inaugural 'Friends of Sladewood' meeting with lots of ideas and creativity bounced around. We look forward to progressing plans and ideas in the new academic year and thank and welcome everyone for taking part. We are always keen to hear from anyone in our Sladewood Community who may be interested in joining us (in any capacity large or small) —extra help at our events is always welcomed. Please contact Clare Mills for further information.

SCHOOL DINNERS:

Our new Lunch Menu for terms 1 & 2 is available on our website, under the 'parent tab'. Meals are priced at £2.54 each day and provide a healthy, nutritious meal option.

PARENTPAY:

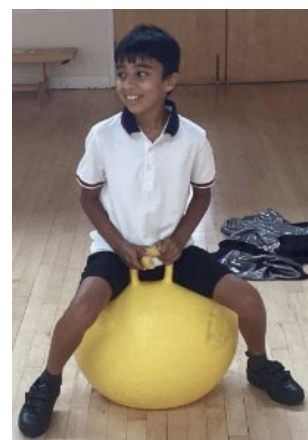
Please check that your end of year ParentPay account is cleared ready for the new term in September. Thanking you in advance.

SECOND HAND UNIFORM?

Anyone wanting to donate or purchase spare uniform? We do hold stocks of second hand uniform. Contact Sarah or Clare in the office—we have more items with the Sladewood logo recently.

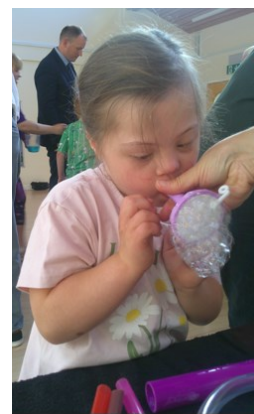
SPORTS DAY HIGHLIGHTS

Thank you to everyone who joined us for Sports Day—it was a fantastic event, and the children made us incredibly proud. We'd like to give a heartfelt thank you to **Louise from Allsorts**, who has led our PE and sports provision over the last two years. As she passes the baton to Jess, we're delighted that our link with Allsorts will continue through their competitions and swimming support.



CELEBRATION DAY

Our end-of-year **Celebration Event** was truly a special day. Thank you to all who attended and joined us in recognising the amazing achievements of our pupils. Your support means the world to us and helps make these moments unforgettable.



SMARTBOX SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE

We are incredibly proud to have been recognised as a **Smartbox School of Excellence**! Thanks to the dedicated work of Amy and the team, we have embedded a total communication approach across the school. Amy has also developed our new **Grid dashboard**, which will be rolled out in September to support our AAC users and enhance modelling of communication strategies across the board. Well done, Amy!



PLAYGROUND FUNDRAISING: A HUGE THANK YOU!

A Sladewood newsletter wouldn't be complete without a fundraising update—and what an amazing year it's been!

Thanks to your incredible generosity, we have raised **£65,305**. This means **Phase 1** of our new playground will begin this summer: the ramp installation is scheduled, and—fingers crossed—so is our trim trail!

Thank you for supporting the epic 26.1 mile **Miles for Smiles**, our **Pub Quizzes**, and the **Summer Fête and raffle** which raised **£2,360**, **£243**, and **£937**, respectively.

With your continued support, we hope to complete further phases soon—including a swing and sensory play area. Look out for exciting fundraising events next year!

Team Sladewood half marathon team are gearing up the training for the Stroud half-marathon on 26th October 2025, Go Team Sladewood!

Stan's Epic Challenge!

We're incredibly proud to share that Stan, a devoted grandfather to one of our Sladewood pupils, is taking on an incredible fundraising challenge in support of our school. From 8th–15th September, Stan will run an astonishing **121 miles** – from his home in Weybridge, Surrey all the way to Sladewood School! That's an average of 15–16 miles every day over 8 days!

This inspiring journey is all to raise funds for our school, and we couldn't be more grateful. Let's rally behind Stan and show him how much we appreciate his dedication. Every donation, big or small, makes a difference.

Thank you, Stan – you're a true superstar!



Stan Bradbury's
JustGiving Page



TRANSITIONS AND MOVING UP

Our **transition days** were a great success, with pupils adapting brilliantly to new environments and routines. You should have received information about class changes—please note that **Class Dojo groups** will be updated in the second week of the summer holidays. We're confident in the current groupings but will keep you informed of any adjustments during the first term based on pupil needs.

LOOKING AHEAD

Next year marks a significant milestone as we enter our **Ofsted window**. Our amazing staff team are already preparing, while continuing to focus on all that makes Sladewood special—play, communication, enrichment, futures, outdoor learning, and inclusion. I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to our **exceptional staff**—your hard work, passion, and care make all the difference. You deserve every minute of your summer break!



WISHING YOU A WONDERFUL SUMMER

We hope you all have a restful and joyful summer break. We can't wait to hear all about your adventures when we return on **Wednesday, 3rd September**.

If you have any safeguarding concerns during the holidays, please contact:

Kathryn: **07385 005 144**

Katy: **07835 005 081**

Thank you for being part of our Sladewood family—we look forward to another fantastic year ahead!



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