



Sleights Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School

Celebrating the 2017 autumn term's success

Helping each child flourish

Our first term of the academic year was a very busy, but very successful one! Many positive changes were made and successful projects started. I wanted to put something together that quickly summarises some of our successes of the autumn term in one place. I do hope you find it useful! If you have any questions, or comments about what we do here, please do get in touch!

Scott Grason
Headteacher



Happy, hardworking children

We are very lucky to have such happy, engaged and motivated children at Sleights. They come to school each day with big smiles, raring to find out what is in store for them. Visitors regularly comment on the children's attitude. During the autumn term, one of our school advisors told us that our children "**enjoy coming to school!**", as well as recognising that the school works hard to keep them **safe**. It was great to open the hall up for parents' evening in order to allow families to look at their children's work. This proved very popular and we received some great feedback – thank you!



Attendance and holidays

A huge thank you! A large worry of mine has always been (and to be honest, continues to be!) attendance. Early in the autumn term, I wrote to all families about the change in policy around granting time off school for holidays. This has already made a **positive impact** on children's attendance and, in turn, school figures. The number of holiday requests coming into the office has **reduced significantly**. Whilst I recognise that holidays can be more expensive during the school term, thank you to those parents who are thinking carefully about the impact of absence from class during the school year – it really does help!

Marking, feedback and response time

After October half term, we began opening the doors to school at 8.50am each morning to allow children to come into school in order to look at their work from the previous day. This time allows children to make any corrections, or develop some of their ideas from their lessons the day before. Children speak **very positively** about how **calm** the day now starts, with everyone being given the chance to come into school and begin **learning straight away**. Thank you for your support with this and making sure children are in school at 8.50am each day.

Special Educational Needs

Every child has the ability to achieve, with the right level of challenge and support. With this in mind, during the autumn term, we completely **overhauled our provision** for children with special educational needs. We now have a clear programme for each child with additional needs in place, as well as targets and **support** in place from agencies outside of school who may also help. Having taken on the role of SENCO (the teacher in charge of special educational needs), I have also met with parents and families of children with additional needs in order to discuss clearly the support that we as a school can offer. For more information, please see our website for our Special Educational Needs Information Report, or come and see me directly.

Links with the Church and Diocese

As a Church school, working with our local Vicars and churches to teach the children about the work of Jesus and the Bible is an important part of our school. During the autumn term, we build on successfully **established relationships** to strengthen our work with St. John's and the Methodist Church. Reverends Veronica Carolan and Jane Carter are regular visitors in school. The children enjoy being involved in their collective worships. In addition, we have **developed a clear approach** to collective worship in school. Finally, we have enjoyed visiting the churches for important events in the calendar.

FEED BACK



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND



Safeguarding children

We have **tightened our safeguarding procedures**, reviewing induction for any volunteers working in school. We have also looked at a number of different areas around school to make sure our children are always kept safe at all times.

During the spring term, all staff will be for **completing refresher training** child protection.

Forest Schools

On the family questionnaire from September 2017, a number of parents discussed increasing the number of forest school sessions children took part in. To address this, we have had five teaching staff members **trained** across three days in all aspects of forest schools. The staff came back raring to get stuck in and some classes have enjoyed some extra sessions following this training. During this term, we hope to buy a tepee and increase the number of times children learn outdoors. Watch this space!

Website

We want our school website to be somewhere that reflects what happens at Sleights and showcases some of the great work we do. In addition, we want it to be somewhere that shares key information, such as important dates etc. We know that the website doesn't do this at the moment. However, we have held a number of discussions with different website providers and I am pleased that we should have **a new website this term!** The website will be bright, full of children's photographs and useful information. We will keep you posted!



Parking

I know many parents shared concerns with us about parking outside school. After a somewhat relentless drive, this **situation has improved significantly**. As you know, I no longer stand on the double yellows, but on the school gate instead. This gives me the chance to see the children in safely, but also keep an eye on illegal parking. This is much improved and demonstrates that everyone is working together to keep our children safe. Thank you for **everyone's shared efforts**. Long may it continue!



Governors and Priority Partners

We are very lucky to have a good group of governors who work with the school to ensure the very best for all children. During the autumn term, the work of the governing body was reorganised, with each governor becoming a 'priority partner' – a link to one of the school's key priorities for the year. This has meant that each governor now **regularly visits school** to see the children and staff and look at how the school is working on different areas. The work has been very successful so far and has recently **been praised by the Local Authority**.



AND already this term...

- We have reorganised the school day, placing Collective Worship at the start of the day in order to release Teachers and Teaching Assistants so that they can meet and discuss the day ahead. This planning meeting provides high quality, uninterrupted time that will ensure the children get the very best from their time with us.
- We have begun to plan a timetable of training for all staff, including leadership training for some teachers and development of skills for all teaching assistants.
- In Pre-School and Class 3, children have begun wearing slippers in class, following a research project, to see the impact this has on behaviour for learning.