



# Sleights Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School

## Celebrating the 2018 spring term's success

### Helping each child flourish

This term has been filled with lots of hard work, many achievements and quite a lot of snow! Since January, we have continued to make lots of progress and steps forward to keep improving what we do at Sleights. Our children are working hard and are happy in school. This is what matters to us the most. I hope this summary showcases some of our key successes of the spring term.

Scott Grason  
Headteacher



#### Fantastic Family Feedback

We began the spring term by gathering feedback from all of our families. The feedback was excellent and something that we were very proud of. We saw a number of areas significantly improve since our September questionnaire, including how well the school is led and managed and how concerns are dealt with. We also received lots of great comments that recognised the positive changes we have made at Sleights. Thank you to everyone!

We also received a number of suggestions, which we have worked to address during this term, including homework and information sharing (see below)



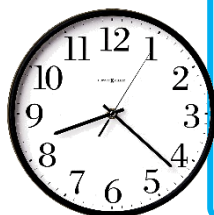
#### Our homework policy

A number of comments in our family feedback (January 2018) helped us to understand thoughts and feelings on homework. Some families didn't feel what their children received was appropriate and others were concerned about the consistency across school. We have listened to these concerns, so on parents' evening asked families to give us your ideas and thoughts about homework in more detail. These comments were really helpful and are being used to support school staff to review our policy. We will be able to launch this new policy in the summer term and hope that it has something to meet everybody's needs.



#### Sharing age related expectations / information about progress

Again, after listening to the comments from the family feedback, we wanted to support parents understanding expectations of their children and the progress they are expected to make. As a result, at parents' evening, all families received a booklet that outlined all of the different topics that children are expected to be able to do during their time in each year group. We also considered how we shared information about progress with you – hopefully this was helpful for everyone.



#### School day arrangements

To support families collecting their children at the end of the day, all children now leave directly onto the playground. This is as a direct result of family feedback. We have received lots of positive feedback about our much "calmer" end of the day. This has been great to hear!

We have also rearranged the timetable of the school day to allow teachers and teaching assistants to meet and discuss the learning for the day. This has made a significant impact on the children and the effectiveness of the lessons that they take part in.

#### Friends of Sleights School

It was great to meet a number of our families earlier in the term who were keen to support us in our fundraising efforts. The establishing of the 'Friends of Sleights School' is incredibly exciting and we hope will lead to lots of fun activities during the school year for our families to enjoy, whilst raising funds. Our first event will take place shortly after the Easter holidays.

#### Supporting charity

Supporting children with the blood condition haemophilia is something close to our school's heart. Because of this, we have been supporting the work of the Haemophilia Society this term by completing a number of fundraising events. The children have also been teaching each other Haemophilia and we have been pleased to raise funds and awareness. A total figure of funds raised will be shared after the holidays, but a huge thank you to everyone who has supported us!



THE  
HAEMOPHILIA  
SOCIETY



### Early Years Foundation Stage

We have been excited to make a number of changes and developments to our Early Years classrooms. Staff have been working hard to redesign the classroom spaces and reorganise the resources and provision on offer for our youngest children. The team now engage in regular meetings to constantly discuss and review the children's learning and progress, as well as share great ideas and good practice. As learning in the Early Years Foundation stage is so unique, the staff have also been working hard to compile systems for a handbook to share our approach. If you haven't seen the redesigned classrooms, do go and visit!

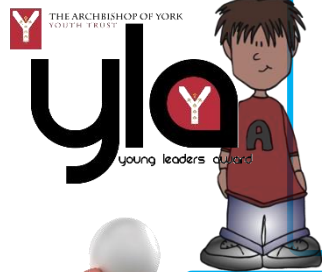
### Tapestry Learning Journal

We are keen to promote and build good relationships with our families to support learning both in school and at home. In Class 1 and Pre-School, we have introduced an online learning journal called Tapestry. This is a piece of software that is used by school staff to share photographs and observations of learning with families at home. Families also send photographs and observations to school via the software to build up a full picture of a child's progress. We have been delighted with its success already and can't wait to continue developing it.



### Archbishop of York Young Leader's Award

This term, children in Class 3 have begun the Archbishop of York Young Leader's Award (known as Archie B). The award involves the children working on a series of projects, including volunteering, to grow and develop their leadership skills. This term, the children have established links with Esk Hall residential home in Sleights and have visited residents to share stories they wrote in school and sing songs they had learnt. We hope this is the start of a really great relationship with our elderly neighbours and something that the children will gain a great deal from.



### Writing

Across Key Stage 2 (Class 3 and Class 4), we have introduced a new approach to writing that focuses on developing a writer's toolkit of skills to help them write a particular text type. We have seen children's engagement in our new writing approach be really positive! Class 4 worked hard to create their own autobiographies, which were shared with the families and Class 3 have enjoyed writing their own instructions for shelter building. We look forward to continuing to develop this approach and share it in Class 2.



### Dance lessons

We have welcomed Hannah Verity's dance company to Sleights this term. Over the last term, Hannah has been teaching Class 3 and Class 4 different routines. After the holidays, Hannah will be teaching Class 1 and 2, as well as offering an after school club.



### Eskdale Festival

We were delighted to have so many children represent Sleights at the Eskdale Festival in March. Lots of children were recognised with certificates and medals, but we were proud of every individual who took part. They were a total credit to everyone!



### Big Box Building

It was so lovely to welcome so many families into school to build big with our huge collection of cardboard boxes. The children (and families) made some excellent creations and worked together to build something. At the end of the day, we held an exhibition of work and many families gave us some great feedback.



## In the summer term, look out for...

- More clubs on offer for our children.
- Fundraising events, led by our newly established Friends of Sleights School.
- A reviewed vision and set of values for our school.