

Sleights Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School
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"Working together to be happy; to flourish; to succeed"

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Dear families,

Welcome back! Over the summer, I hope that you have been able to make lots of happy memories and enjoy amazing experiences together as families. We were certainly blessed with the excellent weather! After the break, I hope that everyone was able to return to school feeling refreshed and ready to go. We certainly have a busy term ahead and we look forward to continuing to working with you all.

Please do visit the entrance hall/reception area to see a brand new piece of artwork that was created by the children before the summer.

Class Names

Following discussions in school with children and staff, I am delighted to announce that our classes have new names! From now on, the class names are:

New name of class	Previously known as	Staff
Explorers	Pre-School	Mrs Marsay, Mrs Bland, Mrs Idle and Mrs Kipling
Pioneers	Class 1	Mrs Hann, Mr Grason, Mrs Ellis, Mrs McGill, Mrs Hansell
Adventurers	Class 2	Mrs Roe and Mr Everall
Discoverers	Class 3	Mrs Burton, Mrs Morrison and Mrs Exelby
Leaders	Class 4	Miss Stubbs, Mrs Creek and Mrs Wood

Our new class names focus on particular characteristics or ideas around how we are aiming for our children to learn. We hope you like them!

Staff news

We are really excited to share that Mrs Burton is expecting a baby! We wish her well for her pregnancy and in preparing for Baby Burton's arrival. We will, of course, keep you updated on staffing arrangements for Discoverers Class.

I am also delighted to share with you that over the summer, Mrs Ellis got married. We have seen photographs and videos of the day and it looked a truly special occasion. We wish Mrs Ellis and her wife many years of happy marriage together!

Love has no labels

In collective worship today, we explored the Bible reading "My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you" (John 15:12) This was a great starting point to explore a video that I then shared with the children called "Love has no labels" The video is available on YouTube and I would encourage everyone to watch it. It tells a great story of different forms of love and relationships and identifies that love is open to everyone, regardless of gender, race, religion, disability and age.

We will be exploring these ideas in greater depth over the coming year to support the school's work in developing our vision and Christian values. Thank you for your support with this.

Social Media (Facebook and Twitter)

As part of our ongoing commitment to safeguarding families, children and staff, part of our training day on Monday focused on social media, in particular Facebook and Twitter. Across many Local Authorities, for safeguarding reasons, it is strongly advised that members of staff who work in schools are not 'friends' with families and parents on Facebook and/or Twitter. Therefore, I have requested that members of Sleights staff also follow this advice. With this in mind, please do not be offended if a member of staff refuses any requests for 'friends' on social media, or removes you from their current friendship list.

Diary Dates

Over the coming days, we hope to send home a list of dates and events for forward planning.

Dinner money reminder

Just a reminder that before the holidays, I wrote to families to explain that the cost of school meals will be increasing to £2.40 per day, or £12.00 per week. This is due to increased costs at North Yorkshire County Caterers. These prices only apply to children in Year 3, 4, 5 or 6, as children in Year 1, 2 and Reception receive free school meals. If you have children in Key Stage 2 and feel you may also be entitled to free school meals, please see Mrs Stubbs or I to discuss this.

We would really appreciate money being sent to school at the start of the week in a sealed, named envelope. Could I also ask that children choose either school dinner or packed lunch on a half termly basis, rather than regular swaps each week or day? Mrs Eglon is required to order three weeks in advance, so a longer term commitment helps hugely with this! Thank you for your support.

Holidays

It might be tempting to consider booking a holiday in term time due to this dull weather we are experiencing. However, I must remind all families that no absence for holiday will be authorised and may result in penalty notice fines. Attendance is a key aspect of your child doing well at school. I am confident that we can work together to make sure attending well is a key priority for all.

Food in School

Please may I remind all families that we are a nut free school. In addition, please could I ask that if packed lunches are being sent to school, they contain an appropriate and balanced meal. Thank you for your support with this.

Thank you for your support. Here's to another super year!

Scott Grason
Headteacher