

In many cases, it is considered that the summer term is one where the hard work eases a little and the school year begins to wind down. However, at Sleights this term, this has certainly **not** been the case! Team Sleights has continued to work relentlessly to ensure that every child receives the very best start to life. I am sure you will agree from this document, there really is a great deal to be proud of and celebrate. Well done and thank you to everyone for the part they play in our team!

Scott Grason
Headteacher



Working together to be happy; to flourish; to succeed – our vision!

At the very start of the summer term, all staff and governors spent a training day refocusing the school's work and its direction. The session was very motivating and has shaped the work of the team and will continue to do so.

We felt strongly that our vision (what we are setting out to achieve) should begin with happiness and teamwork. Raising children is something that is done in partnership with school and home. It's important that we get this right from the start!

We also knew our work needed to make sure every child, regardless of background or starting points succeeds and flourishes. We firmly believe at Sleights that every child will have success with the right support and challenge. We are excited to continue developing our vision over the coming terms at Sleights!



Celebrating and illustrating our school vision

We are incredibly excited that work has begun with Liz Collier, a local artist, to illustrate our new school vision. Liz has been working alongside different ages and groups of children to gather ideas and generate a plan. Personally, I cannot wait to see the final results! Liz has been incredibly impressed by our outstanding learners. They have approached the art work project with real passion and enthusiasm. We are immensely proud that the final piece (due for completion in autumn) will have been designed and made by all of the children at Sleights. Exciting times!



Our school environment

Around school, we have been redeveloping different spaces and our approach to learning environments. You have hopefully seen huge photographs of our smiling, happy children engaged in learning. This term, we have also introduced a consistent approach to how we organise our classrooms. Around the school, you will see natural hessian used as display backgrounds. The calm and natural backgrounds provide the perfect backdrop for our children's successes to be celebrated.

We are also firmly committing to providing learning opportunities that embrace natural materials. For example, instead of using plastic cubes for maths, our children have been using sticks and leaves from the forest. It has been so inspiring to see so many of our children enjoying the beautiful environment around us. There will certainly be more of this next year!



A visit from 'the boss!'

In July, we were visited by Judith Kirk, the Assistant Director for North Yorkshire. Judith's job is an important one and she is a very senior member of the leadership team across all of North Yorkshire. Judith spent an afternoon in school seeing the work of our children, before accepting a fundraising cheque raised by Class 3 earlier in the term. Judith was incredibly impressed with what she saw. Unsurprisingly, she also spoke very highly of all of the staff and children at Sleights.



Lions in the forest!

We were incredibly excited earlier in the summer term to receive delivery of a rather large tepee to support our outdoor learning. Mr and Mrs Taylor, grandparents at Sleights, were able to put us in touch with the Whitby Lions, who then very kindly donated funds to purchase the tepee. The children love using it and we are absolutely thrilled with it! A huge thank you to Whitby Lions and Mr and Mrs Taylor!



Hilda was 100!

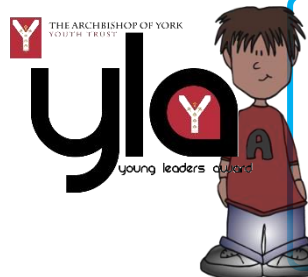
It was great to support the community and celebrate a local resident's 100th birthday! Every child in the school made their own birthday card for Hilda and delivered it to her. It was a magical moment and something that we will remember forever!

Strengthening Transition and Welcome

Our improved approach to transferring to new classes was a huge success this year! The children spent two full days with their new teachers and were able to bring their families in to show what they had been up to. The open classroom event was also very well attended!

Behind the scenes, a great deal of work has been undertaken by our hardworking staff team, who have been meeting and sharing ideas and information to support children's development from one teacher to the next. We are really excited for September and are confident that the improved transition will have an incredibly positive impact.

Of course, we also met the new children joining Sleights in Reception class in September. We have 17 new children starting Reception (the highest ever!) and it was brilliant to be able to hold a new families meeting to share our approach. Taking on feedback from families from previous transition experiences, we also made sure that new families to Sleights were given a tour of the whole school to see how everything else works!



Archbishop of York Young Leader's Award

Our Year 3 and 4 children have successfully completed the Archbishop of York Young Leader's programme and we were delighted to be able to present them with their certificate in the last week of term. Children have been volunteering and engaging with the community over the last few months. A real highlight was their sponsored sleepover for Crohn's and Colitis, which raised a staggering £850! The children told us that they really enjoyed the project and learnt a great deal from it. We are keen to continue developing our leadership skills and connections to the community next year. Well done all!

Attendance

As you know, I regularly communicate about attendance. This key OfSTED area has been a priority for us all year. However, this term saw the best attendance levels in at least the last two years! We also have been able to reduce the number of children who are late and 'persistently absent'.

Term time holidays have also reduced, but let's all work together to ensure that they continue to reduce next year, please!



Mic Bates Sports

Mic Bates, a highly experienced local sports coach, has been working alongside staff and children to develop teaching and leadership of PE. Mr Bates provided some excellent model lessons and team teaching activities, as well as teaching Year 5 and 6 to create, plan and lead their own PE sessions to Key Stage 1. I know the children really enjoyed his sessions!



Sports Day

A revised approach to sports day proved very popular with our children this year! All children were engaged all afternoon and loved participating in different games and competitions. It was great to see confident, happy children enjoying competitive sport. I know that in some cases, seeing more than one child was difficult, but I am sure you will agree, the joy and happiness of children enjoying the activities far outweighed this!

East Barnby

Children in Class 4 were an absolute pleasure to take away to East Barnby for a week in July. They showed great perseverance, motivation and skill as they conquered many challenges. We were so proud of each one of them!



There's more!

- A number of teaching staff have undertaken leadership projects and national training programmes.
- The governors have continued to be a positive presence around school, regularly visiting to see the school's work as 'Priority Partners'.
- Our school roll is looking very positive! We have a high waiting list for Pre-School and the number of children in school continues to rise. We started September with 93 children and begin next year with 103! Wow!