

Sleights Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School
Ingham Close
Sleights
Whitby
North Yorkshire
YO22 5DN



Working together to be happy; to flourish; to succeed through our Christian Values of perseverance, respect and trust.

Website: www.sleights.n-yorks.sch.uk

Telephone: 01947 810395

Headteacher: Scott Grason

19th October 2018

Dear families,

This week has certainly brought a chill with it! The colder weather is showing us that the last of the summer sun has gone and winter is on its way. The sun continues to shine in our classrooms, however, with another super week of learning at Sleights!

On Thursday, I found Miss Idle setting up a tent in Explorers. The children had decided that they were going to make a camp fire, using natural materials from around the classroom. Excited by this, the staff then set up a tent and base camp (complete with trees!) for the children to explore. I am sure there will be hours of fun ahead!

In Pioneers, there has been a storm! When I visited early in the week, a huge branch was in the classroom. The children told me that the storm had caused the damage and they were going to sort it out. The children have also been working hard on their phonics sounds and recognising different numbers. It is impressive to see the huge amount of progress that Pioneers have made in their short time with us.

Adventurers have been story writing this week. At the start of the week, they visited the forest, where they created a story map to retell Little Red Riding Hood. Back in the classroom, I enjoyed watching them use this map to write the story. Children were making great language choices and it was great to see everyone so focused and engaged. Great work!

I have enjoyed teaching Discoverers again this week. After our successful story writing last week, we decided to write our own book reviews of Roald Dahl's 'The Minpins'. We are really keen to celebrate children's writing, so we thought it would be a great idea to share their review on Amazon. Look out for it soon! The children have particularly impressed me with the excellent vocabulary they have developed and are using to describe. So good to see!

I also had the pleasure of teaching Leaders on this week. Pioneers and Leaders enjoyed a very special moment together on Thursday afternoon, when they worked together to create some extra art for the hall. It was so lovely to watch the two classes work together to flourish and succeed. What was particularly impressive was the way in which the older children supported our youngest learners so gently. It really showed our Christian value of trust and respect shine through.

Attendance update

Our unauthorised absence this week was **0.2%** (caused due to late arrival at school).

Wow! This is the lowest all year, so far, and something we hope to improve on even more!

Whole school attendance so far this year:	96.7% ★	Target for whole school attendance this year:	96%
--	---------	--	-----

Whole school attendance this week	Pioneers attendance this week	Adventurers attendance this week	Discoverers attendance this week	Leaders attendance this week
98% ★	91.2%	98.8% ★	99.3% ★	★100%★

This is the best week for whole school attendance this year. A huge well done and thank you to everyone for making such an effort! Particularly well done to Adventures, Discoverers and Leaders for reaching the 96% target!

Parking

When I first started at Sleights, parking outside the school was a huge problem and I had many conversations with families about this. Thankfully, we all worked hard to address and resolve it. However, I have recently noticed an increase again in the number of cars parking on the double yellows, or in front of the parking spaces opposite the school. This is just as bad (if not worse!) than parking on the double yellows, as crossing the road safely is made almost impossible.

Even if you will "only be a minute", this is never acceptable and will be challenged. Our children's safety is far more important than finding a parking space close to school. I look forward to seeing rapid improvements with this next week.

Teaching in Discoverers Class

As you know, Mrs Burton is expecting a baby in the new year. However, as she is currently unwell, the children have been taught by Mrs Morrison and I. This will continue until Mrs Burton is well enough to return, as we are keen for the children to have consistency. We wish Mrs Burton a speedy recovery.

To cover Mrs Burton's maternity absence, we are recruiting a new teacher to school. Interviews are in the coming weeks, so I will be able to update you on arrangements as soon as we know.

Baby news

As well as Mrs Burton, we are also excited to be welcoming Mrs Teasdale's new arrival very soon. This week, Mrs Kipling has also announced that she is expecting another baby. We are delighted for all expectant mothers and their families and wish them a safe and happy pregnancy.

Year 1 Hearing Tests

Children in Year 1 will have their hearing tests, in school, on Thursday 25th October with a nurse from the NHS.

Christmas Cards

I can't quite believe we are talking Christmas in October, but over the last few weeks, the children have been designing Christmas Cards that can be bought by families. This is the same as in previous years, only this year, the company who does this has moved to an online system. With this in mind, please look out for more details next week about how to order online. The deadline set by the company is quite short for this and during half term (1st November 2018)

Year 6 applications for secondary

Again, I can't quite believe we are talking about next September already. However, the deadline for Year 6 applications for secondary schools needs to be submitted online by 31st October 2018.

Bonfire Lunch – Monday, 5th November

To celebrate Bonfire Night and our first day back at school after half term, all children are invited to join us for a special lunch. This will include: Pork Sausage in a homemade roll with chips, beans and tomato sauce followed by sticky toffee pudding and custard.

Kids' Club Themes for next week

Spaces are available for Kids' Club before and after school. Please contact the school office to book children in. The themes for the coming week are:

Monday: Movie Night

Tuesday: Play-Dough

Wednesday: Arts and Crafts

Thursday: Monster art

Friday: Treasure Hunt!

Thank you for your continued support. Happy weekend!

Scott Grason
Headteacher