

Sleights Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School

Ingham Close
Sleights
Whitby
North Yorkshire
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Working together to be happy; to flourish; to succeed through our Christian Values of perseverance, respect and trust.

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9th November 2018

Dear families,

Thinking back over the last week, it is quite amazing to think about the many activities that have happened! We've had visitors from a celebrity bear, trips out, reflections on remembrance, wonderful writing, reading challenges and discussions about a very big party! There is so much news this week, we have had to add an extra page!

Writing across Sleights

We were incredibly excited to launch a brand new writing approach across school this week. Before the holidays, the whole staff worked hard to plan a unit of writing that everyone across Sleights will enjoy. This will be a new process that we look forward to developing. (more details below)

Happy Birthday, Sleights!

You may have heard that our special school is having a very big birthday this year. The Sleights building is 50 years old! We cannot wait to have a huge year of big parties and celebrations to mark this amazing event. To help us celebrate the big birthday and launch our new writing approach, children across the school have all been tasked with writing a letter to the Gazette about why Sleights is great. We cannot wait to celebrate these with you!

Staffing update

This week, we have welcomed a new face to our school staff. Mrs Leanne Walker has joined the Sleights team to cover Mrs Burton's absence in Discoverers. Thank you to all families, children and staff who have made Mrs Walker feel so welcome.

Mrs Morrison is also currently absent from school. In Mrs Morrison's absence, Mrs Walker has agreed to teach Discoverers full time. We hope that this will provide routine for all children and families. Thank you to families for their patience and understanding with the staffing changes.

In the classrooms this week

When I visited Explorers this week, it was great to see our letter writing theme in action through a Post Office role play area. The children loved making marks on postcards, before posting these on the wonderful work wall. I was also really impressed this week to see our youngest children sorting objects into colours and sizes. Great work, Explorers!

On Wednesday, Mrs Kellerman (our Chair of Governors) and I had a learning walk around school. When we visited Pioneers, we were both blown away by the amazing learning that was being undertaken. The focus, progress and behaviour for learning was outstanding. The children were adding single numbers together **and** writing number sentences correctly to show this (all after just eight weeks in school!) The children have also been in the forest comparing lengths using objects found in the woodland. It looked like great fun for everyone! Well done, Pioneers!

When I visited Mrs Roe and Adventurers earlier in the week, the class were also exploring our letter writing theme. The children were really engaged by the task! Joining Adventurers this week was also Sunny the Meerkat. The children have enjoyed creating postcards from different parts of school, to tell Sunny about our super school. I know that the children also had a great time on their school trip to Stewart Park on Thursday, creating artwork and enjoying a great time in the museum. Well done, Adventurers!

Discoverers have been tackling angles this week. I was impressed by how much mathematical language was used by the children and how much progress they were making. I particularly enjoyed seeing how the children progressed from learning types of angles very quickly to completing problem solving tasks about them. The children have also been incredibly kind, helpful and hardworking for Mrs Walker, making her feel very welcome in her first few days with us. Thank you and well done, Discoverers!

I have enjoyed speaking with Leaders' class about our new writing approach this week. I was particularly impressed when speaking with some children, who confidently explained to me the high expectations that were being set for children across the school through our new approach. The children were also able to confidently describe how a new reading resource we have introduced was helping them too. Fantastic, Leaders!

Remembrance


This week we have explored the theme of Remembrance across school. In our collective worship services, the children have discussed why poppies are used to help us remember war heroes, as well as where the money goes when a poppy is bought. We also held a short service today, with a two minutes silence at 11am. Please do visit the entrance hall, as children have also created a small poppy drawing for display. We proudly share 100 poppies for the 100 years of remembrance.




Attendance update - last half term

I was so proud when I saw the attendance figures for last half term. Overall, our attendance was 96.3% for the half term, which is above the national target. This is also a huge 1.7% more than the same time period last year. Wow! I was also particularly impressed by our persistent absence figure. This is the number of children who have missed more than 10% of school. This figure was 9.62% (10 children), which is a staggering improvement on 18.48% which was last year's figure. Great work to all!

Attendance update - week before half term

Our unauthorised absence this week was **0.8%**. This was due to a family holiday.

Whole school attendance so far this year:	96.3% 	Target for whole school attendance this year:	96%
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Whole school attendance this week	Pioneers attendance this week	Adventurers attendance this week	Discoverers attendance this week	Leaders attendance this week
95.4%	96.7% 	96.4% 	89.3%	99.4% 

Well done to Pioneers, Adventurers and Leaders for meeting the 96% target.

A reminder - If your child is absent from school, it is vital that this is passed on to the school office for each day of the absence. Families must ring by **9.30am** at the very latest to let the school office know. If we have not heard from you, this will be classed as unauthorised absence.

Parking (again!)

You may have seen me relocate from the school gate to the path this week. This is because the parking situation on the double yellow lines was becoming dangerous. Understandably, I have received complaints about this from a number of parents and families. It is **never OK** to park on these double yellow lines, even if it is "just for a minute". Thankfully, the situation has improved over the course of the week, but I will be back out again next week to tackle anyone careless enough to park on the double yellow lines. Thank you for your support with this.

Reading Challenge

There is a great wealth of evidence that shows reading regularly makes a massive difference to children's enjoyment, skills and abilities. Therefore, I am throwing a challenge down to every child at Sleights. The challenge is for **every** child in **every** class to read at least 25 times every half term. This can include reading at home and in school. Please support the school and your child/ren to meet this challenge. Any reading at home must be with an adult, or older sibling, and should be recorded in children's reading books. I am excited to see so much reading happen!

Sleights under 10s Football Club

History was made on Sunday, when the under 10s village football club had their first match on Sleights soil. Whilst this is not technically a school event, I wanted to congratulate the children and families in the team for their superb effort. We look forward to supporting the team as they develop in the upcoming years.

Homework Club – after school Mondays – starting next week!

Please complete and return the reply slip at the end of the letter if you wish for your child to come to homework club each Monday (3.15pm – 4.15pm)

Art Club – after school Tuesdays – starting next week!

Discoverers and Leaders are invited to join Christmas Crafts art club on Tuesday after school. Places will be limited and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. Please return the reply slip at the bottom of the letter.

SATS meeting for Year 2 parents

We are inviting all parents of children in Year 2 to a meeting on Thursday 15th November to find out about the end of year 'SATS' assessments. The meeting will take place in Adventurers' Classroom and will start at 3.15pm. We will be able to provide care for Year 2 children in Kids' Club free of charge for this meeting, but please do book the children in beforehand. We hope to see lots of families there! For more information, please speak to Mrs Roe.

Children in Need

I started the newsletter by saying we had a visit from a celebrity bear! This was, in fact, Children in Need's very own 'Pudsey'. Pudsey joined us on Thursday afternoon and had a dance and lots of photos with our children. We talked about ways we could make money and how this could be used to help others. It was really exciting for everyone! Look under the 'Latest News' section of our website for photographs!

We will be fundraising for Children in Need on Friday 16th November. The children are asked to wear spots and bring a donation of £1 for the charity. Thank you for your support.

Kids' Club

Can I remind families that as our Kids' Club staffing is based on numbers, we may have to charge if places are not cancelled, or taken up. Please do let us know if you have booked a space that is no longer needed in good time, as the place could be allocated to somebody else.

Year 1 Hearing Tests

The hearing tests were due to take place before the holidays, but unfortunately were cancelled. They have been rearranged for Thursday 15th November.

NSPCC workshops

The NSPCC will be in school on Tuesday 13th to hold workshops and assemblies with children. These will be focused on staying safe.

School dinner money

Please could I ask, again, that all dinner money is paid in advance (in a sealed, labelled envelope) This should come to school on a Monday morning, so that Mrs Stubbs can process it and have it banked. Thank you for your support with this.

Scott Grason
Headteacher

CLUBS REPLY SLIP

My child: _____ will be attending

Homework club (Monday after school) YES / NO

Art Club (Tuesday after school – Leaders and Discoverers only) YES / NO

Signed: _____

Date: _____