

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.

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30th November 2018

Dear families,

It is rather scary to be writing November for the last time on this newsletter. I can't quite believe it's almost December! As the busy time draws in, I thought it would be worth reminding families that all dates for events are on our school website (address above) found under the "Home" then "Calendar" tab.

In the classrooms this week

I was really impressed by what I saw in Explorers this week. When I arrived with Mrs Kellerman, our Chair of Governors, on Tuesday, the children were very busy creating a swimming pool. The children were developing their ideas with Miss Idle and Mrs Bland, who shared with Mrs Kellerman and I lots of information about children's thoughts. It was so great to hear how children's ideas were really driving their learning forwards. All Explorers were really happy and working so hard. Great work to all!

Pioneers have been playing their part in making our world a better one this week by planting some new trees in the forest. The children spoke confidently about the different equipment they needed and how they were going to watch the trees grow during their own time in school. The children have also been fascinated by space and the solar system. A Pioneer asked "What's a planet?", so Mrs Hann has been working hard and planned for the children to find out the answer! The children have used filter paper to make artwork of the earth, looked at models of planets and their sizes and drawn their own planets. Such great ideas. Well done, Pioneers!

Miss Stubbs and I were fortunate to be part of a lovely Religious Education lesson this week. On Tuesday afternoon, we were invited to join Mrs Roe and the Adventurers as they explored creation. The children enjoyed singing a rather catchy song about creation (stuck in my head all evening!), as well as engaging in some incredibly thoughtful discussion about what God would think of his world if he saw it today. Their ideas were fascinating! Amazing Adventurers!

In our writing this week, across school, we have begun to explore the 2015 John Lewis Christmas advert (the Man in the Moon) The video is so lovely and certainly worth a watch. It explores the idea of "showing someone they are loved this Christmas", which we think is a brilliant way of living out our Christian value of compassion. In Discoverers, the children have been studying the advert closely, looking at relationships, thoughts and feelings. Over this last week and the coming days, the children have been creating letters between two characters with very different Christmas experiences, with some amazing discussions. Great work, Discoverers!

I was really impressed to be handed a huge pile of finished work this week from Miss Stubbs. The work was completed letters, written by Leaders, for the Whitby Gazette about super Sleights and our 50th Birthday. The work is also on display outside Leaders' classroom - pop in and have a look. What I was so pleased to see was the beautiful handwriting on display, as well as the amazing vocabulary that children had used. This piece shows real progress for our Year 5/6 children and we are all so proud of them. Great work, Team!

As ever, our staff continue to work to make sure that every week our children can enjoy so much amazing learning opportunities. Well done to them all and a huge thank you to Team Sleights!

Discoverers - Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday next week

Next week, Mrs Walker will be wrapping up warm and spending Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at East Barnby on Forest School training. We are so excited, as this means the Discoverers can get outside to continue enjoying the forest. Mrs Wood will be teaching Discoverers, with Mrs Walker planning work for the class.

Our Champion Swimmer!

I was delighted to recently receive an email from Whitby Seals, sharing the success of our very own Keni! Keni qualified to swim at the Winter Yorkshire Swimming Championships in September. This event was held in Leeds, which meant Keni was faced with incredibly tough competition from huge clubs around Yorkshire. However, we are delighted to be able to share that our swimming superstar qualified in the 50m Butterfly (a notoriously difficult stroke!) in the 9/10 years group. We are so proud of Keni and want to say a huge well done – great work! Thank you also to Howard and Dot for encouraging and supporting him so well.

Christmas Fair – next week – Friday 7th at 2pm

Families are invited to join us for our Christmas Fair next week. There will be lots of things to explore and enjoy. We are even expecting Father Christmas himself to pop by! As well as our Christmas Fair day, Friday 7th is also national “Elf Day”. To support this, look out for a guess the name of the elf competition, where funds raised will be donated to the Alzheimer’s charity.

We would be delighted to receive any donations of cakes for our very popular refreshment stall, please. These could be brought into school on the morning of the fair. Thank you in advance!

Mrs Teasdale

This week we are saying goodbye and good luck to Reanna Teasdale, a longstanding MSA and after school club assistant. As you may know, Reanna is leaving to welcome a new baby into her family and has a big, exciting adventure planned for when baby arrives, which means she will be leaving her post at Sleights. We wish Reanna and all her family luck for the future and thank her for her hard work at Sleights!

Thank you, Mr Russell!

We are always very excited when things are donated to school and this week was no exception. On Tuesday, Howard Russell (one of our school grandparents) was kind enough to donate a number of very large cable drums, as Mr Russell is a local electrician. These are absolutely fantastic and have already been enjoyed so much by the Pioneers children. Thank you, Howard!

Lunchtimes

We currently have a vacancy for a lunchtime/midday supervisor role. This is a hugely important position in school and would involve supporting lunchtime play, supervising the dining hall and working closely with school staff. If you are interested in the role, or would like to find out more, please do come and chat with me.

Our lunch offer is “family service”, meaning that older and younger children eat together. The menu is set by North Yorkshire County Caterers and provides a wide variety of choice throughout a three week rotation. All meals are nutritiously balanced and prepared onsite by Mrs Eglon and Mrs Harland.

Christmas Trees at St. Mary’s Church

As in previous years, our school has decorated a tree at St. Mary’s Church. The Sleights tree marks 50 years of school, 70 years of the NHS and 100 years of remembrance. Children have worked hard to contribute and make it special. In addition this year, our friends at the Whitby Lions also asked us to decorate their tree. We wanted to celebrate the donation made by the Lions last year for our school tepee, so have created lots of pompom lions and a tent to show this. Please do go and have a look! Thank you and well done to the children and staff who have worked hard on these projects.

For Pioneer parents and families

We are absolutely delighted that Beyond Housing (formally Yorkshire Coast Homes) have approached us to create a partnership between our elderly residents and Pioneers class. It is expected that over the coming months, Pioneers will regularly visit the community centre (across the road from school) to enjoy different activities with our neighbours. Our first visit is Wednesday morning. Look out for pictures on the website afterwards!

Special Menus – a reminder

As we approach the festive season, we are pleased to share the dates and details of some special lunches, prepared by Mrs Eglon. All children, including those normally on packed lunch, will be able to join in. Please just order in advance with Mrs Stubbs in the office.

Party Lunch – Monday 17th December

Selection of sandwiches, pizza, sausages, vegetable bites, crisps, biscuits and juice, followed by iced sponge cake.


Christmas Lunch – Wednesday 19th December

Roast Turkey and stuffing, with mashed potato, carrots, peas, sausage and gravy, followed by chocolate Christmas tree ice cream

Attendance update

Our unauthorised absence this week was **3.1%**. This was due to family holidays.

Whole school attendance so far this year:	95.9%	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
92.8%	95.6%	92.7%	99.7% 	85.4%

Our whole school attendance for this week is the lowest it has been all year. This is due, in part, to family holidays. Well done to Discoverers, our only class this week, for meeting the 96% target.

New Governor

The Governing Body met on Wednesday evening to discuss how our great school continues to move forward and improve. A vacancy for a co-opted governor arose and during the meeting we were pleased to fill it! We welcome Mrs Kristie Price to the Sleights Governing Body for a period of four years. Mrs Price works locally in another primary school and has, for a number of years, been based in educational settings. She brings a wealth of experience to our team and, as an ex pupil of Sleights, is really keen and committed to supporting its future development.

Christmas Play – “Straw and Order”

Wednesday 12th December (afternoon) and Thursday 13th December (evening)

Preparations are underway for our Christmas play, “Straw and Order”, which will take place in St. John’s Church. Tickets are now available from the school office and are restricted to four per family (this could be two from one performance, two from the other etc.) The reply slip below should be completed and returned to the office. Tickets will then be handed out to the children. We are also asking for any donations to support the production.

Have a great weekend with your families.

Scott Grason
Headteacher

STRAW AND ORDER TICKETS – CHRISTMAS PLAY

Name of child/ren: _____

Number of tickets required:

Wednesday PM: _____

Thursday EVENING: _____

(total of 4 per family)

Donation: _____ (enclosed/to follow/non)