

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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Headteacher: Scott Grason

7th December 2018

Dear families,

The Christmas countdown officially began on Saturday, as our wonderful school launched Yorkshire Coast Radio's Countdown to Santa. If you have not yet seen the video, or heard the children on the radio, head over to the Yorkshire Coast Radio website or Facebook page. It certainly is very festive!

In the classrooms

Explorers have been decorating their classroom this week by making their own Christmas stockings. The children were really proud to show me their designs that were hanging above the fireplace that had been set up. They had clearly worked very hard on them!

Pioneers visited the community centre this week for their very first intergenerational project day. The session involved meeting elderly neighbours and playing games, such as bingo and throw the quoits at the reindeer's antlers (these were actually on my head, so much enjoyment was had by throwing things at Mr Grason!) The children also enjoyed decorating Christmas biscuits. Pioneers were a total delight and were incredibly excited by the project (which will continue to develop next year)

A huge thank you to Millie's dad this week, who brought his chef expertise to Sleights for a huge Yorkshire Pudding baking session. The Adventurers created invitations for children across the school to sample the toffee sauce and oregano puddings. They were a total hit with everyone who sampled them and a few of us are hoping for a special release of the secret recipe! A huge well done to our Adventurers, but also a massive thank you to Mr Calder for his time, efforts and enthusiasm!

Discoverers have begun writing their letters between the characters in the "Man on the Moon" video. This is being used across school as part of our work of "showing someone they are loved this Christmas". The children this week have compiled letters between the old man and young girl, who are both experiencing very different Christmases. Next week, the children will begin their letters to a loved one – something we are all looking forward to reading.

Continuing the Christmas theme, the children in Leaders this week also ventured to the community centre across the road from school to sing songs and Carols to our elderly neighbours. I know from speaking to a neighbour that the children's singing certainly put a smile on everyone's face. Great work to Leaders for representing the school so well.

We regularly blog on the school website, so please do take a look to see some of these events for yourself. Well done to all in Team Sleights!

Christmas Fair – Today!

I am sure many of you were able to join us for our annual Christmas fair. I am writing this before the fair, but, judging by the exciting packages that have been assembled in the staffroom over the last few weeks and the busy activities, I am sure it was a successful one! We will update you more next week on the fair, but, for now, could I say the biggest thank you to Mrs Exelby, who has done a sterling job of coordinating the fair (and even managing to get the man himself to join us for the occasion!)

Last day of term

Can I remind all families we will close for Christmas on Friday 21st December at 2pm.

Christmas Play – “Straw and Order”

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

Rehearsals are now in full swing for our Christmas play, “Straw and Order”, which will take place in St. John’s Church next week. Tickets are 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.

On the afternoon of Wednesday 12th, no children will be allowed to leave from the church. At the end of the performance, the children will go back to school and leave from there as normal.

On Thursday 13th, we are asking for all children to come to the Church (**in costume**) at 5.30pm. The children will be signed in and will not be allowed to leave the church until they have been signed out. Staff will be on hand to lead this.

We hope to see many families there for this, our very first, whole school production in Church!

Clubs cancelled next week:

- There will be NO AFTER SCHOOL DANCE on Tuesday
- There will be NO AFTER SCHOOL FOOTBALL CLUB on Wednesday 12th, as Mr Gokool is not in school.

Homework, art and sports club will go ahead as usual.

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.

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 1.1%. This was due to family holidays.

Whole school attendance so far this year:	95.7%	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
93.2%	97.2% 	93.9%	96.6% 	87.2%

Well done to Pioneers and Discoverers for meeting the 96% target.

Have a great weekend with your families.

Scott Grason
Headteacher