

**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](http://www.sleights.n-yorks.sch.uk)

**Telephone:** 01947 810395

**Headteacher:** Scott Grason

14<sup>th</sup> December 2018

Dear families,

Wow! What a busy week that was! Thank you to every member of our whole school family who have supported our hard work and efforts. Christmas is always such a great time of year, but always incredibly busy. It is always much appreciated by everyone to know that the school is so well supported in all we do!

### **Christmas Play – “Straw and Order”**

A huge congratulations to our incredibly talented children this week, who staged a superb nativity performance of “Straw and Order” in St. John’s Church. For both afternoon and evening performances, the church was “full to the brim!” (to coin a phrase from the play itself) I am sure you will agree, the children were absolutely amazing and their individual and whole school performances certainly made everyone so very proud. To echo my comments in Church, I would like to thank all children, families, staff and Mrs Vicar for their hard work! What a team effort!

We noticed lots of families taking photographs or videos of the performance. We would love to see some of these, so if you are happy to share them, please do not hesitate to email copies in to either:

Mrs Stubbs in the office: [admin@sleights.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:admin@sleights.n-yorks.sch.uk) or me: [headteacher@sleights.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@sleights.n-yorks.sch.uk)

### **100% of Sleights families would recommend the school to others – What a headline!**

We are so proud that in the last family questionnaire, 100% of responses said that they would recommend Sleights to others. This is a headline we really care about.

Each year, league tables are published to showcase a school’s success, based on the data of year six children. With this in mind, a separate letter has been sent home as these tables can be interpreted and read in many ways, with some people drawing conclusions or making headlines about numbers on a page and not a whole school story.

We all know the important headlines of our school and hope the letter is a useful information for all families.

### **A special visitor**

On Thursday, you may have heard that we had a very special visitor to Sleights. Earlier in the term, during the week of parent’s evening, some of you may have noticed that I wasn’t in school. In early November, my sister and her partner welcomed their first child, Baby Dougie. Unfortunately, Dougie was born with some heart difficulties, which meant that, at three weeks old, he was transferred from James Cook to Newcastle Freeman’s Hospital for life changing, open heart surgery. I am sure you can appreciate, this was a very difficult time for us as a family (hence my absence from school to be with Beth, Chris and Dougie during this).

The dedication, skill and amazing talents of the superb staff at Freeman’s meant that Dougie’s surgery was a success and he is now home, fit and well. During his time in hospital, the staff at Sleights offered real strength and support to me and my whole family. As a result of this, Beth, Chris and Dougie visited Sleights this week to meet our children and staff and welcome Dougie into our school family. During his time in hospital, Dougie and his family were supported by a number of wonderful charities. With staff and children having now met Dougie, I am keen to work together as a whole school family and hope to fundraise for the charities who supported Dougie and families like ours. With this in mind, in the New Year, I hope we can work together as a school community to plan, host and enjoy some different events to help raise awareness and funds of charities who offer support to families with children in hospital.

This is an incredibly personal plea, but one that I am making because I know our fabulous school will support charities who have offered support to Baby Dougie and families like ours and will, in turn, live out of school vision of “working together to be happy; to flourish; to succeed”.

### Christmas Fair

A huge thank you must also go to everyone who supported the Christmas Fair last week. It was great to see the school alive with festive cheer and fun. In total, £555 was raised to support school funds. We discussed that some of this money would be used to buy new materials for clubs etc.

Once again, a very big thank you to Mrs. Exelby, who worked hard for weeks behind the scenes to make the event a success.

### Christmas Trees at St. Mary's Church - a reminder

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.

### Next week's events

There are so many exciting things taking place at Sleights next week. I hope that the following information is helpful to everyone in planning their very busy week!

Day	What's happening?	What are the arrangements?
Monday	Party Day (including special Party Lunch)	All children are invited to come to school wearing suitable party clothes. This should not include high heels, jewellery, inappropriate clothing (e.g. strappy tops, unsuitable designs on clothing etc.) Pioneers and Adventurers will party in the morning. Discoverers and Leaders will party in the afternoon.
Tuesday	Christingle	9.30am - Please do join us for our Christingle Service at St. John's Church.
Wednesday	Christmas Lunch	Children will enjoy their annual Christmas Lunch with all the trimmings.
Wednesday	Village Church Service	The school choir have been invited to perform at St. John's for the Christmas Carol Service - all welcome (7.00pm start)
Thursday	Pantomime in Scarborough	The bus <b>must</b> leave at 9am to get to Scarborough. Please ensure children are in school at 8.50am (at the very latest!)
Thursday	Disco	Tickets are available from the office (or on the door on the evening of the discos) Pioneers and Adventurers 4.15pm - 5.15pm Discoverers and Leaders 5.15pm - 6.15pm
Friday	Non Uniform / Christmas Jumper Day	Children can wear non uniform OR Christmas jumpers for the final day of term.
Friday	Break up for half term	Finish at 2pm

### Attendance update

Our unauthorised absence this week was **0.4%**. This was due to families with no reasons given for absence.

<b>Whole school attendance so far this year:</b>	95.5%	<b>Target for whole school attendance this year:</b>	96%
--	-------	--	-----

Whole school attendance this week	Pioneers attendance this week	Adventurers attendance this week	Discoverers attendance this week	Leaders attendance this week
93.3%	93.4%	93.1%	93.4%	93.3%

Have a restful weekend with your families... I hear we are expecting snow!

Scott Grason  
Headteacher