



Sleights Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School Celebrating the 2018 autumn term's success

Working together to be happy; to flourish; to succeed through our Christian Values

In some ways, it feels like the start of this academic year was ages ago. In others, it really feels like "blink and we have missed it!" I always look forward to spending time and reflecting on the work of our super school and putting this summary together. It is a chance to recognise and celebrate the many areas of Sleights that make it so special. I hope you enjoy reading it and celebrating these successes with us.

Scott Grason
Headteacher



Our vision lived out – "Working together"

As you know, a huge amount of work was undertaken last year to really define the work of our school and shape our future direction. Our new vision has since been celebrated everywhere, with high quality artwork produced by our children now proudly on display to show this.

What has really struck me this term has been just how well this vision has been lived out. In particular, the absolute and overwhelming support from the families and whole school community that we serve. Working in education is tough. The news is always reporting about a lack of funding, or results not being good enough. Working with such wonderful and happy children, whilst knowing that the whole school family is behind our work is immensely motivating and inspiring.

Thank you so much to every individual that makes our whole family flourish!

Our Church and Church School Partnership

At Sleights, we are very fortunate to benefit from the dedication of our Vicars, Rev. Carolan and Rev. Carter. This term, we have seen a surge in support for our Church School partnership, with every service held at St. John's resulting in a "full house!"

For the first time ever this year, we also celebrated Christmas as a whole school family, with all children from Sleights having a part in the nativity at Church. This was a truly special experience.



A full school!

The Sleights School family has certainly expanded somewhat since last year. We began September 2017 with 91 children and now have 106. This officially means we are now oversubscribed and shows a real commitment to our wonderful school.

Some new friends!

We are proud to be building partnerships with our neighbours in Sleights and have begun an intergenerational friendship project with residents of Ingham Close. In the community centre across from school, the children from Pioneers visited local, elderly residents to play games and sing Christmas songs. We are really excited to continue building this work together in the New Year. Thank you to Kelly from "Beyond Housing" for supporting this.

Down in the forest

It has been excellent to see all children enjoy the forest on a much more regular basis. With all teaching staff receiving training last year (and Mrs Walker has since joining us), we are able to use the forest whenever we wish, to help our children learn in fun and creative ways. We all know that they absolutely love it!



New Computing lessons

September saw the introduction of Mrs Gurney to our Sleights family. Mrs Gurney is a specialist computing teacher and works with children across Key Stage 2 each week to develop their skills in this area. It is great to be able to provide the children with this expert teaching and see them make excellent progress. Just like forest schools, we know just how much the children love their computing sessions!





Charities supported this term



Saint Catherine's



Pudsey himself visited Sleights!

Writing

Developing an effective approach to writing has been a focus this term. We were so pleased to start a new approach after the half term holidays, which has involved all staff working together to deliver units of writing. So far, the children of Sleights have been writing letters to the local press about the super school and, more recently, letters to a loved one after watching the "Man on the Moon" Christmas video. Working collaboratively has led to some really excellent results and work that the children are proud of. We are looking forward to continuing our shared approach after Christmas with our theme of Chocolate!



Spelling

In September 2018, a new approach to spelling was introduced across school. There are certainly positive signs to show that this is having a good impact. Thank you to families for supporting children with spelling at home.

Reading

The school's library has been moved to the building next door to Pioneers' class (know as the I Shed) This is to allow all children to be able to access this at lunch and playtime. In the New Year, this will also be open for families before and after school. The reading scheme (book band) has also been improved in school, with all books now stored in one central location for everyone to access. Finally, we have been really proud to see lots of children rise to our new reading challenge (read at least 25 times each half term). It has been excellent to see children reading lots and being really motivated by this!

Attendance

As you know, this is something we have continued to focus on. We have introduced a new celebration of class attendance above the 96% target. It is really positive to see that, in most weeks, the school has been able to achieve more than this target. We have also seen a sharp fall in the number of children who are "persistently absent" (absent from school for more than 10%)

Attending school regularly is so important and it is incredibly positive to see improvements in lots of aspects in relation to this. Thank you for your support in making this happen!



Reflection Spaces

As part of our Church School development, we have introduced reflection spaces into the classrooms around school. These spaces can be used throughout the school day by anyone and allow the children an opportunity to pause and consider a thought or question posed to them.

Christian Values

To celebrate the values of the school being lived out and demonstrated in school, we have introduced a weekly award to congratulate these children. Our values are perseverance, respect and trust.



Daily Circle

We have introduced a daily circle time question to allow children to explore big ideas and themes. These have led to some fascinating and thoughtful discussions.



More clubs

We are so pleased that we have been able to offer more club opportunities for children. This term, we have been able to provide: homework, art, dance, football and sports club. More will be on offer next term too!