

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

1st February 2019

Dear families,

Well, we had our first bout of the 'Beast of the East' (part two) this week. It has been a very chilly one (my car actually said it was -7° on Thursday!) More snow is forecast for the weekend, so, just to remind families again:

In the event of a school closure, we will always aim to inform families the night before (if possible) by text or early morning on the day of closure. We will always text and have the closure announced on Yorkshire Coast Radio. With this in mind, please do let us know if you have a new mobile number.

You may, or may not, know that a number of our staff live some distance from school (myself included). Therefore, when we are faced with bad weather, we consider many options before deciding a course of action. We will always try to keep the school open and running, even if this means temporarily moving staff around. Please bear with us if this happens. We would rather this than have to close the school.

In the classrooms this week

I enjoyed visiting Explorers on Thursday and seeing everyone busy in play. One area of the classroom was an office and the children working on the desk. I was told "this is our office!" by the children, who were busy with writing, stamping and organising. At the other side of the room, a group of children were playing with polar bears and an igloo. The children were thinking of different ways to keep them warm in the cold weather – very topical!

Our Pioneers children had two very special visitors join them this week. A huge thank you to Layla and her family who brought David the sheep and a two day old lamb to visit! The children (and I do have to say, the staff too!) were totally in awe of the special visitors, who taught the children that lambs only drink milk and they need to be kept nice and warm. The children had such a great time and finished the day asking "When are the sheep coming back?" Maybe we should make this a regular experience?

Our Adventurers have been working on the finishing touches of their Chocolate Cake stories. Last week, when our Governors spent time in school, they were blown away by the quality of the work our Year 1 and Year 2 children were producing. The children themselves were very proud and confident of their own work. Their focus this week was to be publishers, as they have been writing up and illustrating their stories. We hope families will get the chance to enjoy reading the stories of our authors in the Chocolate Cafe on Monday (details later in this newsletter).

Discoverers have enjoyed being story tellers this week. After their own writing successes about Chocolate Cake stories, the children of Discoverers travelled across to Pioneers, where both classes enjoyed sharing their work. The afternoon was very special and a great opportunity for the children to learn from each other, as well as enjoy each other's stories and company. We certainly look forward to doing it again soon!

This week, the Leaders have also been sharing their stories (with Adventurers). In maths, the children have been tackling a range of measuring problems, as well as some tricky fraction tasks. The classroom has also been alive with sound, as the Leaders have been investigating different instruments and how sound is made.

What a busy week for everyone!

continued

Swimming

Apologies to the children and families in Discoverers and Pioneers about swimming being cancelled this week. We were only informed at 8.45am on the morning of swimming that the pool was out of action. We will make sure that any money paid is carried forward, or refunded.

Chocolate Café – Monday from 2.45pm

On Monday, the **children are asked to come to school wearing forest school clothes and bring a pair of shoes to wear inside.** The day will consist of children completing a variety of chocolate tasks, including learning about how chocolate is made and making their own chocolate lolly. This will be the launch of our next whole school writing topic.

From 2.45pm on Monday, families are invited to join us in the hall for a chocolate reading café. Chocolate refreshments will be available to buy (made by the children during the day). These can be enjoyed whilst sharing a book with children.

Chinese New Year - Monday 11th February from 2.00pm

To celebrate diversity and explore different cultural traditions, we will be holding Chinese New Year activities across school on Monday 11th February (this is slightly later than the 'actual' Chinese New Year. We will be opening the doors from 2.00pm, so that families can join in these activities too!

Leggings

Can I remind families that the school uniform is trousers, dresses or skirts (with tights) We have noticed a number of children wearing jeans, leggings or 'jeggings' to school. These are not uniform and should not be worn.

Informing us about illness and absence

We really appreciate it when families let us know that children are not well to come to school (particularly when it is early!) We are lucky to have Mrs Stubbs in school on most days before 9am (even though her official start time is after this!) Officially, the school office, does not open until 9am. Before then, we cannot always guarantee that someone will be available before then to answer the phone. We realise that this can be frustrating. Please could we ask that absence is either communicated by ringing in after 9am. Alternatively, we are more than happy to receive an email to explain the absence. Mrs Stubbs will pick up this email and let you know it has been received.

The school office can be contacted at: admin@sleights.n-yorks.sch.uk

If, for whatever reason, you would like to contact me directly, please use: headteacher@sleights.n-yorks.sch.uk

We would prefer, however, that absence is communicated to the school office address.

Attendance update – Update to follow next week

Have a great and snowy weekend with your families,

Scott Grason
Headteacher