

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

Telephone: 01947 810395

Headteacher: Scott Grason

8th March 2019

Dear families,

It was lovely to be able to welcome everyone back on Monday morning after the half term break. I hope everyone was able to take full advantage of the beautiful sunshine. It is quite scary to think we are now over half way through this academic year!

In the classrooms this week

On Monday, we had a full day thinking about spiritual development. The book of John describes "life in all its fullness" (10:10) and we began worship identifying that our job as a school is to teach children about themselves, others and the world around them, as well as maths, English and the wider curriculum. Put simply, spiritual development supports children to question, think and understand the world around them and themselves.

Around school during the day, there was a truly magnificent feeling. The language, thoughts and ideas that children had were astonishing to hear and really reflected the mature, articulate and thoughtful learners we have here at Sleights. During the day, the children moved around in mixed age groups to explore different aspects of spiritual development.

With Mrs Hann, the children explored their individual part in the whole world, asking the question – Does what we do matter? After much thought provoking discussion, the children created individual pieces of art work, using loose parts and objects. The work was beautiful and really symbolised the idea that what we do counts. The children also created their own written explanations of their creations that showed a real depth of understanding.

In Mrs Roe's classroom, the children focused on exploring the Holy Spirit. In the classroom, they created Bubble prayer and prayers on kites. These were then taken outside and flown around the playground, reminding us that God is always around us. The children enjoyed flying these outside.

With Mrs Walker, the children played Frisbee to create their own prayers. On the Frisbee were the letters P, T and S, representing please, thank you and sorry. Using these starting words, the children created their own prayers to thank, apologise and say please in relation to an aspect of God's world. Some beautiful prayers were created very naturally.

Finally, with Miss Stubbs, the children explored tree rings, studying the lines of a tree and reflecting events in their lives. It was fascinating to hear the children describe the exciting life events that they had already had and listen to their hopes for the future.

In Collective Worship, we talked to the children about how spirituality helps us to live out our Christian Values. With this in mind, we will be giving every child a tree next week to take home. The tree is a gift from school and we hope that children and their families will nurture it and watch it flourish and grow for many years to come.

Parents' Evenings – 11th and 12th March

We look forward to holding our parents' evening meetings after the half term break. Once again, families will be invited into school to see their children's work and speak to the class teacher. Tea, coffee and refreshments will be served by school governors in the hall.

Appointment times have been handed out, but please speak to your child's class teacher if this hasn't been received yet.

Eskdale Festival

We were absolutely delighted to hear from children who took part in the Eskdale Festival this week. The children performed poetry and read Bible verses in groups and as individuals. Every child that represented the school was a total credit and made everyone incredibly proud. We had many children come back with certificates and medals, but every child returned with a smile. The biggest thank you to Mrs. Wall, our lovely Vice Chair of Governors, for her outstanding support!

A number of children have also been asked to perform again at the Festival's Gala Concert next Saturday evening. One of our Key Stage 2 children, Ellie, has also been asked to perform her Lewis Carroll poem in Whitby and be recorded for the author's appreciation group. These are such great achievements for all our children.

Red Nose Day – Friday 15th March

Next Friday, children are invited to come to school wearing red to raise funds and awareness of the Comic Relief charity. We are asking for £1 donations to support Red Nose Day efforts. Thank you.

Clubs next week

As it is parents evening on Monday and Tuesday evenings next week, there will be **NO HOMEWORK, DANCE, GARDENING OR ART** clubs.

Attendance update

As you know, we closely monitor and track the attendance of all our children. Our current attendance is slightly lower than our target, but I am pleased to let you all know that our shared working has meant that the attendance is currently the best it has been for at least the last three years. Wow! Well done to all. Let's now push to reach (or exceed!) the target!

Whole school attendance so far this year:	95.1%	Target for whole school attendance this year:	96%
--	-------	--	-----

Please do keep visiting the school website. It gives a great flavour of the work we do at Sleights and is updated regularly.

Have a great weekend with your families.

Scott Grason
Headteacher