

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

5th April 2019

Dear families,

The weather has been somewhat confusing this week! We have ranged from glorious sunshine one day and having to deal with ice and frost the day after. However, the colder weather has not dampened our spirits, as the school has been alive with learning and laughter in another great week for Team Sleights!

In the classrooms this week

We had our school advisor from North Yorkshire County Council in school this week for her termly visit. We spent time visiting classrooms and exploring the excellent work being undertaken by our hardworking children and staff. Our advisor was really pleased with what she saw. The school was amazing to walk around. What a great place to be!

Our Explorers this week have been exploring Chinese food and traditions. As part of their work travelling around the world, they stopped off at China to taste prawn crackers and use chopsticks for noodles. As adults, we know that using these are quite a skill, but we were all incredibly impressed by the determination by the children to have a go. I wonder where they will visit next!

Pioneers have turned into writing superstars recently. I was so impressed this week to see the children start their very own writing books. These are just like the ones that the children use in Year 1 when they first start in September! The children have been writing their own sentences about special people in their families. Our advisor was so impressed by the work she thought some of our older children had created it! So good, Pioneers.

A flying seagull greets you as you enter the Adventurers classroom at the moment. This is because the children are currently enjoying writing about 'The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch'. This story is a favourite of many, but has been given a new twist by our Adventurers, who are currently designing a new chocolate product to put in the lunchbox. Their descriptions of these new products are quite superb!

The Discoverers have also been creating and inventing this week. As part of their writing project, the children are planning and making adverts to sell a new chocolate product. The class is full of a new wave of Cadbury and Willy Wonka chocolatiers, designing and creating brand new chocolate and packaging. I was really impressed (and intrigued!) by some of the flavours chosen and look forward to seeing the final products.

The Leaders have been getting dramatic this week as they have also been creating adverts for their own chocolate products. The children enjoyed role playing different advert styles to entice others to buy their products. We are all looking forward to seeing the final results!

SIAMS report

We were really pleased to be able to share our 'Good' SIAMS report this week. The report was sent home to all families and is available on the website. It describes our happy, hardworking and dedicated school perfectly and captures the many things that make it a great place to be. Thank you to everyone for their support in making this a possibility!

Staff news

Last week we (temporarily) said goodbye to Mrs. Kipling, as she began her maternity leave. Baby Kipling will be arriving over the next month or so and we know that the whole family are excited to welcome the new arrival. We wish Becky and the Kiplings the very best of luck for the birth!

After over twelve years at Sleights, this week, we also learnt that Mrs Morrison has decided to move onto pastures new. Mrs Morrison will leave Sleights at the end of next half term (May) We will all miss Mrs Morrison and wish her the very best of luck for her future endeavours.

In the meantime, Mrs Walker will continue to work alongside Mrs Morrison, working Monday – Wednesday and Mrs Morrison Thursday – Friday. Mrs Walker has kindly agreed to work full time when Mrs Morrison leaves.

Islamic Diversity Centre visit on Tuesday

Thank you to everyone for their overwhelming support of our curriculum and attempts to offer global diversity to our children through a visit from the Islamic Diversity Centre. I am also grateful to those families who have approached me directly about the visit to ask further questions about practicalities. It has been great to see a number of families return slips to say they will also be joining the workshops.

If you are coming to the workshops, please arrive five or ten minutes earlier and wait in the reception area. I will meet everyone and take you to the classrooms before the workshops begin. It looks set to be a really great day!

I was saddened, however, to learn that once again a very small number of families felt it necessary to post on Facebook their views about the school's work. The visit from the Islamic Diversity Centre is designed to teach children about respect for another religion and offer a comparison to what we know about Christianity. This respect should be modelled by everyone. A rant on Facebook will not change anything for anyone, but some time at a workshop might.

I must urge, *again*, that any concerns or questions must be directed straight to me. I try to be available as much as possible and this has been seen firsthand this week by those parents who talked on the gate with me. Alternatively, my direct email address is headteacher@sleights.n-yorks.sch.uk or I can be contacted through the school office. I really do hope that this message does not need to be written again on the newsletter. I would much rather fill the page with the excellent things that our school does.

Free Gospel Concert – TOMORROW EVENING

Mrs Vicar has asked us to share details of an exciting concert at St. John's tomorrow evening. The UOS Gospel Choir will perform from 7.00pm in the Church. Entry is free, with any donations being given to Mind and Across charities. This helps people with special needs get to Lourdes.

SATs meetings

You may remember that at parents' evening, we asked families to let us know what extra support we could provide for you. A number of families asked for information about the Key Stage Two and Key Stage One SATs. With this in mind, families are invited to information sessions in Miss Stubbs' classroom (Key Stage Two) and Mrs Roe's classroom (Key Stage One) on Thursday 11th April (starting at 3.15pm) Children are welcome to attend the sessions, which we hope will give useful information about the tests and, more importantly, how children can be supported at home.

Dates of SATs

The SATs are national tests that all children sit in Year 2 and Year 6. Please do not book any appointments or holidays during these times:

- Year 2 SATs will take place **throughout May**.
- Year 6 SATs will take place between **Monday 13th May – Thursday 16th May**.

End of term arrangements

Did you spot the early (unintentional!) April Fools on last week's newsletter? Whilst I would love to give everyone an extended Easter holiday, we do in fact return to school on Tuesday 30th **April** not May, as stated on last week's newsletter. We close on Friday 12th April at 2pm.

Easter Lunch – Wednesday, 10th April – all children welcome!

Chicken and stuffing, roast potatoes, carrots, broccoli, gravy and crusty bread, followed by a chocolate Krispie nest. Sounds delicious!

Easter Service





All families are invited to join our Easter Service on Friday 12th April at St. John's (9.30am start) It will be great to see you there.

Easter Crafts

Over the next week, the children will enjoy different Easter crafts. The classes have decided that a variety of crafts (not just egg decorating) would be a fun change. I am sure everyone will have a great time and will enjoy bringing their creations home to share with you.

Attendance update – 0.4 unauthorised absence due to holidays.

Whole school attendance so far this year:	95.5%	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
96.5% 	100% 	96.2% 	93.1%	97.9% 

Have a great weekend with your families,

Scott Grason
Headteacher