



Creating our termly review summary is always a highlight. Having the opportunity to look back and consider the excellent work of our hardworking children, families and staff is always something that makes me so proud. You will see from this review that we have had another busy term!

I hope you enjoy reading it and celebrating these successes with us.

Scott Grason  
Headteacher



## SIAMS (Church School) Inspection

In March, we received a visit from a SIAMS inspector to review our effectiveness as a Church School. The day involved learning walks around school, meeting families, grilling governors, scrutinising data and interviewing staff. The inspection framework changed in September, raising the standards expected significantly. Despite this, we were immensely proud and pleased to receive a **Good** result, recognising the school's hard work and commitment to "Working together to be happy; to flourish; to succeed"

## Our School Family

Over the term, we have explored with children what it means to be part of a wider Church family. This included a visit from some children and staff from Ruswarp Church of England Primary School, as well as other local Headteachers. Our children confidently always showcase what makes Sleights such a special place to be and I know that visitors are always impressed by what they see.

We also celebrated our whole school family with a service in St. John's in March. The service recognised the whole family that raises a child and thanked everyone for the part they play. As part of the service, all children and families in attendance created their own message or prayer for their family using labels. These were then hung in Church to make a family tree.



## Visit from the Islamic Diversity Centre



We had overwhelming support for our visit from the Islamic Diversity Centre in April. Amar and Miriam worked with each class during their day to teach the children about the Five Pillars of Islam and their traditions. The children also found out about the many similarities between Christianity and Islam. Throughout the sessions, children questioned excellently and showed a real sense of respect and understanding for a different religion. Well done to them. We were also pleased to be able to welcome families to our workshop and were delighted with their positive feedback (shared below)



## feedback

"I thought the workshop was really good and interesting. I enjoyed it and it was good to see how others live"

"I enjoyed the approach of the teachers. They were very friendly and open to questions"

"I enjoyed the open, inclusive style of the presentation. A good presentation with elements of humour, which everybody enjoyed. Learning in a fun way which was age appropriate and pitched at the correct level."

"I feel that is important that children learn to respect other people's religions and cultures."

"I enjoyed all of it! A fantastic presentation. Very clear, age appropriate and so much valuable information. It is so good to hear the many comparisons and similarities to our own faith and for the children to hear this too"

"I was really impressed with the children. The class engaged with the workshop and asked really intelligent and interesting questions. I personally think it is so important to learn about other people, their faiths and way of life and this workshop definitely achieved this. Thank you!"



# Sleights Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School

## Celebrating the 2019 spring term's success

### Eskdale Festival Success

Earlier in the term, a team of Sleights children took part in the Eskdale Festival spoken word and music competition. The children practised for weeks in preparation for their performances and returned to school after the Festival with huge smiles and lots of positive feedback. A number of children were also invited to the Festival's gala concert to showcase their talents once more. A huge well done to them all. Thanks also go to our Vice Chair of Governors, Theresa Wall, for her dedication and commitment in supporting the children.



### Lots and lots of chocolate!

As you will no doubt be aware, we have been celebrating everything chocolate this term. From using it to inform our writing, tasting it or selling it, chocolate has literally been everywhere!

Earlier in the term, we launched our chocolate topic with a day filled with activities for every child to enjoy. This involved moving around school in groups to explore the process of designing, making and describing chocolate products. This also included a session in our beautiful forest.

### Attendance

I am so pleased that positive attendance improvements continue to be seen across school. We have, again, seen the best attendance in school for a number of years and are thrilled to see this improving consistently. As you will know from the newsletter, we are still falling slightly short of our overall target for attendance (96%), but I am sure with everyone's joint effort, we can meet this by the end of the year.



### Growth Mindset

We began the spring term introducing the idea of a 'growth mindset' to children across school. This encourages all children to believe that they can do something, even if they can't yet.

Growth Mindset also encourages children to see learning as a journey, often ending up in 'the learning pit'. Children are also encouraged to look at 'failure' as a positive thing (something that is simply part of a bigger learning process). We often refer to this as our first attempt in learning. We can really see impact in how children are approaching new learning in school.

### Behaviour Policy

We have updated our behaviour policy this term and shared details with families. Our new approach looks to educate children about inappropriate and positive behaviour, as well as restore things amongst friends when things go wrong.

### Spiritual Development

Over the term, we have worked with children to develop spirituality by asking big questions and exploring ideas together. We held an incredibly successful spirituality day earlier in the term to allow children the opportunity to explore, question and think about key ideas. The results were simply fascinating and can be seen on display in school.

