



# Weekly Newsletter

24<sup>th</sup> January 2020

## “Will you help me change the world?”

Throughout the week, I receive many letters, emails and phone calls. On Friday last week, I received a rather special letter from a child in our school asking me to help her change the world. How could I say no! The letter explained the importance of taking part in the Big Bird Watch (details below) and reporting findings to the RSPB. I was really amazed by time, effort and thought that had gone into the letter and wanted to celebrate this with you all. The letter shows us all just how much of a difference our young people can make and I would, therefore, urge you all to read the details about the Big Bird Watch below and also help to change the world. Have a great weekend.

Scott Grason,  
Headteacher

## In the classrooms this week

- As part of their work changing the world this week, the Explorers have been finding out about life in the fire service. The children have really enjoyed roleplaying as firemen and women!
- In Pioneers, I was really impressed to see how well the children were creating number bonds to 10 this week. It was fantastic to see the children use Numicon pieces to make connections with numbers to create 10. They were so confident and were also able to write their own number sentences to show their sums.
- The Learners have been really busy finding out about Queen Victoria this week. As part of their history topic, children have been discovering how Victorians changed the world. It was brilliant to hear children talk about facts they had learnt.
- As always, the Adventurers have worked with such focus and purpose this week. I have been really impressed to see how children's understanding of fractions has increased over my visits through the week. I was particularly impressed to see the level of concentration on everyone's face when I visited on Wednesday – such hard workers!
- Continuing with the maths theme, it is clear to see the progression of the Discoverers with their key skills. Each morning in maths, children across the school complete ten minutes of key skills and on my visits this week, the Discoverers were tackling some tough challenges, but certainly rising to this.
- The Leaders are busy planning and gathering information to help them create their own non-chronological reports. The children are utilising a range of research and evidence gathering skills to support them in finding useful information. I can't wait to read their reports in a few weeks.

## RSPB Big Bird Watch 25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> January

This weekend, why not take part in the world's largest wildlife survey and do something great for nature. Just choose an hour any time over the three days and enjoy time with nature counting birds. All you have to do is:

1. Watch the birds for one hour in your garden, at the park, or wherever you are!
2. Count the most birds that land at once. Only count the birds that land, not those flying over.
3. Tell the RSPB what you saw by visiting them online at [rspb.org.uk/birdwatch](http://rspb.org.uk/birdwatch)

Happy counting!

## Sleights on Tour - Working with the Toddler Groups

As you may know, we have started to work with the two toddler groups in the village. This week, staff from our Early Years team visited Boddlers on Monday (at Church House) and the Toddler Group on Thursday (at the Village Hall). Pictures from our visits are on the school website. Both sessions were really exciting and it was great to work with new and known families. Mrs Hann and I have spent lots of time this week showing many new families around our wonderful school as a result of these sessions. If you know anyone interested in a place in our Early Years unit, please do ask them to get in touch.

Toddler Groups in the village take place on:

- **Monday at Church House (Boddlers) 1.30pm – 3.00pm**
- **Thursday at the Village Hall (Sleights Toddler Group) 9.30am – 11.00am**

Both groups have Facebook pages, so take a look on there to see what each group gets up to.

A special thank you to Vicky Gilpin, a Parent Governor, who has worked hard behind the scenes to coordinate this for us.

## Meeting for families – reviewing our Relationship and Sex Education policy

This term, we will be reviewing our school policy for relationship and sex education, in line with changes made to government policy. A letter will be sent home shortly, inviting families to meet on **Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February at 3.15pm** to discuss the policy and share your thoughts and ideas. This is a really important meeting, as the outcome will shape the lessons taught to our children in the coming years. Please do let us know if you can join us!

## Lights, Camera, Action!

We were joined by a film crew on Tuesday to create a special video to mark Gemma Kellerman, our Chair of Governor and the Salt of the Earth award she has been given. A huge thank you to Mrs Roe and Jenny Taylor for agreeing to take part in the filming. I'm sure you will agree when you see the film, they spoke really well! A special mention must also go to the children who helped the filming – they were great! Once again, a huge well done to Gemma!

## Attendance for week commencing 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020

Our whole school target is **96%** attendance. This week, we had **4.1%** unauthorised attendance due to holidays.

Class	Attendance	Late Marks
Pioneers	87%	1
Learners	95%	5
Adventurers	94%	2

Class	Attendance	Late Marks
Discoverers	92%	2
Leaders	88%	1
<b>Whole School</b>	<b>92%</b>	<b>11</b>

The number of late marks recorded in the register this week is incredibly worrying. The registers close at 9am and any children who arrive after this time will be marked as late. Being late to school plays a significant impact on children's learning.

## Chinese New Year

Families are welcome to join us in school next Thursday afternoon to take part in Chinese New Year activities. The gates will be open from 2pm.

## Next week's lunch menu – Week 1

<b>Monday</b>	• Cheese and tomato pizza, chips, peas and sweetcorn, followed by raspberry yoghurt
<b>Tuesday</b>	• Chicken korma, rice, cauliflower, broccoli and naan bread, followed by arctic roll and mandarins
<b>Wednesday</b>	• Minced beef, Yorkshire pudding, mashed potatoes, green beans, carrots and sliced wholemeal bread, followed by crackers, cheese and apple
<b>Thursday</b>	• Tomato pasta, mixed salad and garlic bread, followed by banana sponge and custard
<b>Friday</b>	• Fish fingers, wedges, peas, sweetcorn, ketchup and crusty bread, followed by rice pudding and sultanas

Unavoidable menu changes may occur due to ordering, or special promotion days.

## Sleights is a nut free and peanut free school.

We ask that all families cooperate (in full) with this rule when choosing packed lunch and snack items.

## In the diary next week

<b>Monday 27<sup>th</sup></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3.15pm – 4.15pm: Homework Club (Whole School)</li> <li>• 3.15pm – 4.15pm: Stay and Play (Reception Class)</li> <li>• 3.15pm – 4.15pm: SATs booster (Year 6 only)</li> </ul>
<b>Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dance in school for Learners and Pioneers</li> <li>• 3.15pm – 4.15pm: Dance Club (Whole School)</li> <li>• 3.15pm – 4.15pm: Art Club (Adventurers only)</li> </ul>
<b>Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3.15pm – 4.15pm: Football Club (Whole School)</li> </ul>
<b>Thursday 30<sup>th</sup></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2pm – Chinese New Year activities – families welcome</li> <li>• 3.15pm – 4.15pm: Craft Club (Key Stage Two)</li> </ul>
<b>Friday 31<sup>st</sup></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Swimming for Learners and Adventurers</li> </ul>

## Do we have your most up to date contact details?

If you have changed your telephone number or email address (and are on our email system for newsletters) please do let us know, so we can update our records in school. Thank you.