

# 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](http://www.sleights.n-yorks.sch.uk)

**Telephone:** 01947 810395

**Headteacher:** Scott Grason

20th March 2020

Dear families,

Today, Sleights closes its doors for the majority of our families until further notice. This is an incredibly difficult day for everyone.

Closing the school is certainly not the start of the holidays, or the beginning of a well-earned break. Instead, it is the step we are taking to support the national efforts and minimise the spread of the Coronavirus disease. Whilst doing this and keeping people safe, we also want to allow key, critical workers to do their job.

The reason why everyone at Sleights came into this job is to work with children. Closing the doors goes totally against everything we are in this profession for, but we know that to make a difference, we must act in this way.

From Monday, we will offer childcare for a very small number of children and families. These have been defined by central government. School staff will lead this childcare.

For all other children and their families who will not be attending school, we will still be here, whether it be at the end of a phone or an email.

We hope that this letter lays out some key information for all families during this time.

## Daily Contact from home

For those children who are not attending, we ask that all families during this period of absence contact school each day to let us know you are safe. **Please do this by 10am each morning.** If we haven't heard from you, staff will contact you. If we are unable to get hold of you, we will need to make contact with safeguarding agencies to ensure you are all safe.

## Keeping in contact

As well as obviously making sure your children are safe, we want to keep in contact with everyone to make sure everyone is OK. We will miss you all.

As school will be open by a skeleton staff to a small number of children, please do give us a ring if you have any questions, need help, or just want to say hello.

For any work related questions, please email me [headteacher@sleights.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@sleights.n-yorks.sch.uk) and I will get it to the children's teacher.

I have asked teachers to keep in contact with the children via their class blogs. Please check in with these regularly. They can be found on the website or by clicking this link if you are viewing this on a device:

<http://sleights.n-yorks.sch.uk/classes/>

## Work to complete at home

Earlier in the week, we sent home packs of activities for children to complete during this school closure period. We have asked that children do this work 'little and often'.

We have added a new tab to our website home page called "Home Learning". This is the first tab on the menu across the top of the website. The page is full of activities, websites and apps for use on devices. Please do look at this and use it during the closure.

Home learning activities can be found on the website or by clicking this link if you are viewing this on a device:

<http://sleights.n-yorks.sch.uk/home-learning/>

## Resource Box

We have provided a range of items for families to use at home in their home learning kits. Outside school (just down from the main entrance) we have set up a chest, which will be filled regularly with materials to use at home. These will include craft items, paper, exercise books, colouring sheets and anything else you tell us you might need. All families are welcome to come and take resources from the box, but please just be mindful of making sure there is enough of everything for everyone.

## Free School Meals

Plans are in place to ensure families who are in receipt of Free School Meals continue to receive them during this time. When we know more, I will be able to update you all.

## Looking after yourselves

It's difficult to escape the Coronavirus headlines. We understand that some families might be worried about a long period of way from school and the community. We want you to know, we are still here, so please don't be afraid to ask for help if you need it.

We have found some useful resources and websites which you may want to access during the closure. There are really simple and child friendly, so could be used as a full family.

<https://youngminds.org.uk/blog/looking-after-your-mental-health-while-self-isolating/>

<https://youngminds.org.uk/blog/what-to-do-if-you-re-anxious-about-coronavirus/>

<https://www.elsa-support.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/School-is-closing.pdf>

<https://www.elsa-support.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/We-are-at-home-right-now.pdf>

My main priority as a Headteacher is to make sure everyone in our school family remains happy and safe. I repeat my earlier message, we will continue to be here for you all.

This time is entirely unprecedented and I urge all families to work with us as best they can.

At the end of what has been the most difficult week of our careers, I want to finish by saying thank you. Without the dedication, professionalism and hard work of our staff and governors team and support of amazing families, this difficult week could have been even worse. Instead, I've been immensely proud and well supported to lead this school. Thank you.

So, as we say goodbye for a while, I want to ask all families to stay safe. This new virus has made a massive impact on our world. As our children and families know from learning in the classroom this term, together, we can change the world and I urge that everyone in the Sleights family plays their part during this closure to make a difference and stop the spread.

Scott Grason  
Headteacher