



Weekly Newsletter

11th September 2020

Welcome back everyone!

It has been absolutely fantastic to welcome you all back to Team Sleights this week. Seeing everyone so settled and happy returning to school after what feels like forever has been just superb! The school has been a hive of activity, laughter and fun once again. Whilst there are many restrictions in place nationally and for us in school, it has been simply wonderful to see the many aspects that make our school a special place to be have not been lost since lockdown.

Whilst the next term will look a little different to what we are used to, we are all very excited to be starting it and look forward to a great year ahead!

Scott Grason, Headteacher

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In the classrooms this week

- In our period of transition, it has been lovely to welcome back old and new Explorers this week. The classroom has been very busy with painting, counting and sewing. I have really enjoyed seeing and hearing about the perseverance the children have shown when tackling new or tricky tasks.
- The Pioneers have got fully stuck in to everything this week! I have heard stories and seen first-hand (through the window!) the children enjoying writing and role play. The Pioneers have also started computing sessions with Mrs. Gurney, which will continue once they move to Year 1. She loved hearing their questions and ideas about the iPads.
- You will have seen Mrs. Brown's and Mrs. Walker's hard work outside the Year 1 classroom when you leave each day and now a beautiful, exciting outdoor space for the children to play in has been created. Over the summer, this space tempted a visit from a fairy, as the Learners were bursting to tell me they had received a special letter from one this week. They have lots of fun ideas about what has happened and I know there is lots more excitement in store for them!
- The 'Artistic Adventurers' have been working really hard on lots of different drawing projects this week. I have seen a collection of animal drawings climb onto the tree near the classroom, as well as a number of self-portraits. There have been lots of smiles from every Adventurer. It is clear they are pleased to be back!
- Mrs Taylor and the Discoverers enjoyed an adventure to the forest on Thursday. I was told by one of the children "We have been there all day!" This made everyone really happy. Once in the forest, the children created journey sticks, to help them tell their own stories. When I spoke to the children, they just couldn't wait to share their creations with me.
- With the Year 6s reconnecting and making new friendships this week, Leaders' class have been enjoying spending time together and learning about each other. I know that they have enjoyed creating many new games outside (which did include the staff playing along too) as well as some online Boggle! We wish the Year 6s the best time for their final year with us.

School Systems

Three school days in, by now, I know all families will have noticed changes to the way that we are working. I want to thank you all for your patience and support whilst these become embedded. The children have very quickly adjusted to our new routines, including classroom lunches and plenty of handwashing during the day. I want to say, on behalf of the full staff, a massive thank you and well done to the children for this. They have been brilliant!

I must, of course, also extend my thanks to the brilliant, hardworking staff team who every day have gone 'above and beyond'. I am sure you will join me in recognising and thanking them for their efforts.

New Signs

The front of the school is looking rather impressive! Before returning after summer, a huge job was completed in repainting the gates and fence, as well as landscaping, carried out by our own brilliant staff and Graham from the Whitby SHED. This week, the final touches were put to the transformation of the front of school thanks to the Dickinson family and Sean, of SD Signs. I am sure you will agree, the new building and gate signs look fantastic! Thank you to Ben, Lora and Sean!



Fully paperless

We made a very successful move to paperless newsletters last year for most of our families. With Covid restrictions now in place, we will only be issuing the weekly newsletter via email. If you would like to be added to the mailing list, please let me know. The newsletter will also be available on the school website each week.

Diary Dates

At this time in the term, we are usually sharing the dates of special events for the coming months. However, due to ongoing restrictions, we will be unfortunately be unable to run many of our usual festive events, such as the Christmas fair. We are working on suitable alternatives. If you have any ideas, we would love to hear them!

Allergies

We take the care of our children incredibly seriously. A number of children across school have particular dietary allergies. We work closely with individual families and children, but need the support of our full school community to keep everyone safe. With this in mind, I must remind all families that any food brought into school should be nut and peanut free.

Two Year Old Provision

Exciting news! In the coming weeks, we will be welcoming two year old provision to Explorers' class. We have limited places, but if you would like to know more, please do get in touch with us.

New 'groups of 6' rule

In anticipation for the new law regarding groups of 6, I wanted to make a plea to families. In school, we are taking significant steps to keep groups apart and prevent the spread of any virus. We need your help outside of school too. Therefore, please do avoid gathering outside of school once children have been dropped off. I would also ask families to carefully consider any 'play dates' or parties before making plans, to avoid any cross bubble mixing. The measures taken nationally are considered by some as extreme. However, we are all in this together and rely heavily on a united approach to return fully to life as we once knew.

New Reception Starter Meeting

Before the holidays, we wrote to our new Reception families inviting them to a new starter meeting on Monday. However, we are now unable to run this. Instead, we will be emailing families directly transition plans and an opportunity to book a telephone discussion with key staff to answer any questions or queries you may have.

Next week's lunch menu – Week 2

Monday	Cheese and tomato pizza, diced potatoes and mixed salad, followed by apple and custard
Tuesday	Chicken and vegetable pie, roasted potatoes, cabbage and sweetcorn with wholemeal bread, followed by raspberry yoghurt
Wednesday	Meatballs in tomato sauce with pasta spirals, carrots, green beans and cheese and onion flatbread, followed by fruity Paris sandwich and custard
Thursday	Chicken korma and brown rice, potato, broccoli, sweetcorn and Naan bread, followed by chocolate krispie
Friday	Fish fingers with tomato ketchup, chipped potatoes, beans, peas and crusty white bread, followed by cheese, crackers and apple wedge

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

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.

Sleights is a nut free and peanut free school.