



Weekly Newsletter

18th September 2020

“I have had an amazing day!”

With Covid restrictions in place, I am not able to visit school classrooms in the usual way. Instead of going into a classroom, speaking to children and looking at their work with them, I now spend time outdoors, during playtime and lunchtime, chatting with children, from a distance, about their activities. It is always so lovely to hear their highlights and the things they have enjoyed the most. This week, a child in Reception proudly announced to me: **“I have had an amazing day!”** The joy and smile on her face was so lovely to see and typical of the other children in the school.

After our first full week back, I wanted to reassure all members of the Sleights’ family that, whilst things are different and we are missing the usual routines and traditions, our brilliant children continue to shine and smile. Amongst the national chaos around testing and Covid concern, I want to regularly remind families of this.

Have a lovely weekend with your families.

Scott Grason, Headteacher

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Coronavirus Symptoms - Guidance

As we approach the cold and flu season, I wanted to offer some guidance to families about what to do if their children are feeling unwell. We expect during the coming months to see the traditional sneezes and colds. However, with some similar symptoms to Coronavirus, I appreciate it can be difficult to decide what to do. The following table should help families in deciding the course of action to take for their children. I would also ask you **send an email straight away**, to me to help support the decision making process, so we can reach an outcome together.

| What to do if... | Action needed... | Back to school... |
|---|--|---|
| <p>My child has Covid-19 symptoms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> new, continuous cough temperature of 37.8 degrees or more loss of taste or smell | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Child should not attend school Contact school daily Child should get a test Whole household isolates while waiting for test result Inform school of test results | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the test comes back negative, or after 10 days (whichever comes first) |
| <p>My child tests positive for Covid-19</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not come to school Contact school daily Child isolates for at least 10 days from symptoms starting Whole household isolates for 14 days from symptoms starting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> After 10 days, if symptoms have gone. The child may still be coughing after 10 days, but guidance says they can return, as they are no longer infectious. |
| <p>Someone in my household has Covid-19 symptoms</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not come to school and isolate Contact school daily Any members of the household with symptoms to book a test Inform school of result | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If household members test negative, or after 14 days |
| <p>Someone in my household tests positive</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not come to school Contact school daily Isolate for at least 14 days | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> After 14 days of isolation and symptoms have gone. |
| <p>I have been contacted by NHS Track and Trace because I/my child has been contacted as a ‘close contact’ of a confirmed case.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not come to school Contact school daily Isolate for at least 14 days Book a test if symptoms are present. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> After 14 days of isolation and symptoms, if present, have gone. |

NHS guidance states that if a child has cold symptoms (a runny nose and sore throat) and they are well enough to come to school then they can: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/> Please do get in touch with me if you are unsure or would like to clarify what to do. Please don’t be stuck, just ask.



Face Coverings

In a bid to continue preventing the spread of Covid-19, the North Yorkshire Local Resilience Forum is asking residents of Whitby and Scarborough to 'use face coverings when leaving home while circulating'. As a school, we are supporting and encouraging this request for families when picking up and dropping off. We are not able to enforce this as a rule, but look forward to working with families to strengthen further our efforts in keeping everyone safe. The full article and advice can be found here: <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/news/article/act-now-save-lives-protect-schools-support-businesses>

In the classrooms this week

- The Explorers enjoyed preparing for a big birthday celebration this week. Mrs Bland (known by some children this week as Queen Lizzie!) celebrated her special day on Wednesday with crowns and party games designed and made by the children. Happy Birthday to her!
- The Pioneers have been painting lots this week. Their brushes have taken them everywhere, including outside to create big pieces of art. It was lovely to see a gallery collection of painted trees, flowers and leaves in the forest. The children were very proud of their creations.
- Learners have been enjoying the great outdoors this week too. It was great to see them getting stuck into PE with Mr Gokool, whilst enjoying the Wednesday sunshine. Their smiles and cheers showed what a great time they were having!
- Outdoor sports has been a reoccurring theme this week, with our Adventurers also enjoying a session of tennis on Thursday. It was great to see their focus and efforts tackling the sport.
- The Discoverers can now say they are published authors. Over the week, they have worked hard to write, illustrate and then publish their own stories to share. The children have created their books using a stick from our own forest – how unique! The end products are beautiful.
- Leaders have been showcasing their painting talents too this week by creating their own water colour portraits. When I saw the paintings, I was incredibly impressed by how true to life they were. I was able to identify the children being painted correctly, as well as recognise the individual styles of some of the children. Great work.

New Classes - Monday

Just a reminder that, after a period of transition since returning, the children will move to their new class teachers from Monday. We can see from the calmness around school and how well the children have returned, this brief period has made a positive impact. Behind the scenes, a thorough handover of information has taken place and the staff are really excited to start working with their new classes. **There will be no change to pick up and drop off times. Please arrive at the time you have been.** Thank you.

- We want to promote independence of our older children as much as we can in the current circumstances. Therefore, from Monday, the children from Leaders can be dropped off at the main gate (providing the member of the staff on the gate has seen them) and come into school on their own. At the end of the day, Leaders' parents will need to collect the children from the classroom, unless you agree with Mrs Walker to meet the children at the main gates/on Ingham Close.
- For those children joining Reception, a snack can be bought each day. These include apples, raisins, 'Jubbly' ice pops and fruit juice. Prices range from 15p – 50p.

School Governor Update

A message from our Chair of Governors, Gemma Kelleman:

'On behalf of the Governors, I would like to say a big welcome back to all our families, as well as "Hello!" to our many new children. It has been wonderful to hear about how well all the children have settled back in. We would like to thank each and every family for being so supportive of the new systems in place to protect everyone at school. A lot of hard work has been going on behind the scenes with Mr Grason and the full staff to ensure that we keep everyone as safe as possible, whilst still continuing to maintain the ethos of the school we all know and love. The governors look forward to continuing working alongside all children, families and staff in the coming year.'

Over the summer, Theresa Wall, our longstanding Vice Chair, stepped down from the governing body. After many years of loyal and dedicated service, Theresa will be very much missed from her role, but we hope she continues to play a part in the Sleights family in different ways. We want to thank Theresa for all of her support and commitment. She will be missed.

We are pleased to welcome Andrea Lindøe to the governing body as our new Local Authority governor. Andrea brings a wealth of skills and experience, having served as a governor in previous schools. We look forward to working with her.

Hand Sanitiser in school

Throughout the day, the children wash their hands with soap and water. This is identified as the most effective way to keep everyone safe. We do have a number of children bringing in their own hand gels. As the hand gels contain strong chemicals, each individual unit requires a risk assessment. As you can imagine, this becomes a very tricky task when there could be so many in school. Please could I ask that these stay at home, as we are making sure the children are washing hands regularly.

Bringing things to school, including food treats

Thank you for working so well with us to reduce the amount of things being brought into school. We are only able to take in 'essential items'. As an extra safety measure, to keep everyone safe, please could I ask that families do not send anything extra in, such as sweets or treats for birthdays. This will help us ensure our children with allergies are cared for whilst reducing the volume of objects being brought in.

Whiteboard thank you

A huge thank you to two of our parents, Natasha and Geoff, who travelled to York for us this week to bring back some interactive whiteboards for school. We are very grateful and know the boards will make a huge difference in the classrooms.

Tapestry

We are really enjoying using Tapestry to share updates with families in school about what the children are getting up to. Please do keep an eye on your account for pictures and updates throughout the week.

Next week's lunch menu - Week 3

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|------------------|---|
| Monday | Beef burger in a homemade bun, chips, green beans and sweetcorn, followed by lime and lemon drizzle cake |
| Tuesday | Chicken fajitas, rice, broccoli and carrots, followed by shortcake |
| Wednesday | Savoury minced beef and dumplings, creamed mashed potato, carrots, peas and wholemeal bread, followed by chocolate crunch |
| Thursday | Roast pork loin, homemade apple sauce, gravy, roasted potatoes, cabbage, sweetcorn and homemade white bread, followed by cheese, crackers and a quarter of an apple |
| Friday | Salmon and sweet potato fishcake, potato wedges, baked beans, tomato salad and fifty/fifty bread, followed by fresh fruit salad |

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.