



Weekly Newsletter

9th October 2020

Staying safe at Sleights

I want to start with a big thank you to all our school families for their continued support. Covid-19 continues to provide challenges for us all, but it is great knowing we are tackling these together. This week, we introduced our slightly altered pick up times and routines. The aim was to extend the school day for children, whilst keeping all families safe and reducing the number of adults on site at once. I am pleased that we have been able to achieve this successfully this week.

Just a reminder, pick up time is **3.10pm** for **Leaders (Year 5/6) and Learners (Year 1)**. For **Adventurers (Year 2) and Discoverers (Year 3/4)**, pick up is at **3.15pm**. If you have a child in **Explorers (Pre-School)** arrive at **3.00pm**, please. Any siblings will also be ready at this time. We are closing the gate in between pick up times to keep families on the playground safe. For this reason, **please do not arrive earlier than your set time.**

I met with Gemma Kellerman, our Chair of Governors, earlier in the week to review our systems. You may have also seen Gemma on the school gates with me. She writes:

"When I met Mr Grason earlier in the week, it was great to hear about and see how the children and staff have settled and school is back in full swing. At the end of the day, I was also able to see the calm, orderly way in which children leave. The governors know that there is a huge amount of time and effort behind the scenes from everyone to make this happen. I want to say, on behalf of the governing body, a huge thank you to our brilliant school families and staff for their continued support in keep everyone safe."

So many families have commented positively about our slight adjustments this week. These small changes really have made a big difference. A huge thank you to you all for continuing to work with us so well. Have a great weekend and see you Monday!

Scott Grason, Headteacher

headteacher@sleights.n-yorks.sch.uk

In the classrooms this week

- Snow fell in the Explorers' classroom this week. The usual blue carpet was covered in lots (and I mean lots!) of white polystyrene balls, after the children discovered this new material to play with. The whole group was simply fascinated and built dens, created models and enjoyed lots of play with it. Slightly worried for Mrs Leeman, our cleaner, I dug in and helped tidy it away with the help of the hoover. Our eagle eyed Explorers missed nothing, however, and quickly pointed out the bits that had been missed! Another great week for everyone.
- The Pioneers have been exploring patterns this week and have created their own using a range of resources. It has been lovely to see paintings and models crafted to showcase their own unique designs. Very excitingly, the Pioneers are also making great progress with their phonics and are rapidly building up their knowledge of letter shapes and sounds. Impressive stuff!
- The Learners enjoyed using iPads in their computing session this week. The children used the app 'Scratch' to help them design their own sequences and make objects move. They were fascinated and, very quickly, confident with this new skill – so much so, I even had a lesson from them!
- The Adventurers have been learning about weather this week, as part of their seasonal change topic. The children have looked at different types of weather (plenty to look at this week!) as well as make their own weather vanes. The children also enjoyed another great session in the forest on Wednesday. It is always so lovely to see the children loving the great outdoors.
- Our Discoverers have been discovering places this week in geography. I heard Mrs Taylor and the children exploring maps and navigating country and city names. The children have also developed a complete fascination with all things space, with so much excellent discussion and research taking place. I know from speaking to families and children, this has been a topic that has really hooked everyone!
- Continuing the space theme, I know that the Leaders have also really enjoyed exploring this topic. When I spoke with Mrs Walker, she explained to me how impressed she was with the level of discussion and questioning involved in answering the question – 'Is the earth flat?' The children explored the ideas of Aristotle and were incredibly engaged throughout and confidently shared their own views and ideas.

Information Update Sheets - REMINDER

Please do return these sheets as soon as you can, as it is vital we have the most up to date contact information for all our families. If you need another copy of these sheets, please do email us or give us a ring.

Safeguarding

We make the safety of all our children our top priority. To help us with this, please do let us know if you have made plans for other adults to take your children home. We need to have your direct permission in advance of this. Without it, we will not be able to release the children.

If you know somebody else is picking up your children, please let us know that morning. If plans change during the day, please contact the office and Mrs Stubbs will pass the message to class teachers. Thank you for your support.

Christmas Cards – Order them now

By now, all classes have posted your children's Christmas card designs on Tapestry. For each design, we have also shared details about how to order cards. A parent told me how easy they found ordering and viewing the cards in this way, so we are hopeful everyone is able to enjoy cards designed by the children again this year. Any problems, please just let us know.

The DEADLINE for ordering online is: 19th October.

Order online, using your child's unique code (found on Tapestry) at: <https://www.apfsorders.co.uk/>

Parent Pay is coming!



After such a positive response, we have decided to purchase Parent Pay. This will mean that payments can be made online, without the need to send cash into school. Bookings will also be taken for after school and breakfast club using this system. In the coming weeks, we will be sending out more information and instructions for using Parent Pay. We aim to have this up and running after half term.

After School Clubs

I am also pleased to let you know that we will be bringing some of our after school clubs back after half term. These will take place for individual bubbles, with children continuing to work in these groups only. We intend on hosting a sports club and a coding club. These clubs will be led by Mr Gokool and Mrs Gurney, two of our specialist teachers. For this reason, a small charge will be requested for both clubs. More details next week!

Caedmon College Whitby Open Evening

Mr Riley, the Principal at Caedmon College Whitby has asked this message to be shared with our Year 5/6 families:

Due to Covid-19 it isn't possible for us to organise an on-site Open Evening this autumn. We're really disappointed that we can't invite you to our Normanby site to see our great facilities and to meet our staff and students in person. Instead we're organising a series of online meetings to explain our curriculum offer, our transition and pastoral systems, as well as how we organise the school.

Book your place now by following this link: <https://forms.gle/21vu1gWQgv6WAfzn6>

We look forward to meeting you on Tuesday 13th or Thursday 15th October.

Simon Riley (Principal) and all of the staff and students at Caedmon College Whitby

Learning at home

We know from school closures that children missed learning time. As we approach the winter months, as a nation, we are expecting an increase in absence from school due to Covid related illness. With this in mind, we have devised a home learning strategy, which will mean that children who are absent from school, for any reason, do not miss out on the curriculum. When a child is absent, the work being completed in the classroom will be shared on Tapestry for children to complete at home instead. This approach will also be used in the event of bubble closures. The full policy is being sent home with this newsletter.

An Extreme Reading Challenge set by Mrs Hann, our English Leader

We have been really impressed again with the reading challenge entries submitted this week and over the weekend. It is great to see so much reading going on at home! Please keep sending your reading photographs in from home, either on Tapestry or to me directly: headteacher@sleights.n-yorks.sch.uk. Remember to use the hashtag #extremereading. Happy Reading!

Places in our Early Years class

We continue to receive lots of interest for our Early Years classes, particularly children who are two years old. If you have a child aged between two and four and would like them to join the Sleights' family, please do get in touch. Equally, if you have a friend or family member looking for great provision, please do tell them about us.

Our Early Years team work incredibly closely together to support every child in Explorers and Pioneers. Families are entitled to funded places for children over three, but we may also be able to organise funding for any children aged two.

Reception Places for September 2021

Applications for Reception Class in September 2021 open next week. Mrs Stubbs has sent details to Explorers' families of how to apply, but please do get in touch with us if you need support. I have also included a copy of the information needed for applying to the email newsletter today. Please do also tell your friends if they are interested in a place at Sleights, do get in touch.

Next week's lunch menu – Week 3

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.