



Weekly Newsletter

23rd October 2020

Happy Half Term

Today is the last day of this half term, so school is closed next week. I hope you all have a lovely break together, despite the ongoing national situation.

In many ways, reopening in September seems a very distant memory. The children have returned so well and it is great to see them settled, focused and happy. There is no worry or fear in the classrooms or around school, just happy children loving school. This half term, like all staff, I have found myself juggling lots of different roles. I have served lunches, taught classes, manned the office, hoovered, completed playground duties, served breakfast, supervised the gate and, occasionally, done some Headteacher jobs too. Whilst I am now very ready for a rest, having the joy of working so many different roles in the school, I have been able to experience first hand the simply brilliant work of our hardworking team. Without the individual role they play, we simply wouldn't have the great school we do. I want to shout loudly to say – "Thank you, Team Sleights!" I am sure you will join me in recognising their efforts and dedication.

I also wish to celebrate our simply wonderful children. They are just the best and have tackled every Covid change we have had to put to them. I know that they too are ready for a holiday!

Each morning, we hold a socially distanced staff meeting. Mrs Taylor leads a prayer, reading or moment of reflection with a thought for staff each day. I wanted to share the message of one with you today as we begin our holidays:

Dear Lord,

May you bring us strength and courage. Let us see our break from school as an opportunity to reflect on the amazing work that happens within classrooms every day.

Amen

Have a great week off next week. We will see you back at school bright and early on Monday 2nd November.

Scott Grason, Headteacher

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In the classrooms this week

Even though it is the last week in a very busy half term, the learning and buzz in our classrooms this week has been so brilliant to see and hear about. Well done children and staff!

- I was enticed into the Explorers classroom on Wednesday because of the beautiful smells coming from inside. The children worked really hard on Tuesday to prepare their own pumpkin soup. On Wednesday, they cooked it and enjoyed it for their snack, telling me it was "delicious!" Later, I saw a group of children enjoying roleplaying hairdressers. Everyone was given their makeover, including Mrs Bland!
- The pumpkin theme continued into Pioneers this week. You may have seen the huge pumpkin outside the classroom, donated by the Gilpin family. The children loved washing the pumpkin and using different tools to make sure it was sparkling clean. On Wednesday, the children ventured to the forest to create leaf lollipops and hunt for leaf men. The smiley faces and muddy shoes showed that they really enjoyed themselves!
- This week, the Learners have been studying seasonal change. On Tuesday, the children worked hard to plant their own bulbs, ready to bloom in the springtime. The children were very excited and told me they looked forward to seeing the flowers come. The seasonal change theme continued later in the week, as children investigated how a tree changes during the year. The classroom has been a hive of activity!
- Last Friday morning (not quite this week, I know!) the Adventurers were joined by Shaun Hopper, the PE teacher from Caedmon College. The children were really excited and enjoyed a range of games and activities in the hall. There were lots of happy (if not a little tired) faces. This week, the children have enjoyed reading together and sharing their books with each other, as well as publishing letters with suggestions for keeping our world safe for everyone.
- I was impressed to see the focus of our Discoverers on Tuesday, who I saw solving maths problems. The children tackled these problems with confidence, choosing the time they were ready to take on their next challenge. In preparation for Harvest, the children also wrote a poem about the future, questioning lifestyles and how to save the earth. The children also created their own Harvest-themed prints as part of the celebrations.
- After enjoying a hands on space lesson exploring the size of planets, this week, the children used their new knowledge to create their own space models. The children created their models by carefully spacing out their pictures of planets, using scale to help them, before attaching them together. The children also made firelighters, as part of their celebration of Harvest in our classrooms.

Our Virtual Harvest Festival

The children and staff have been working hard behind the scenes to prepare for our very first virtual Harvest Festival. Attached to the newsletter email this week is an order of service for the Harvest Festival, which has been uploaded to Tapestry. The children will be enjoying the service in school today and will get the chance to see what the other classes have done to celebrate the harvest too. Please do take a look at home too and enjoy together as a family. We also love to see and hear your feedback, so if you have seen the Harvest Festival, do drop us a comment on Tapestry. Happy Harvest!

Some Harvest Homework

As part of our Harvest celebrations, we would normally be asking for donations to the local foodbank, which would be collected from school. Now more than ever, these donations are needed, so I am setting families some harvest homework. Please make a donation to the foodbank by either visiting and dropping items off directly, or using the drop off points at Sainsbury's. Please then post a photograph to us of you and your family making your donation (either on Tapestry or by emailing me directly). We can't wait to see your great work.

A visit from the Governors

On Tuesday, I spent time with Gemma Kellerman and Andrea Lindøe, our Chair and Vice Chair of Governors. The visit focused on the school's reopening following closure last academic year.

Andrea Lindøe writes:

"On Tuesday, Mrs Kellerman and I spent the day in school. Whilst social distancing throughout our visit, we were able to see the children hard at work throughout the school, enjoying phonics, maths, guided reading and exploring Autumn! It was wonderful to see the children so settled, keen and happy in class, and playful at break and lunchtime. The children have adapted so well to the new daily routines, it was good to see what a happy and vibrant place Sleights is."

Gemma Kellerman adds:

"On behalf of the full governing body we would like to thank Mr Grason and all the staff for their continued commitment to making Sleights the great school that it is, whilst juggling often difficult new routines and demands. We would also like to thank all of you, our Sleights families, for supporting the staff and the children in the reopening, it is important that we all work together to make sure that our children are happy and safe during these difficult times. Thank you for your continuous support with this."

Flu Vaccine – Catch up sessions

If you would like your child to have the nasal flu vaccine, but missed out on this in school, please ring the **NHS 01423 542360** for a local appointment to be made.

Caedmon College Virtual Visits

Mr Riley, the College Principal, is offering visits to the school site for families wishing to take a look. He asks that an appointment is made by ringing the main office. The College have also asked us to share the link to some information shared in their virtual open evening:

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1dHGBqNmzVpf19HKjo7LMPcY2jCEATq0F5jIwK4APqIA/edit?usp=sharing>

Design a Christmas card for the Mayor - Competition

Over half term, why not create a Christmas card design for the Mayor. The child with the winning design will not only win a £10 book voucher, but also have their card sent around the world! Children are asked to create a design on a template I have sent out with the newsletter today on the theme of **Festive Whithy**. There are lots of exciting ideas to explore! Any completed entries should be taken/sent to the Pannett Art Gallery by Tuesday 3rd November. Good luck!



Another Parent Pay update!

Unfortunately, we have had a delay in the setup of Parent Pay. We will be sending out the information required to use this after half term.

After School Clubs – Leaders and Discoverers

Each Wednesday evening after half term, those children who have signed up for Coding and Sports club will be in school until 4.15pm. We ask that families collecting for Coding club wait outside Mrs Walker's classroom and those families waiting for sports club wait outside the hall blue double doors. For health and safety reasons related to our Covid risk assessment, please do not come into the building to wait.

Bonfire Lunch

On Thursday 5th November, all children, including those usually on packed lunch, are invited to enjoy a special bonfire meal. If you would like your child to have this, but they usually have packed lunch, please send in £2.40 to school with your child's name and bonfire lunch by Friday 23rd please. The meal will include:

Pork sausage in a homemade roll, chips, beans and cucumber bits, followed by sticky toffee pudding and custard.

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

Extreme Reading entries continue to keep coming – please keep sending them in! 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!

Reception Places for September 2021

We are now taking applications for Reception places September 2021. The deadline for these applications is 15th January 2021. Please apply online: <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/school-admissions>. If you need any help, please do get in touch.

Next week's lunch menu – Week 2

Monday	Cheese and tomato pizza, roast potatoes, peas and sweetcorn, followed by apple crumble and custard.
Tuesday	Chicken pie, mashed potatoes, green beans, cauliflower and sliced bread, followed by raspberry yoghurt.
Wednesday	Meatballs in tomato sauce, pasta and mixed salad, followed by chocolate muesli krispie.
Thursday	Pork sausage in a homemade roll, chips, beans and cucumber bits, followed by sticky toffee pudding and custard.
Friday	Chicken Korma, rice, broccoli, sweetcorn and naan bread, followed by cheese, crackers and apple.

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.