



Weekly Newsletter

6th November 2020

Welcome back

It was lovely to welcome you all back on Monday morning. We have enjoyed hearing about the fun things you all got up to during the half term break, despite the restrictions!

Our first week back included the nation being put back into lockdown. I know that this is a worrying time for children, families and staff alike. Changes keep coming thick and fast to what we are and are not allowed to do and, as a school, we will continue to make sure we are doing all we can to keep everyone safe. Our many existing systems are robust and continue to be reviewed very regularly, with the safety of everyone at Sleights at the centre of our decision making.

Just a reminder that, in the event that we do have a positive case of Covid-19 in school, we will work quickly and openly with families to minimise the risk to others. This will mean contacting all families directly linked to a positive case, before informing the whole school.

We are incredibly grateful to our families for their continued support in all areas related to Coronavirus, particularly the calm, happy children we see and great attendance in our classrooms. Thank you.

Have a good weekend with your families.

Scott Grason, Headteacher

headteacher@sleights.n-yorks.sch.uk

Face Coverings - **IMPORTANT**

Thank you for your overwhelming support when wearing face coverings to collect/drop off the children each day. We are asking that these are worn at all times when picking up and dropping children at school. Thank you.

In the classrooms this week

- The Explorers took to the great outdoors this week and went exploring around the school site. Kitted out in wellies, the children squelched their way across the fields to the forest and enjoyed collecting leaves, sticks and items of interest along the way. Back in the classroom, the children loved using these objects to help them create their own artwork. It looked a really fun, if not muddy, morning for everyone!
- The Early Years outdoor area looked magical when I visited on Tuesday. The children and Mrs Hann put out a range of poster paint colours on the patio area, before mixing them together by adding water. The result was a rainbow of lovely colours. The children were fascinated by the result, although were also very quick to tell me Mrs Hann had been naughty by making the mess. Don't worry, Pioneers – the result was amazing!
- This week, the Learners have been talking about compassion in collective worship. In the middle of the week, a lovely video appeared on Tapestry from the Learners, who decided that part of their compassion work would be saying "Hello" to friends in classes they are not able to play with at the moment. The video was beautiful and lovely to see. Thank you for spreading the love, Learners.
- The Adventurers enjoyed dance with Hannah Verity this week. I heard lots of excitement coming from the hall, as children tackled new moves, created their own routines and enjoyed playing lots of games. I have also been impressed to hear about the progress the children are making with reading. A huge thank you to families for reading every day – it is making a big difference!
- The Discoverers have been working hard to gather facts and information about space travel this week. As part of their English work, the children are exploring the argument: Should Space tourism be banned? This has created some interesting discussion! The children have also been practising a dance routine they are performing virtually in a local school competition. Good luck to them!
- Leaders did just that this week, by taking control of their own forest school session. Challenged by Mrs Walker, some of the Year 6 boys took charge of their lesson, sharing expectations and instructions with the rest of the group. I know that the children loved the forest session, even if the teachers for the day found the responsibility a challenge! Well done, Leaders.



Children in Need – non uniform – **next Friday**

To help raise funds for Children in Need, children are invited to come to school in non-uniform next Friday and bring a suggested donation of £1, please. Thank you!



ParentPay

Mrs Stubbs and I have been working on the setup of ParentPay this week. A letter explaining how to activate accounts and make payments will be sent home with families next week. Please let us know if you need support with setting up accounts.

Whilst we are continuing to take cash payments at this stage, we are encouraging all families to make the move to ParentPay. This will be to pay for lunches, snack, after school and breakfast club.

Snack – changes from Monday

To simplify the snack process in school, we have taken the decision that snack choices made at the beginning of the week will remain in place for the full week. A significant amount of staff time is currently being taken by ordering and recording snack money each morning, so by ordering once on a Monday, we hope that this helps to change this. Moving forwards, please either pay online at ParentPay for snack each week, or send a sealed named envelope (correct change, ideally) on a Monday morning. Costs for the week are:

- Orange or Apple juice: £1.75
- Milkshake (Chocolate, Banana or Strawberry) : £1.75
- Jubbly (Strawberry/Orange) flavour: £1.25
- Full apple: £1.25
- Half an apple: 75p
- Raisins: £1.00

Clubs for Discoverers and Leaders

We are really disappointed to share that, due to some changes to school restrictions from this week's lockdown news, we will not be able to hold coding or sports clubs for the coming weeks. The government state clubs should be used for wrap around provision only, so as we offer Kids' Club, anything else would be seen as additional. We are really sorry about this, as the children enjoyed their club. We will be working next week on refunds and will update families when plans change.

Additional clothing

The colder weather is here! As you know, our classrooms must be well ventilated, with windows open in all weathers. We don't want our children or staff to be cold, so if children would like to wear additional layers under their uniform, they are welcome to.

Mrs Brown – our school celebrity

Mrs Brown appeared on national television this morning. Over lockdown, Mrs Brown and her daughter were due to see Phantom of the Opera, but this was obviously cancelled. As part of an item on 'Morning Live' on BBC, Mrs Brown surprised her daughter with a special performance of the show outside her house and a message from Andrew Lloyd Webber. The Year 1 children watched this live with Mrs Brown this morning and were clearly touched, announcing they were "going to cry!"

Supporting families

We know that the second lockdown may impact upon work and income for some of our families. I just want to remind everyone that support is available if your circumstances have changed. Please get in touch with me if you need some extra help. Free school meals are also available for families whose circumstances may have changed and receive one of the following:

- Universal Credit, provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods. (£616.67 per month)
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit, provided you are also not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual household gross income that does not exceed £16,190 (as assessed by HMRC)
- Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

Although all children in Key Stage 1/Reception receive free school meals, if any of the above benefit applies to you, please do complete an application.

Photographs

We have had a number of families ask about school photographs this year. We took the decision to cancel our usual autumn term pictures due to limiting visitors in school. However, these have been rearranged these for 18th May.

Our Virtual Harvest Festival

Wow! Didn't everyone do well! I am sure you will agree, the children's efforts during the online Harvest Festival were just superb! We were really impressed with the service and loved reading the many great comments from our families, who clearly enjoyed it at home too. A big well done to our children who, once again, have shown that they continue to shine.

Christmas Gift Exchange – Hope Whitby

As part of the Hope Whitby Rebuilding Hope Project, we would like to share details of this year's project. The project is twofold and families can take part in one of two ways:

- When Christmas shopping, could you buy one extra present to help a family in our town who will be struggling this Christmas?
- Or, perhaps you would like to be included on the Hope list to ensure you have a Christmas present for your children.

To know more, talk to the team at Hope Whitby on 07736858758.

Roast Dinner Special Lunch

On Wednesday 11th November, all children, including those usually on packed lunch, are invited to enjoy a special meal, as part of national roast dinner day. 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 on it as soon as possible, please. The meal will include:

Roast pork loin, gravy, mashed potatoes, peas, carrots and herbie bread, followed by chocolate fudge pudding and chocolate sauce.

Parents Evening Consultations

This year, we will be unable to meet face to face to discuss the children's progress with you. However, we will soon be sending out an online response slip for families to book telephone slots. These will be limited to ten minutes and will give families a chance to speak with class teachers and ask any questions.

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 3

Monday	Beef burger in a homemade bun, chips, green beans and sweetcorn, followed by banana sponge.
Tuesday	Chicken fajitas, rice and mixed salad, followed by orange shortcake.
Wednesday	Roast pork loin, gravy, mashed potatoes, peas, carrots and herbie bread, followed by chocolate fudge pudding and chocolate sauce.
Thursday	Mince and dumplings, mashed potatoes, cauliflower, peas and sliced bread, followed by chocolate crunch.
Friday	Salmon fishcake, potato wedges, peas, sweetcorn and 50/50 bread, followed by fresh fruit salad and yoghurt.

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.