



Weekly Newsletter

13th November 2020

A big thank you!

We have certainly seen some wintery weather this week! However, the great learning and fun at Sleights has continued, despite rain and wind. As you know, the week began with our first bubble closure, after being informed of a positive case of Coronavirus. The full school sends its best wishes for a speedy recovery for those involved. The huge support we have had from our families has been tremendous and I want to shout **a very big thank you** to you all for this. It really goes a long way.

The plans we had in place to respond to a positive case were implemented quickly and calmly. After informing you all about the positive case, learning at Sleights has continued uninterrupted both at home and in school. All Year 3/4 families have since been contacted by Mrs Taylor, who is working at home to set learning tasks and keep in touch with the Discoverers. I know that this is being well received by families and the feedback has been great.

Moving forwards, we will continue to implement our robust measures for keeping everyone safe. The classroom and areas used by Discoverers will undergo a thorough clean, in addition to the already enhanced measures in place. Safety continues to be our highest priority. Thank you for your brilliant support. Have a good weekend with your families.

Scott Grason, Headteacher

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Face Coverings - IMPORTANT

Just a reminder, face coverings are expected to be worn by all families at pick up and drop off times. Thank you in advance.

In the classrooms this week

- It was a very noisy session in Explorers on Tuesday, as the children spent time listening to different animal sounds. The children were able to identify the sounds and link them to animal names. These discussions continued, as children later explored which of those animals they heard lived on the land or sea. Using colours associated with land and sea, the children then enjoyed using paint (and lots of it!) A very messy, noisy, but fun week had by all!
- I have been really impressed with the Pioneers enjoying writing this week. Their focus and determination has been quite incredible. The children are brilliantly focused and show a real thirst and excitement for learning. As well as lots of great writing, the children have enjoyed learning about shapes this week. They have made their own models, described features and named them too. Another great week of happy learning!
- This week has been another jam packed one for our Learners! As well as exploring addition and writing arguments about wearing coats at playtime, the children have also been geographers and sewers! Exploring human and physical features, the children have been sorting images into groups and talking about their decisions. To help them create their own Christmas decoration, the children have also been learning how to sew. They had some great focus!
- The Adventurers spent a lovely morning on Thursday enjoying the forest. As part of their science topic, the children were investigating materials to keep a toy safe from the wind and rain. As I write this, it is lovely to hear a real hub of excitement coming from the classroom, as children celebrate their spelling scores. So many excited voices and cheers for full marks. Well done to them for working so hard.
- Despite being at home, there is still a huge amount to celebrate from our Discoverers this week. From 9am on Monday, we have been so impressed to see children engaging with the home learning set and sending in their completed tasks. The children have continued their space research theme with great interest. A very big well done to every Discoverer family working at home. We are proud of you all!
- As part of our reflection on Remembrance, the Leaders created some stunning artwork this week focused on poppies. Using watercolours, the children created their own designs and artwork with some brilliant pieces to share. On the same theme, the children also created a single poppy petal with a hope or dream for the future of the world, which was then brought together with other petals from the classroom. The final result was beautiful.

Pre-School Parents

If your child is three and you do not have a 30 hour voucher code: Please log on to apply and get your code for the spring term's funding: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-30-hours-free-childcare>

If your child is three and you already have a 30 hour voucher code: Please log on to reconfirm your code for the spring term's funding: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-30-hours-free-childcare>

Once you have your code, please pass a copy to a member of the team. If you need any help with this, please just ask.

ParentPay

This week, families should have received their ParentPay login details. We are now ready to go and it has been so brilliant to see lots of families activating their accounts and purchasing items for the coming weeks. Thank you.

Please do use ParentPay from Monday to buy snacks, lunches, book after school or breakfast club. We will be adding uniform to the shop in the coming weeks for families to buy too.

As the system is very new to us, we thank you in advance for your patience as we all find our way. If you need any support from us, please just let us know.

Staying Safe Online

We regularly talk to the children about staying safe online. With extra time being spent online due to more virtual contact and, in some cases, learning at home, we wanted to share some resources with families which offer guidance and advice for staying safe online. We will reinforce these messages in school too, but if you would like to discuss anything with us, please do get in touch.

- <https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers>
- <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-child-online-safety/>
- <https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/esafety-leaflets-resources/> (This website has lots of simple guides for different ages in school and is really useful)

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. There is an application form to complete, but if you receive any of the benefits below, please let us know and we will help.

- 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 and Reception receive free school meals, if any of the above benefit applies to you, please do complete an application.

Snack changes

Thank you for your support in adapting how we are buying snack. It has made a huge difference in our classrooms this week. If you are using ParentPay to buy snack, please make sure orders are placed by 9am each Monday. Thank you!

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.

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.

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 1

Monday	Sausage in a homemade roll, ketchup, roast potatoes, peas and cucumber bites, followed by banana sponge and custard
Tuesday	Pasta bolognese, mixed salad and garlic bread, followed by orange chocolate muffin
Wednesday	Roast chicken, stuffing, gravy, mashed potatoes, green beans and cauliflower with 50/50 bread, followed by oat cookie and orange segment
Thursday	Mexican beef tortilla boat, rice, broccoli and carrots, followed by fruit jelly and ice cream
Friday	Battered fish portion, chips, peas, sweetcorn and wholemeal bread, followed by cheese, crackers and an 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.