



# Weekly Newsletter

11<sup>th</sup> December 2020

## The final week

It is astonishing to think that next week is our last school week of 2020. The Christmas break is very much deserved by everyone and we look forward to making next week a special one. This week, we have seen lots of creativity and festivity, with crafts being made, Christingles being enjoyed and practise for our Christmas showcase. We have also been able to fit in some maths and English too! The classrooms continue to be a huge hive of activity, with some stunning learning taking place every day. What a great place Sleights is!

This week, you will have seen that the Government announced late on Monday that schools could close the doors early next week and take Friday off. I am aware that some schools locally have taken the decision to close early.

As a team, we agree in full that this is not the right thing to do. As always, the decision for us to not go ahead with this is based on our own families and children. The efforts and hard work of every staff member has been heroic throughout the whole pandemic and we agree with the Government, a break is needed, but do not feel that the additional day and potential disruption this would cause to families (due to late notice) is the right way to go. A day early closure would also mean reorganising our training days, which are incredibly valuable and worthwhile ongoing learning opportunities for the staff team. We hope that this helps to clear up our stance on this. Have a lovely weekend with your families.

Scott Grason, Headteacher

[headteacher@sleights.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@sleights.n-yorks.sch.uk)

## Give the gift of reading

At this time of the year, we would normally be busy making preparations for our Christmas fair. Due to Covid, neither our summer or Christmas fairs have taken place this year. Not only are both fairs lots of fun, they also help to raise funds for school. We have been asked by some families if we are doing anything to raise funds in the absence of the fairs.

Therefore, we wanted to share two ways to help the school and our families by buying books. We would be very grateful of any support.



### The Little Fox Bookshop, Bridge Street, Whitby

Owned by one of our school families, the Little Fox Bookshop across the bridge in Whitby have kindly agreed to support any Sleights' families in buying books. If you would like to donate a book to school, Lucy and her team will help choose particular texts and suggest ideas. These texts will then be enjoyed by all children back in school.

With lots of choice of books (and tea and cake available) the Little Fox is well worth a visit!

### The Penniless Parent Bookshop online, by Usborne

Another of our school families also runs an online book store. Attached to this newsletter email is a selection of books families can buy online at: <https://usborne.com/gb/organiser/tppbookshop>. Whilst these books will be for your own children, school can receive additional funds for orders placed.

Sarah also runs an online Facebook Group where reading sessions are held each Sunday, at 6.30pm. Those taking part enjoy a book, complete a quiz, with free copies of books available for the winner.



We are really grateful to all school families for their ongoing support and commitment to all thing Sleights. We hope that families will support all our children and some local businesses by gifting a book, in the absence of our usual fairs.

## Places available in Early Years

The closing date for applying for a school place in Reception is fast approaching. We have put together a mini website and poster (attached to our newsletter email) to share our offer. We are asking if families are happy to share both the poster and mini website link with friends please, we would be really grateful. Thank you!

To see our Reception offer and share a link with friends: <https://arcg.is/1rWDOO> (scroll down to see a photo show)

## Christmas Cards

Just a reminder that we are only accepting these for children in the same bubble this year. Cards will need to be brought to school by MONDAY, so that they can be isolated before being handed out.

### In the classrooms this week

- As ever, the Explorers classroom has been full of activity and fun this week! Using the story of the gingerbread man as inspiration, the children have been investigating what would happen if the gingerbread crossed the river. This prompted lots of talk and description about how the gingerbread felt, before discussing what might happen once it hit the water. The children were fascinated to see the outcome and loved investigation and playing together.
- Our Pioneers are a confident and happy group. This week, they showed their independence too, when they set up and completed a full story telling activity entirely without adult support. Sharing a basket of characters, the children decided to use toys to create and retell their own stories with confidence. It was simply beautiful to see! The children have also enjoyed making their own waffles to enjoy around the Christmas tree when listening to a story. They looked tasty!
- The Learners have expanded their 'answering the register' repertoire this week, adding sign language to the collection! They were really excited to teach me. Shape has also been a popular topic in Learners this week, with children identifying features and naming different objects around the classroom. I was really impressed to see the Learners tackling laptops this week too – with some excellent teamwork from everyone. Go Team Learners!
- Our amazing Adventurers have completed their 'Phonics Screening Checks' this week. These assessments are a national requirement for all children in Year 1, but were rescheduled due to Covid closures. We made sure that the children were unaware of the assessments, which meant everyone was happy! We are really impressed with the brilliant results that have been achieved by the children and look forward to sharing their successes with families soon. Well done all!
- Our Discoverers have been working hard for a number of weeks on a dance routine and this week, we were delighted to see the final result. Despite not being able to compete in sports events as usual, we have been engaging in virtual competitions. The Discoverers impressed everyone with their moves and we wish them the best of luck with their entry. I have to say though, their big smiles were enough of a prize for us!
- Team Leaders have showcased their talents once again this week with their great efforts in preparing and leading our Christingle service. In English, the Leaders have continued to enjoy their story writing activity and have been working hard on including flashbacks and suspense in their work – a tricky thing to master! Earlier in the week, Christmas crafts were on the agenda, with children creating window decorations and fabric resist stockings. Great fun by all!



### Christingle

Today, we are sharing the children's Christingle service on Tapestry. As per the Sleights traditions, the Year 6s have led the service by sharing readings and making Christingles for classes around school. The service has also been shared with all of the other classes in school, who were able to join in and light their own Christingles too. We hope you enjoy the service at home too. A big thank you to Team Leaders for their brilliant efforts in writing, preparing and leading our service this year.

### Year 5/6 Residential to East Barnby

We are still planning to go ahead with our residential trip next year and would like to share details with families about this. Of course, if restrictions remain in place, the trip will not go ahead. However, for early planning, Year 5/6 are invited to experience a full week of outdoor activities at East Barnby Outdoor Education Centre between 28<sup>th</sup> June 2021 and 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2021. The cost will be £349 and we will provide details in the new year about paying a deposit and registering your interest.

### Our Christmas Calendar

In our final week of the Christmas term, we have lots more fun and festive activities planned. These include:

- Even more stories and hot chocolate around the school tree!
- The last day to bring in Christmas cards is Monday 14<sup>th</sup>. They will be isolated and handed out at the end of the week.
- Party day on Monday, including games and activities. These will take place in the classrooms in individual bubbles. Children should wear non-uniform for their party day fun, please!
- Christmas lunch on Wednesday will be enjoyed by bubbles in their classroom.
- In a change to our original plans, we will now share our school's Christmas celebration on Friday (the last day of term) instead. We felt the children should enjoy the first showing on their Christmas Cinema day.
- The children can also wear non-uniform on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December (our last day of term).
- School will close for the year at the following times:

**Explorers at 2.00pm**

**Leaders and Learners at 2.10pm**

**Adventurers and Discoverers at 2.15pm**

### Save the Children Christmas Jumper Donations

A big thank you to everyone who donated for our Christmas Jumper day. We are grateful to everyone for their support. In total, over £80 was raised for Save the Children charity. Go, Team Sleights!



**Save the Children**

### Next week's lunch menu – Week 2

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Party Day Lunch:</b> A selection of sandwiches, sausages, pizza, carrot and cucumber bites, crisps, biscuits and ice sponge cake, with juice.
<b>Tuesday</b>	Chicken pie, mashed potatoes, cabbage, sweetcorn and sliced bread, followed by raspberry yoghurt
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Christmas Dinner:</b> Roast Turkey with Gorgeous Gravy, Crackers Christmas Chipolatas, Santa's sage and onion stuffing, Mrs Claus' Crispy Roasties and a merry mix of carrots, peas and Brussel sprouts, followed by snowman ice-cream
<b>Thursday</b>	Chicken korma, rice, broccoli, sweetcorn and naan bread, followed by fruity Paris sandwich and custard
<b>Friday</b>	Fish fingers, chips, beans, cucumber bites and crusty bread, followed by cheese, crackers and an apple wedge

### 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.**