



Weekly Newsletter

18th December 2020



Merry Christmas to you all!

After fourteen very long weeks, today we close school to celebrate Christmas and enjoy spending time together with families. Whilst, like everything else this year, Christmas will be different to usual, we really hope that the Christmas break will allow all families an opportunity to recharge their batteries, make memories and celebrate. The usual Christmas spirit is alive and well in Sleights and I know the children are very excited for two weeks of festive fun at home!

Our classrooms have been alive with laughter, fun, games, hot chocolate, loud music and films this week. I am sure you will agree – the children thoroughly deserved their week of festive fun with their friends!

As we end a very long term and challenging year, I know we will all be reflecting on the challenges that we have faced (and overcome) So much has changed for everyone in the last year. The huge and life changing impact of Covid cannot be underestimated. However, I am immensely proud to say that, whilst Covid has raged on, the inspirational work of our children, families and staff at Sleights has gone from strength to strength. I want to thank every single member of Team Sleights for the simply stunning work they do for our children and families. We are so lucky.

Have a very Merry Christmas!

Scott Grason, Headteacher

headteacher@sleights.n-yorks.sch.uk

We need your help – a plea

Over the coming weeks, on behalf of our full school community, can I urge everyone to follow the rules to keep themselves and everyone else safe. Whilst the government have announced the period of relaxed rules can go ahead over Christmas, please can all families be mindful of the impact that breaking the rules will have on our safety in January.

Over Christmas, we are asked to keep visits short, not mix beyond three households and not to complete overnight visits. I know these rules are difficult and are such a big difference to the usual Christmas traditions and customs families enjoy each year. However, in order to ensure that our children and staff can come to school safely in January and continue providing a great learning experience, we all need to work together. Please do your bit.

Remember to keep two metres, wear a face covering and wash your hands. Thank you in anticipation for your support.

Contact over the holidays

Last week, the government announced that Headteachers will remain 'on duty' during part of the Christmas break to support any track and trace efforts. This means that if, at any point during the break, a member of your household experiences symptoms for Covid-19 and subsequently tests positive, I do need to know, please. Depending on when this happens in the holiday, we may need to contact other school families to inform them to isolate, or delay their return to school. Please do keep in contact with me in relation to this.

We love using Tapestry to keep in touch and do feel free to share some of your lovely Christmas experiences with us on there. However, I have asked staff to take a well earned break from Tapestry, so they will not be replying during the holidays.

If there is anything you need urgently, or you need to inform school about a positive test result, please use my direct email to do so: headteacher@sleights.n-yorks.sch.uk and I will get back to you as soon as I can.

A message from our Chair of Governors

On behalf of the Full Governing Body, may I thank all of our Sleights families for your support of the school over the past year. 2020 will certainly be a year we will never forget!

I would also like to thank Mr Grason and the full staff for their hard work making sure the school has continued to be the place we all know and love and for the commitment they give to the children each and every day.

Finally, I want to thank the children themselves. They have been an absolute inspiration in the way they have adapted and adjusted throughout this year. We are very lucky.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and look forward to seeing you all in 2021. Have a lovely holiday.

Gemma Kellerman, Chair of Governors.

Christmas Cards and Gifts

Children are bringing home their cards and any gifts today, which have been isolating this week. Just a note, some children are bringing home sweets/chocolate from friends and families, which have not been given by school staff. Therefore, please take a moment to review allergies and ingredients of these items.

On behalf of all school staff, may I think all of our lovely children and families for their very generous gifts and cards.

Discoverers' Dancing Success!

This week, we learnt that, after many hours of training, the Discoverers' dancing hard work paid off, as they were awarded 1st place in the area's virtual competition. A huge congratulations to them! There are many schools in the area that took part, so it is simply wonderful to see the talented children of Sleights celebrated! Go, Team Discoverers!

Places available in Early Years

Thank you for your feedback and sharing our materials to celebrate and advertise places in our Early Years classroom. The deadline for next year's Reception class (September 2021) is January, so please do keep sharing and spreading the Sleights' word! To see our Reception offer and share a link with friends: <https://arcg.is/1rWDOO> (scroll down to see a photo show)

Year 5/6 Residential to East Barnby - update

We are still planning to go ahead with our residential trip next year and would like to share details with families about this. This visit will also be completed alongside children from Goathland School. 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 28th June 2021 and 2nd July 2021. The cost will be £349 and we will provide details in the new year about paying a deposit and registering your interest.

Give the gift of reading - reminder

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.

School Food

A huge thank you to Mrs Eglon and Mrs Harland for a brilliant Christmas lunch and party dinner this week. It was beautiful and enjoyed by everyone! A new menu will be shared in the first week of January 2021.

Hear our children on the radio!

Tomorrow, we will hear three Discoverers share their Christmas wishes on "This is the Coast" radio and social media at 8.10am and 3.10pm. Be sure to give the celebrities a listen!

Sleights is a nut free and peanut free school.