



# Weekly Newsletter

15<sup>th</sup> January 2021

## News from Sleights

After our first full week of home learning and working in this new way, I wanted to say how proud of absolutely everyone in Team Sleights. As I have said before and will say again, the mountains that have been moved by families, staff and, of course, children to work in this new way are huge, but have been moved all the same. I know that this hasn't been easy, but a massive thank you to you all for what you have done.

I have loved keeping in touch with everyone who is emailing me each morning to check in. It is just like a smile or "Hello" on the gate each day, which helps everyone still in school know you are all safe and well. Staff have also enjoyed making contact with families again this week and hearing how everyone is. Thank you to everyone for helping keep Team Sleights as one.

The very small number of children in school are working in bubbles. We have three bubbles in school, which are kept safely apart in their own classrooms, with their own staff. Unfortunately, earlier in the week, we were informed of a positive case in our Key Stage Two bubble, so this group are currently isolating safely at home. A huge thank you to our families in that group who worked so quickly with us to send everyone home.

I hope that the newsletter each week helps to provide a summary of things that have happened in school, or information that has been shared with us. Please do remember that we are always at the end of an email, or Tapestry message, so please do get in touch if you need anything!

Scott Grason, Headteacher

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



## What We'll Build

Over the next few weeks, we are using "What We'll Build", a book by Oliver Jeffers to help us with our English work. It is a beautiful text, with lots of ideas to explore. The staff have put together a video to share the story with you all. With Tapestry issues earlier in the week, you may have missed this, so do take a moment or two to have a look and listen together.

## Checking in

Thank you to you all for registering safely from home. Just a reminder to email us each day, please. Lots of families are choosing to reply to the 10.30am reminder text. If this works best for you, it is OK to register like this too!

## Celebrating learning at home

Homes have been a hive of activity this week with some really great learning. We love hearing how every family is making home learning week for them. A bit like our usual 'in the classroom' feature, I want to celebrate some of the great things we have heard about and seen on our newsletter.

- Launching our new school book 'What We'll Build', we asked families to share photographs of their hands (just like those shown in the book's illustrations) We will make a big school display to showcase this work, when we return. So far, we have counted hundreds and hundreds of fingers and thumbs! Thank you to everyone for their help.
- Our Explorers have enjoyed lots of activities focused on story telling. Children have enjoyed making rockets, building houses and 'huffing and puffing' as part of role play. Lots of fun!
- Maths magic has inspired lots of super number work in Pioneers this week. The children have also been challenged to spot the difference between new and old items in their house to help them with their writing. PE has also featured!
- The past has also been a theme in Learners and Adventurers this week. The children have been busy spotting the differences between then and now photographs, building time machines and exploring our Christian Value of courage.
- Enjoying the outdoors was a task for our Discoverers and Leaders earlier in the week. In a 'forest school at home' session, the children were challenged to build a cairn tower, with some lovely results!
- We have also loved seeing and hearing about many more moments to share, including glorious walks in the village, tons of baking, playing with Christmas gifts, sharing great books, snow fun and learning lots of exciting new life skills.

Well done Team Sleights for excellent learning at home!

## Free School Meals

Please do get in touch with us if your circumstances have changed, as you may now be entitled to free school meals support. As you will have seen on the news, vouchers are provided to allow families to purchase groceries each week. These are emailed.



### **Tapestry**

The strain of a nation working at home has certainly taken its toll on technology this week! We have heard numerous reports of the internet 'going down', as well as individual platforms, including our own, Tapestry, experiencing problems. We give our apologies again for the disruption this caused to families. As a work around, we were able to host tasks on the school website, under class pages. We are hopeful the Tapestry issues have now been resolved, but will share work on the website, if we experience the same problems again.



### **Sumdog**

Just a reminder all children from Reception upwards have their own Sumdog account. This is being used very successfully across school. If you would like a remind of passwords and how to login, please let me know.

### **Government Remote Learning Expectations**

You may have seen or heard about the expectations that government have placed on schools to provide a remote education offer. We are required to set four hours of work for children in Discoverers and Leaders, with three hours being provided for other classes in school.

I want to be really clear that we know how hard everyone is working and that actually, for some, these time periods add additional pressure and expectations to households. From our contact with you, we know that families are making their individual circumstances work for them. This includes a whole of host of activities from learning menus that each household is creating. We will support all families through this period, in whatever way we can.

Whatever learning is taking place at home, we would love to hear about it! To help us continue working together, we would love to see your hard work at home uploaded to Tapestry. Alternatively, you can email me [headteacher@sleights.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@sleights.n-yorks.sch.uk) and I will make sure the class teacher sees it.

**Sleights is a nut free and peanut free school.**