



Weekly Newsletter

5th February 2021

News from Sleights

Happy Friday everyone! I hope the start of the new month has been as good, as it can be, given the ongoing situation.

I want to start with a big well done and thank you to everyone once again for their impressive efforts and hard work this week. We are now firmly into the swing of home learning and hearing how each family is approaching this is always fantastic. We have seen a whole host of great work once again this week!

The lessons and activities we have been planning for home learning reflect those that the children would have enjoyed, had they been in school. Children have been set daily maths and English work, as well as a range of subjects from across the curriculum. Throughout the school year, we also spend full days in school concentrating on particular themes or subjects, to help enhance and inspire children's understanding. Next week, we will create activities and days just like these ones for families to enjoy at home.

With this in mind, whilst we will continue developing and practising key maths and English skills next week, our home learning will concentrate on enjoying practical tasks from across the wider curriculum. As you know, our school vision focuses on working together, being happy and succeeding. Our aim for next week's tasks is to do this in full! We hope these opportunities will help families enjoy time away from the home school desks, or screens, and work together to complete fun tasks. Keep an eye out on Tapestry next week, as usual, for more details.

We are always here, if you need us. Have a restful weekend with your families.

Scott Grason, Headteacher

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Weather warning

We have had our fair share of challenging weather in recent weeks. Next week, more heavy snow is forecast. As we know, the forecast isn't always right, but we ask that families who are attending school keep us updated on any contact detail changes, so that we can quickly get hold of you in case we need to close the school early. Stay safe everyone!

Children in school next week

If we do have snow and safely open, we would like the children to enjoy time outside. Therefore, if children are in school next week, please bring an outdoor kit (including shoes) to use on Monday morning. This will be kept in school all week.

February half term

Just a reminder that school will close for half term next Friday. During the half term break, no work will be set on Tapestry and instead, we are asking our children and families to have a well deserved break!

Celebrating learning at home

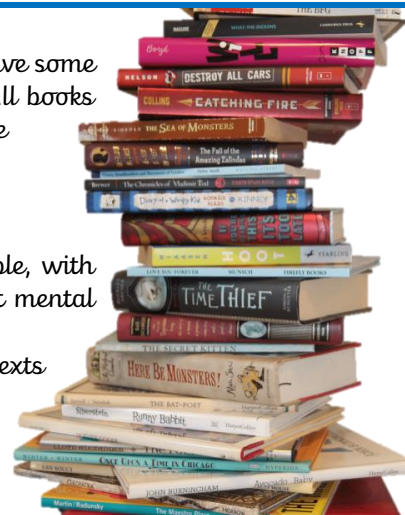
WOW! Well done Team Sleights for another superb week! Here are just some of the highlights to celebrate:

- Days of the week have been the order of business in Explorers and Pioneers this week, with the children using 'Mr Wolf's Week' to help them. The children have been working really hard to organise the days of the week, as well as things that happen on each day. In school, the children have really enjoyed using role play (and lots of water!) to help them recreate different events from their week too.
- Measuring has been popular on the learning menu this week for children in Learners and Adventurers. We have seen and heard about children measuring and comparing just about everything from around the home! The children have also enjoyed learning about the past and talking about ways that life is different now from how it once was.
- The battle for top spot on the Sumdog leader board continues to rumble on amongst Discoverers and Leaders. A big thank you for everyone adding to the overall class scores each week! Art has really inspired the children this week, with many wonderful Van Gogh style pieces being completed at home and celebrated with us. The results are stunning!
- As well as hearing how families are approaching our school curriculum at home, we do also love to hear about your own home curriculums! This week, we have again heard about and celebrated so much learning at home, including: plenty of reading, lots of Sumdog, big birthday celebrations, learning how to play instruments, baking bread, creating cakes, enjoying walks, exploring caves and so much more! Well done Team Sleights for excellent learning at home!

A big book thank you!

As our families know, we love books at Sleights! We have recently been very fortunate to receive some donations of brand new books for children in school. For this, we are incredibly grateful! All books will be added to our school library, with a book plate added to the front page to celebrate the family who kindly donated it to school. This week, we are grateful and saying thank you to:

- **Dylan and his family**, who donated money to help us buy some dinosaur books (a mixture of fiction and information texts)
- **Sean Danby and Lauren Cross (SD Signs and Mummaroo Prints)** a local couple, with family relations already at Sleights, who have kindly donated books to support mental health and wellbeing across school.
- **Graham Storer** of the Sheds and 'Kidz Making Good' groups, who has donated texts to school, which will be used as part of a whole school writing topic.
- **A local family**, who have requested to remain anonymous, have very kindly donated a generous cheque to school for buying new books. We are excited to work with our children to choose some new titles for everyone to enjoy.



Story Time

Just a reminder, staff are posting a story every evening to enjoy before bed. Next week, we will be sharing some poetry at bedtime instead and hope that you all enjoy logging on and checking this out!

Technology Support

From our telephone contact with families, we have a good understanding about devices and how remote learning is being accessed. By using Tapestry, we have hopefully removed the need for every child to be using a device for long periods of the day. However, if families would like additional devices to support learning at home, please do get in touch with us, so that we can help.

Governor News

This week, we are delighted to welcome Jenny Taylor to our governing body. Jenny is a very active member of our community, with three grandchildren in the school. Jenny brings a wealth of experience to the governing body and has been appointed by the Diocese of York to support our Church School development. Welcome on board, Jenny!



Sumdog Champions

For the second week in a row, we are crowning the **DISCOVERERS** as our most active class. A big well done to them. I know that Mrs Taylor is delighted!
Please do encourage your children to spend a 'little, but often' time on Sumdog – it really does help!

A focus on how we use Sumdog

In the last few weeks, I have shared information about how school plan, assess and feedback work being completed at home. We hope the information has been useful!
With lots of children using Sumdog in school and at home, this week, I wanted to share a bit more information about how we use this resource at Sleights.



- Sumdog is used to help children practise key skills in maths. It can be accessed via an app or internet browser. Every child has their own individual login. School can easily provide reminders of these details if they get lost.
- Children are assigned activities and challenges to play. These are topics chosen specifically by their class teachers to help keep practising maths skills. After completing full challenges, children can earn rewards and coins.
- With their coins, children can purchase items from an online Sumdog shop. This helps to keep children engaged!
- Whilst staff choose topics for the children to focus on, Sumdog works to alter the difficulty of questions asked, based on the answers children give. This means it is a responsive resource and should be matched, generally, to children's abilities.
- However, if children are given a new account to Sumdog, they are asked to complete around 200 questions, with mixed difficulty, so that the technology can understand the level of questions to ask for the future.
- For staff, Sumdog allows us to review the numbers of children enjoying Sumdog on a regular basis, as well as the volume of questions the children are answering correctly. This helps us to review our plans and make sure they are meeting the needs of our children.

Sumdog is something lots of our children enjoy doing and can be completed independently. Please do encourage your children to log in and play!