



Weekly Newsletter

12th February 2021

News from Sleights

Well what a half term that was! Today marks the start of the half term holidays for everyone. Over the last six weeks, I have been constantly overwhelmed by the strength, focus, determination and utter kindness of everyone in Team Sleights. As a school community, we have had to rip up everything we knew and were familiar and put in place brand new systems and processes.

Looking back, the school closed with just a few hours notice, moved the entire learning offer online and has remained open to support key worker and vulnerable families. This has meant regular contact with families at home, setting home learning, responding to it, finding individual ways to support our families and celebrate the children's successes. I know I speak on behalf of the staff when I say, this has certainly been a challenge, but one that has been met head on, with your continued support.

Whilst the actions we have faced as staff have been challenging, we all absolutely recognise and do not underestimate the huge hurdles that you, our families, have also faced and **overcome!** Today, I want to start your holidays with the very biggest **"Well done and thank you"** Overnight, you, our families, became teachers, with your homes being turned into classrooms. This has been a role you have all worked tirelessly to get right for your individual families and circumstances. Whilst I know this has not been easy for you, I do congratulate you all. Our children are incredibly lucky.

Finally, I also want to applaud our children. They have adjusted quickly to the new way of working and thrown themselves into the challenges and successes that have come with it. The brilliant work we hear about over the telephone, or see on Tapestry is simply fantastic and I look forward to being able to say "Well done" to our children when they do return. They are amazing.

I hope you all have a brilliant half term holiday together and get a well-earned rest. Stay safe,

Scott Grason, Headteacher

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February half term

During the half term break, no work will be set on Tapestry and instead, we are asking our children, families and staff to have a well-deserved break! Staff will be spending less time on Tapestry than usual, but if you need anything urgently, please email me directly.

Track and Trace – for children who have been in school this week

To support the national track and trace efforts, if any children or families who have been in school this week have a test for Covid-19 during half term, please inform the school. Thank you in advance.

Reopening after half term

Over the coming week or so, we expect to hear the government's plans in relation to the anticipated 8th March return date. It is expected that any wider reopening will be carried out in a staggered way, like our June 2020 reopening. This may mean that, even if part of the school does reopen on the 8th March, a number of children are likely to be asked to remain at home. Like always, we don't get any advance warning on what will happen, but will work hard to communicate our own plans with families, when we know more.

Celebrating learning this week

With the heavy downfalls that we have experienced this week, there has really only been one main topic on the curriculum – snow! Lessons at home have included sledging, building (igloos and people), snowball fights and, a really big lesson, how to warm up quickly after staying out in the snow! I have heard that litres and litres of hot chocolate helped with this! Whilst the snow can cause travel difficulties, it really has been lovely to see our families getting out and enjoying it!

Whether it has been snow themed or not, I know that I speak on behalf of all of the staff at Sleights when I say a very big well done to our children and their families for a super final week of half term home learning. Go, Team Sleights!

Staff News

This week, we learnt that Mrs Burton, who teaches in Adventurers and Leaders will not be returning to Sleights. After a period of ill health, Mrs Burton will be spending time focusing on her health and family. We are grateful to Mrs Burton for all of her hard work at Sleights and wish her the best of luck for her new adventures.

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.



Sundog Champions

We have enjoyed investigating the Sundog stats again this week. A big well done to everyone for their continued hard work on the app. It is clear lots of the children are really enjoying themselves and practising lots too! The Key Stage Two battle continues this week, with both Discoverers and Leaders having cause for celebration. We are crowning our **DISCOVERERS** as our most active class (again!) A big well done to them. However, we are also crowning **LEADERS** as our most accurate class. Well done to them too! Please do encourage your children to spend a 'little, but often' time on Sundog – it really does help!

Slights is a nut free and peanut free school.