



Weekly Newsletter

5th March 2021

News from Sleights

After eight weeks away, on Monday, we are looking forward to welcoming back our children and families to our building. Whilst the school has remained closed for most pupils, I know that Team Sleights has still remained as one whole community working together at home or in school. I am immensely proud of everyone for their huge efforts and heroic achievements.

I think we can all say that this lockdown presented us all with challenges. After being out of school last year, I know that the fear and worry of falling behind has a significant concern. I also know that the worry of children missing out on friendship groups has been massive. I want to offer my reassurance to families (and children) that every member of our Team Sleights is excited to work together with everyone next week.

As I have stated before, we are focusing our efforts on welcoming children back to their friendship groups and feeling comfortable and happy back in school. Our 'catch up' focus is on the children catching up with their friends and reconnecting after time away. We will not be 'testing' children, but instead, using evidence from the children's work to gain an understanding of their strengths and next steps. We are focused on building on individual starting points from time over lockdown and learning at home.

I also wanted to reassure our families that the school has in place very robust processes and systems to keep everyone safe. These routines will be quickly re-established and every step taken to minimise the risk of Covid-19 will be taken. If families would like to speak to me about our risk assessment, please do get in touch.

I wanted to offer my thanks to you all, our children and families. I know that the last eight weeks have presented challenges and every household has had to (very rapidly) adapt to a new way of working, balancing home life, be a teacher or continue roles as key workers. I speak on behalf of the whole staff and governing body when I say that the lengths and efforts that have been taken to keep families happy and safe have been inspirational. We applaud you all and look forward to continuing your good work when the children return next week.

Over the weekend, I hope you all get an opportunity to spend time together. Have a very lovely weekend,

Scott Grason, Headteacher headteacher@sleights.n-yorks.sch.uk

Some reminders about coming back to school

Collection and drop off times

Please arrive at your allocated time slot, not earlier. Just one adult should collect/drop off, unless families have younger siblings. Please remember that all families must wear a face covering, unless medically exempt.

Pre-School 8.50am arrival, 3.00pm collection

Leaders and Learners (Mrs Brown and Mrs Walker) arrive at 8.50am and pick up at 3.10pm

Adventurers and Discoverers (Mrs Roe and Mrs Taylor) arrive at 9.00am and pick up at 3.15pm

What to bring

We still need to leave unnecessary items at home, so ask that children bring a PE kit to school (and leave it onsite), a coat, water bottle and reading book. This could be in a school book bag, but large rucksacks should remain at home. We will be changing reading books in the first week back, so it is important that books at home are returned to school, please.

What to wear

We know that the children have grown and not all uniform or school shoes will fit. Please do not worry if this means children have to wear alternatives. Our priority is on the children being happy and comfortable.

Frequently asked questions

Last week, I circulated a frequently asked questions document about our return. I have attached this to the email newsletter again, so that families have a reminder of the information, should they need it.



Snack

To support our school systems, if your child is in Learners class, or higher, please use ParentPay to buy your weekly snack. This should be done before 9.00am each Monday morning, please.

Food in school

Just a reminder that our school is both nut and peanut free and, as a result, no food (snack or packed lunch) should be brought into school containing these items.

Homework

After many weeks of working at home, we have decided to relax our usual homework policy for the remainder of this term, including spellings. We hope that this provides families with a break at home. All we do ask is that children read regularly and record this in their reading records. Sundry will still be available for children to play and practise if they would like to.

A thank you

As this lockdown comes to an end and we prepare to welcome our children back, I wanted to publicly record my thanks and gratitude to the talented, dedicated and hardworking staff at Sleights. Whilst your children may not have physically seen staff every day, behind the scenes there has been so much work being completed by everyone, from recording lessons, responding to work, making phone calls, attending meetings, carrying out planning and so much more. In the classrooms in school, our teachers and teaching assistants have been working tirelessly to ensure that those children in the building continue learning uninterrupted too. Every day, our cleaning and admin staff have made sure the building is running smoothly and safely, helped, of course, by our brilliant Mrs. Eglon and her cooking. Without this team, Sleights would be a very different place and I am proud to work with every member of staff. On a personal note, I am incredibly grateful to them all for their dedication and support. I also wanted to recognise and celebrate our hardworking governors who, throughout lockdown and school closure, have continued their exemplary voluntary work. The governing body and particularly our Chair, Gemma Kellerman, are individuals who do so much behind the scenes without pay or recognition and we too must thank them for their work. Sleights is a very special community. Thank you to everyone for making this happen.

Keeping Sleights moving

We are very excited to be launching the daily kilometre at Sleights. Each child in school will be encouraged to spend time running, jogging or walking on the playground every day. We know how important it is for children to keep active, and the positive impact it can have on their physical and mental health. Whilst it takes about ten laps of the playground to complete a full kilometre, the children will be encouraged to challenge themselves. This challenge will be different for everyone, with some children completing ten laps each day, others less and others more. **This is not a competition or a race** and the emphasis will be on children encouraging and supporting each other to improve their individual achievements. You can help too, by encouraging your child's confidence in running, and moving at home with them as much as you can. If you would like to take part in your own daily move, you can sign up here: <https://thedailymile.co.uk/parents-and-carers/>

Mrs Taylor, Sports Leader



Sundry Champions

Well done again to our leader board winners! This week is another victory for our **LEARNERS**, who are our most accurate class and **LEADERS**, who are our most active class.

Next week's lunch menu

Monday	Chicken Korma and rice with cauliflower, green beans and naan bread, followed by fruit yoghurt
Tuesday	Sausage, mash and onion gravy, with carrots, broccoli and fifty fifty bread, followed by crunchy apple crumble with custard
Wednesday	Minced beef and Yorkshire pudding, with creamy mash, carrots, peas and sliced wholemeal bread, followed by fruit yoghurt
Thursday	Creamy chicken and broccoli pasta, with green beans, sweetcorn and crusty bread, followed by fruity jam roly poly and custard
Friday	Fish fingers with chipped potatoes, baked beans, peas and tomato bread, followed by banana sponge and custard

Sleights is a nut free and peanut free school.



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