



Weekly Newsletter

23rd April 2021

News from Sleights

The conversations I have had with lots of families on the gate this week have been focused very much on the sudden change in the weather – I even had hail and layer of snow over the moors on Thursday! It has certainly been much cooler, but this has not deterred our hardworking children and team!

On Monday evening, the governing body met virtually to reflect on the school's work to date and reopening since March 8th. The meeting was incredibly positive and celebrated the successes of our children in coming back and tackling school head on. They are truly remarkable. Governors also recognise the hard work and support of all families in achieving this. A big thank you to you all for your dedication (more from our Chair of Governors later in the newsletter)

Could I please, once again, make a plea for families to continue sticking to the rules regarding Covid-19. Contact can take place outside in gardens etc., but no overnight stays (including sleepovers!) are allowed under the current rules. The rates in Whitby are really low, so let's all continue working together to keep this the case.

Just a reminder that school is closed on Monday for the Bank Holiday. Enjoy your long weekend everyone!

Scott Grason, Headteacher

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In the classrooms this week

- Mud has been on the menu in **Explorers** this week! The children have loved exploring their new outdoor digging and muddy area. The space has proved very popular! Inside the room, the children have continued enjoying 'Mr Gumpy's Outing' by creating their own story maps, houses and taking on roles of the different characters in the book.
- The **Pioneers** have been looking at the past this week and thinking about the idea of memories. The children enjoyed a beautiful text to help them explore this idea. I wanted to share a simply stunning piece of work by one of the Pioneers to sum up their thoughts on a memory: "*Memories are as precious as gold. Memories make you happy.*"
- Neil Armstrong's mission to the moon has sparked a huge level of interest in the **Learners** class this week. As part of their historical study about people from the past, the children learned about the Apollo launch and were amazed by the rocket's take off.
- Thursday afternoon certainly was a very fun time for the **Adventurers**. The children were tackling printing to create their own ice cream designs. Alongside this, the children have been coding and programming Bee Bots around their own track and route. This caused so much interest and excitement for everyone!
- This week, **Discoverers** have been working hard in geography, learning about the equator, hemispheres, tropics and poles. Ask the children what they know, and let them tell you where these parts of the world are. We have also planted sunflower seeds and are going to have a challenge to see who can grow theirs the tallest. Look out as they may need to be planted at home!
- The children in **Leaders** have loved their class book this week, Gargantis. When I asked one of the Year 5s, they told me it was "amazing!" Linked to their reading, the children have been applying their artistic skills to design and make their own malamander creature (from the same book series) using clay. The results were fantastic!

A message from our Chair of Governors, Gemma Kellerman

This week, we held our virtual full governing body meeting and it was filled with lots of positive news on how everyone has settled back into school. It is fantastic to hear about how hard the children are working and the positive atmosphere around the school. We continue to be impressed by the children, their attitude to work and effort and, of course, the amazing staff we have. Sleights really is a special place.

It is also wonderful to welcome all of our new families across school, including those who are joining us in Pre-School and those who have joined us from other schools. We welcome you all to Team Sleights and hope you have settled in well.

School Photographs

We will be having **individual photographs on Tuesday 18th May**. These have been rescheduled from the usual autumn day. To continue adhering to our Covid risk assessment, we will have to work slightly differently this year. We will only be able to take photographs of children in school. We will arrange for sibling photographs, safely factoring in our in school restrictions. We will not be able to include children not at Sleights. We are sorry about this.

Reading at Sleights – Pupil Voice

In our pupil voice discussions this week, we focused on children's favourite books and why they enjoyed them. From talking to the children, we found out:

- Children named a wide range of favourite books.
- The most popular reason for a favourite book was because it was funny.
- We have worked hard to promote reading for pleasure, so it was great to hear the children speak so positively about reading!
- We are looking forward to continuing adding to our book collection and supporting the children talk about their choices and favourites.

Supporting Reading at Home

We are keen to continue our work with families to support reading at home. This is such an important tool to help learning and enjoyment of books. With this in mind, we will be hosting a virtual workshop session for families to provide some help and support on reading at home. To help us plan this session, we would really appreciate your time in completing this very short survey, so that we make sure we are offering help in the right areas: <https://forms.office.com/r/ux7HLJCWRz>

Building Resources help for our Early Years Team

Families of children in Early Years will already know that they love digging and building. We are asking if families have any resources that they would be happy to save from the skip or landfill and donate to us instead. In particular, the children love using tubes, such as guttering, planks, cable drums and wooden blocks. If you think you have any materials which would be enjoyed by the Early Years children, please do get in touch!

'Fake Away' Lunch Menu

We are inviting all children, including those usually on packed lunch, to take part in a fake away meal on 20th May. For those children usually a school dinner, no action is required. If your child is usually a packed lunch and you wish for them to have this meal, please add this to your basket on ParentPay.

The meal includes:

Chicken korma, rice, cauliflower, green beans and naan bread, followed by arctic roll and peaches and is charged at £2.40

Menu for next week

Monday	School closed for the Bank Holiday
Tuesday	Tuna and sweetcorn pasta bake, mixed salad and garlic bread, followed by cheese and crackers with apple
Wednesday	Pork and apple plait, mashed potatoes, peas, cauliflower and wholemeal bread, followed by fruit yoghurt
Thursday	Beef lasagne, carrots, broccoli and fifty fifty bread, followed by fruity gingerbread and custard
Friday	Harry Ramsden's battered fish, chipped potatoes, green beans, sweetcorn and herbie bread, followed by date and oat squares

**Please note that Thursday's meal varies from the one originally shared last term*

Sleights is a nut free and peanut free school.