



# Weekly Newsletter

7th May 2021

## News from Sleights

Despite the shorter working week, we have been working extra hard to cram in five days of great learning into just four. I know that everyone is ready for a rest this weekend, but a big well done for such brilliant work!

On Thursday afternoon, I received an email celebrating the school's submission for 'Healthy School' Status. This focused on the various ways we are working to keep our children active, including our daily exercise. I am delighted to say that hard work of everyone has been celebrated. I particularly want to congratulate and thank Mrs Taylor, who worked tirelessly on the submission. A huge well done to everyone!



This week, the children have been exploring books and creating their own reviews. As families know, we love reading at Sleights! Working together is also a key part of our work and reading at home just a little and often can play a big part in achieving this. An aim in school is that children will read at least twenty five times each half term. This is made up of reading at home and in school. We know that reading a little regularly and often is crucial. Thank you for your continued support in working towards us achieving this goal for our children.

Have a lovely weekend!

Scott Grason, Headteacher

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## In the classrooms this week

- The **Explorers** classroom has been a hive of painting, printing and making this week, with lots of activities and play created based on 'The Hungry Caterpillar'. The children have been totally absorbed in the story and have enjoyed retelling and sequencing it, using story pictures and lots of talk, as well as learning about beautiful butterflies.
- The **Pioneers** have enjoyed looking at a range of beautiful books about the sea and creatures who live in it. The children have discussed their favourite books and created their own story maps to retell these. Elsewhere, the children have been tackling doubles. This has led to exploring some brilliant ideas. Go, Pioneers.
- Across school this week, the children have been writing book reviews. I enjoyed hearing the variety of opinions that the **Learners** had this week when talking about their favourite books. The children were focusing on recording their opinions and speech, whilst punctuating these correctly. It was so lovely to hear such great book chat!
- The **Adventurers** have been investigating electrical circuits this week and were delighted to design their own lighthouses. The children thought carefully about the components they needed to include in their circuits to light their bulbs. The children worked hard and had lots of fun!
- This week, I was really impressed to see the **Discoverers** enjoying their current guided reading text, *The Amazing Story of Adolphus Tips*. The children were clearly enthused and were enjoying the text. They worked hard to discuss key vocabulary, as well as explore their ideas and predictions. Well done to them.
- Inspired by their class text, the **Leaders** have decided to write reviews to the book's author. As we are always keen to write for a real purpose, the children's reviews will be sent directly to Thomas Taylor, author of *Malamander and Gargantis*. This week, the children have also been exploring Saxon invasions.

## East Barnby news for Leaders' families

After months and weeks of uncertainty, I am really sorry to inform families that East Barnby have taken the decision they will not be holding overnight stays until the autumn term. We know this will be upsetting for the children, particularly those Year 6s who missed the trip last year.

As an alternative, we are making plans for a week's worth of outdoor and adventurous activities without the residential element. We are looking to gather your views on this alternative. We are planning a week which will include a combination of outdoor activities (such as canoeing and climbing - although both will be confirmed), led by East Barnby staff and other tasks led by school staff. The East Barnby activities are at a significant cost, but school will be subsidising this. Please share your interest here: <https://forms.office.com/r/TMa0WpzwrV>

### School Photographs – updates

Just a reminder that we will be having **individual photographs on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> 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.

After discussions with the photographer this week, a proof of the photograph will still be sent home, but all orders will then need to be made by families online. We will send details home with the children.

### Phonics and Spelling – Pupil Voice

In our discussions with the children last week, we wanted to find out about the way they approach spelling and the strategies they use to help them. We were really pleased to hear a huge range of responses from across school. These included:

- Children identified a range of resources they could use to help them spell, including sound mats and regular reading.
- In Key Stage One and Early Years, children talked positively about their daily phonics lessons.
- Children across school talked about the use of classroom working walls for help with target words.
- In Key Stage Two, the children identified using dictionaries to help with spellings.

To continue supporting our children with spelling, the school has purchased a number of new dictionaries and thesauruses to upgrade our existing stock.

### Supporting Reading at Home

Thank you to those families who have already completed our questionnaire. 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>

### A message for Year 1 / Learners' Parents

Just to inform families that on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> May, the NHS vision checks will be carried out in school. These are checks which would usually take place when the children are in Reception, but were not carried out due to Covid.

### Choir at St. John's Church

Mrs Crusher, who plays the piano for the school choir when it is up and running, has contacted us to share details of a group she is running at the Church. The choir will meet once a fortnight on a Wednesday evening (between 3.30pm or 4.00pm for half an hour) This will take place at Mrs Crusher's house to then sing in the Sunday service. I can share Mrs Crusher's address and contact details with any families that are interested, please just let me know.

### 'Fake Away' Lunch Menu

We are inviting all children, including those usually on packed lunch, to take part in a fake away meal on 20<sup>th</sup> 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

<b>Monday</b>	Minced Beef enchiladas, broccoli, sweetcorn and herbie bread, followed by fruit yoghurt
<b>Tuesday</b>	Macaroni cheese, peas, carrots and herbie bread, followed by chocolate crunch and orange
<b>Wednesday</b>	Roast chicken, sage and onion stuffing, gravy, mashed potatoes, cabbage, cauliflower, wholemeal bread followed by fruit yoghurt
<b>Thursday</b>	Pork meatballs in tomato sauce, rice, green beans, sweetcorn, garlic bread, raspberry bun and cheese
<b>Friday</b>	Crunchy fish nibbles, potato wedges, broccoli, carrots, homemade fifty fifty bread, followed by chocolate pudding and chocolate sauce

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