



# Weekly Newsletter

21<sup>st</sup> May 2021

## News from Sleights

This week has been a real mix of rain and sunshine for everyone. Despite this, it has been really wonderful to see yet another excellent week of learning at Sleights. A very big well done to our brilliant children and staff!

On Wednesday morning, we had a visit from Rosie at the National Literacy Trust. You may remember that we have worked with the Trust as part of a story time project, where Mrs Hann shared a book on YouTube. The links to all of these books and videos are still on Tapestry and we hope you enjoy sharing them at home. Mrs Hann (our English Curriculum Leader) and I spent time with Rosie, seeing how reading and writing were at the core of everything we do at Sleights. Rosie said:

*"I was really blown away by the amount of work that has gone into it all. It felt like such a privilege to find out how you have put it together."*

We continue to hear more and more families and staff have received their vaccines, which is great! However, I am sure, like me, you have also seen the headlines about the new Covid variant. This is a useful reminder to us all that we cannot ignore the risks that still exist. The gradual return to life as we once knew is excellent for everyone, but I would urge everyone to stay alert and continue to follow the guidelines.

Thank you for your continue support. Have a super weekend!

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## In the classrooms this week

- A new week marks a new book for our **Explorers**. This week, the children have been introduced to Jill Murphy's "On the Way Home". The children have been busy retelling the story and creating their own story maps to help them on the way. Keen to provide the children with familiar opportunities for role play, this week the children were also introduced to menus and shop leaflets. The Explorers have been busy using these to order a take away and make shopping lists.
- The **Pioneers** are absolutely flying and producing some stunning writing. This week, they have enjoyed using the book "Flotsam" to inspire them, with some great language and discussion about items from the sea. The children were also incredibly motivated (entirely independently) to become their own story writers and took over their own learning on Tuesday by setting up and writing their own brilliant stories. Such confidence is incredible to see!
- The **Learners** have enjoyed using the bit of sunshine we had earlier in the week to help them use and learn directional language in their maths work. In RE, the children have been exploring the story of Creation and, this week, reflected on the day of rest. The children thought and discussed how they felt when they were busy and again when they had rested. Another week of great work for our Learners.
- The **Adventurers** began their week exploring and experimenting with different printing techniques on foil this week. The children worked hard to create their own designs, before carefully creating this into a piece of artwork. The children have also continued exploring the life of Tim Peake in history, making comparisons and discussing Neil Armstrong's space journey.
- The **Discoverers** have been busy spreading some garden cheer this week. After working hard to nurture their own sunflower seeds, shoots have spread across the school site to share some of the sun - let's hope we see some soon! When the sun was shining on Tuesday, the Discoverers took to the playground to perform their dance routine, which, over the last few weeks, they have practised with Hannah Verity. It was very impressive to see!
- The **Leaders** have been busy mixing the old and new this week. As part of their ongoing history study of Anglo-Saxons and Vikings, the children have been exploring invasions and compiling their own reports of events. In their computing sessions with Mrs Gurney, the children have then used their reports and a green screen to transport themselves back in time. We are all looking forward to seeing the results!

## Children with dietary requirements and allergies

We have a range of robust measures in place to support children and families with particular dietary requirements and allergies. Due to a change in how information is managed by North Yorkshire, we will be arranging meetings with all families where a food allergy or dietary requirement is in place. **One new requirement is that where an allergy or dietary request is made, medical evidence must be provided.** A comprehensive form will be completed and regularly reviewed with school staff, including Mrs Eglon. On instruction from North Yorkshire, **all** meetings must take place before September, so we will be working through our lists in school to book these in as soon as possible.

## East Bamby for Leaders

It has been great to see so many families from Leaders sign up to our East Bamby alternative activities this week. This will be a shared week of activities with children from Goathland School. This week, we shared details of the trip, including consent information via ParentPay. Therefore, we are asking that families log onto ParentPay to give their consent and make the subsidised payment of £50 to help cover the costs of these activities. A full programme of events and consent form from the team at East Bamby will also be sent home. If you need any help, or have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

## School Photographs

We were really happy to be able to host school photographs for individual children and siblings this week. The photographer is also working on a class picture, made up of individual headshots. We will email a proof of this home to families, along with details for ordering.

Just a reminder that the ordering system this year is all online based and school are unable to accept any cash orders.

## Next year's classes

Here is a reminder of our class and staffing structure for next year, just in case you missed it on our last newsletter.

Class	Staffing
Explorers/Pre-School	Led by Miss Idle with Mrs Bland
Pioneers/Reception	Mrs Hann (4 days), Mr Grason (1 day) with Mrs McGill
Learners/Year 1 and Year 2	Mrs Brown with Mrs Creek
Adventurers/Year 3	Mrs Roe with Mrs Wood
Discoverers/Year 4 and 5	Mrs Taylor with Mrs Exelby
Leaders/Year 6	Mrs Walker with Mr Everall

You will notice that in almost all cases, the children will keep the same teacher they have had this year. After a period of unsettled schooling, due to the pandemic, we want the children to begin September in the very best position and feel confident that returning to a class and teacher they know well will help this. It will also mean that any targets or strengths that the children may have will already be well understood and can be supported immediately.

## What do our children use to help them in maths lessons at Sleights? – Pupil Voice

Using resources and other methods to support understanding of concepts in maths is really important to us. In our most recent pupil voice discussions, we found out from the children that:

- Across school, children use a wide range of resources to help them during maths lessons.
- Children were confident in referring to materials from the working walls in the classroom to support learning and offer visual prompts.
- Practical, hands on resources were accessed across school from Pioneers up to Leaders.
- Children recognised the importance of asking teaching staff for support, but did also interacting with their peers.
- Drawing images and using paper to work things was celebrated as a useful tool for children in several classes.
- Some children also noted that key vocabulary on displays and mathematical symbols helped them understand questions better.

## A message for Year 1 / Learners' Parents – next Wednesday

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.

### Pre-School Invoices - reminder

As families know, last week we sent home paperless invoices for charges for May's Pre-School sessions. Payments are still to be made on ParentPay, please. If you require a paper copy, please just ask. Thank you to families who have already settled this month's bill. Just a reminder, with just two months left of the school year, we will be invoicing for June and July (up until the end of the school year) in the middle of June, as all bills will need to be settled before the end of the year.

### Menu for next week

<b>Monday</b>	Cheese and tomato pizza, diced potatoes, peas and sweetcorn, followed by ice cream and peaches
<b>Tuesday</b>	Tuna and sweetcorn pasta bake, mixed salad and garlic bread, followed by cheese and crackers with apple
<b>Wednesday</b>	Pork and apple plait, mashed potatoes, peas, cauliflower and wholemeal bread, followed by fruit yoghurt
<b>Thursday</b>	Beef lasagne, carrots, broccoti and fifty fifty bread, followed by fruity gingerbread and custard
<b>Friday</b>	Harry Ramsden's battered fish, chipped potatoes, green beans, sweetcorn and herbie bread, followed by date and oat squares

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