



Weekly Newsletter

9th July 2021

News from Sleights

The final few weeks of the term are racing ahead! It is crazy to think we are just two weeks away from the summer break.

Earlier in the week, we learned that in September, current restrictions in place relating to Covid-19 will be largely removed. We do welcome a return to times more familiar to those we experienced before the pandemic. However, as a school, we are approaching this new phase carefully. The job of all school leaders right now is to balance the return of a full school coming back together, with the necessary safety steps in place.

As families will be aware, after the government's announcement, we launched our own questionnaire to gather your views in relation to measures in school and how we can utilise or remove these in September. I have been really grateful to see and hear your views in relation to this and will share the key messages before we start the summer holidays. In the meantime, if you have not shared your opinions on this, I would be really grateful if you could spend a few moments to do so, using the link sent home this week. Thank you for your continued support.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend and, if you are watching, enjoy the football on Sunday – I think we may have a few tired faces on Monday! Best of luck Team England!

Scott Grason, Headteacher

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IMPORTANT NOTICE for Year 6 families attending CAEDMON COLLEGE WHITBY

This morning we have learnt that the transfer days for the children to attend Caedmon College Whitby have now been cancelled. We include the following information from the school:

"It is with regret that we need to cancel our Year 6 Parents' Evening on 14 July, and also the transition days on 20th and 21st July. We are taking this step based on Local Authority guidance due to rising Covid cases. Further information will follow ASAP about alternative arrangements."

At the time of writing, a decision about transfer to Eskdale was pending, but we will update you when we know.

Absence from school

Thank you to all families for their support in supporting attendance at school. With a short time left at school, I wanted to take this opportunity to urge all families to remain highly vigilant to illness, including any symptoms of Covid-19.

We all know that infection rates of Covid-19 are rising and this is worrying. We all need to remain on our guard, whilst balancing everyday life. Where your child/ren is feeling unwell, **please do not** send them into school. This includes sickness bugs, high temperature, **any** coughing or feeling generally under the weather. It is a balancing act, as we know that hay fever is troubling a number of our children at the moment, but where a child is not well for any other reason, please keep them at home.

If a child is coughing **at all**, we ask that they have a PCR (test centre test) and do not return until the results have been given.

If a child has suffered stomach upset through sickness and diarrhoea, we ask that families keep the children at home for **at least** 48 hours from the last bout of sickness. Due to a significant lack of socialisation due to Covid-19 restrictions, the children's immunity is not as strong whilst usual bugs travel around.

In all cases, we ask that families keep us updated and inform us of any illness by 9.30am each morning. This can be done via email - admin@sleights.n-yorks.sch.uk (office) or headteacher@sleights.n-yorks.sch.uk (me). Alternatively, an answer machine message is fine too.

We are working really hard to ensure that the children's final weeks of what has been another very challenging year is a positive one. We welcome your continued support with managing illness to allow this happen.

Discoverers' Dancing Success



As we know, our Discoverers are quite the dancers! Over the last year, they have reached first place in a number of virtual local dance festivals. However, this week, they went one step further and became County Dance Champions on Monday, before being entered into the national competition on Wednesday. We were amazed and delighted to receive confirmation on Wednesday that the children came 2nd. This is truly incredible and something we are very proud of the Discoverers for achieving.

To reach second position out of all schools nationally **AND** be the county champions all in one week is remarkable so a **HUGE WELL DONE** to Team Discoverers!

Transfer Week Next Week for NEW PIONEERS and NEW LEARNERS

- We look forward to welcoming our new Pioneers (Reception Class) already attending our Pre-School on Tuesday and Wednesday next week for full days. If your child does not usually attend Pre-School on these days, we are looking forward to you joining us in Reception at 8.50am, with pick up at 3.05pm, please.
- The current Pioneers will go to their classroom as normal on Monday morning, but during the day will move to Learners with Mrs Hann to tour their new classroom and meet new friends. The children will spend the full day in the class, before leaving Pioneers at the end of the day, as normal. For the rest of the week, the current Pioneers will spend full days with Mrs Brown and the Learners, including leaving and arriving through their new classroom doors.
- If the new Pioneers would like to buy a snack at breaktime, the options are available to buy on ParentPay before 9am on Monday, please. Alternatively, they can bring their own from home.

An ice cream treat!

You may remember that, earlier in the term, the Adventurers and Learners designed their own ice cream flavours, as part of their writing work. We are very excited that, on the 19th July, Beacon Farm will be visiting Sleights to allow the children an opportunity to taste the winning flavour! After a challenging year, we would also like to treat every child in school to an ice cream. However, we will only be able to do this with your consent.

Please, therefore, log onto ParentPay before **Monday 19th July** to provide this. There is no cost to families for the ice cream. The event will show as a trip on ParentPay, but we will be remaining at school and bring the ice cream to us. Any questions, please do get in touch.



Class Photographs

Thank you for your patience, as we have waited for the class photographs to be sorted by Tempest Photography. We will be sending a text with a link to view the photographs online. Using this link, you can purchase the photographs online. There will be a free "deliver to school" option until the end of term, otherwise a home delivery will be available for £5 postage and packaging. If you have any problems with the order, please get in touch with Tempest 01736 751555 (option 3).

Thank you to the village knitters!

You may have noticed some beautiful knitted jumpers on the school fence this week. We are really grateful to the village's knitting group for their hard work. The jumpers are a lovely piece of decoration to help celebrate the final few weeks at Sleights for our Year 6s. We look forward to using them as part of our decoration when seeing them leave for the final time on the 23rd.



The Summer Reading Challenge is back! **Get started this weekend!**

We are excited that Whitby Library is back up and running! This week, we received information about this year's summer reading challenge, which sounds fantastic!

Children can once again sign up for the Summer Reading Challenge at their local library during the holidays. This year, the theme is Wild World Heroes and is all about nature and looking after the planet.

The challenge is to read 6 library books of the children's choice and collect special stickers and other prizes along the way – everyone who finishes will receive a limited edition Wild World Heroes medal and a certificate. Any child aged 4 to 11 can join in and the challenge runs from Sat 10th July until Sat 11th Sept.

In the classrooms this week

- The **Explorers** have created some simply stunning art pieces this week! With lots of work and activities planned around Julia Donaldson's 'The Gruffalo', the children have enjoyed painting their own illustrations of the characters, with some excellent results. They certainly have some artistic talent to be proud of.
- The art continued in the **Pioneers'** classroom this week, as the children have been carrying out still life painting, inspired by Van Gogh's sunflower painting. The children also studied the 'Starry Night' art piece, which prompted some excellent experiments with different brush strokes. The work produced by everyone was certainly gallery worthy.
- In preparation for the arrival of their new friends in class next week, the **Learners** have been busy! The children have created letters and videos for the current Pioneers to explain what their new class is like and describe some of the things they will enjoy. I know these were very well received by the Pioneers!
- The **Adventurers** have been very musical this week! I've heard lots of music and fun from my office this week. The chants and percussion pieces they created earlier in the week to cheer the England team on certainly did the trick! Let's hope that they help the team along on Sunday too.
- This week, **Discoverers** have been combining the design and technology skills with science. The children have planned and made their own board games, using electrical circuits, which I know they all loved. The children worked with focus and determination to make some super games for their friends to enjoy.
- I really enjoyed my afternoon with the **Leaders** on Monday. Everyone worked hard to tackle birthdays in French, asking questions and collating data about birthday months for the children in the class. I know the children have also enjoyed designing their own games, as well as tackling some football themed maths on Wednesday.

Parking



We have had another successful week of almost no parking issues. This is brilliant. On behalf of the children, families and neighbours of the school that are being kept safe by these actions – thank you! Let's keep it up.

The information below is left on as a reminder and has not changed from previous newsletters

School Reading Books - reminder

We will be collecting all reading books in and not handing out new texts in the last week of term. Over the summer, we will be working hard to refresh and update some of our reading colour bands, so that the children can enjoy reading new books. If you have any school books at home, please do return these to help us with our update and refresh. We hope that children can continue reading over the summer by taking part in the summer reading challenge.

Pre-School Fees – reminder

The final session fees for the Pre-School have been issued this week, via email. Please can all invoices be settled by Monday 12th July. Thank you in advance.

Big Ideas by the Seaside Postcard Project

Over the coming weeks, the children will be writing postcards to be displayed in the Grand Hotel in Scarborough to celebrate the seaside. The project is part of a National Literacy Trust initiative, where prizes and books for school will be awarded. The exhibition will be on display in the hotel and online. For more information: <https://literacytrust.org.uk/communities/north-yorkshire-coast/connecting-stories/send-postcards-to-the-grand-hotel-in-scarborough/>
If you **DO NOT** want your child's work to be sent, please get in touch.

Milk in School - Reminder

Children currently in Reception receive free milk each day. From September, these children will be able to continue having milk, for a small charge. To apply for milk, families need to book this online through the 'Cool Milk' website. For children currently in Pre-School and moving to Reception class in September, milk will be provided for each child at no cost, so no action is required.

Summer Term Events

- **Current Reception children transition** – The current Pioneers will join their new friends in Learners for the full week of **Monday 12th July -16th July**. This will be supported by Mrs Brown and Mrs Hann.
- **New Starters** – Children joining Sleights in Reception in September will enjoy transfer days with Mrs Hann and Mrs McGill on **Tuesday 13th and Wednesday 14th July**.
- **School Reports** – Staff are currently collating information to share with you and your child about their successes this year. Reports will be shared with families on **Monday 19th July**.
- **Leavers' Assembly** – This momentous occasion will absolutely be celebrated! However, we will be holding this virtually. Leavers' assembly will take place on **Friday 23rd July at 9.30am**. A meeting link will be shared in advance for Year 6 families. We will applaud our Year 6s out of the school site for the last time in the afternoon – details to follow.
- **End of term** – The school will close for the summer term at **2pm on Friday 23rd July**.

Archery! THIS WEEKEND!

In our 2019 summer fair, we were lucky to be joined by the Whitby Company of Archers. The archery activities were very popular! We hope that the free events below are enjoyed by many of the families at Sleights.



Come and Try Archery
All Equipment provided
Sunday 11 July
Eskdale School
Whitby YO22 4HS
10 am to 4pm
Free fun for all the family
www.whitbyarchers.co.uk/Events.html
No experience needed



Free Target Archery Coaching

If you are 8 or over*, you will be coached in small groups by our Archery GB coaches. Each session will run on the hour for around 40 minutes. **Book through our website to guarantee your place.**

Defeat the Sheriff of Nottingham

For younger archers (4 years +)* and those who are young in heart and mind, try attacking Nottingham Castle and taking on the sheriff and his defenders. **No need to book, just turn up.**



* Under 18s should be accompanied by a parent/carer OR get written permission from them to attend



Whitby Company of Archers

Supported by



School Meals – Advance notice of price increase from SEPTEMBER

For the last few years, the school has subsidised each meal for children and families at school. The Local Authority have now increased the cost for each meal to be made at school, which, in turn, has forced our governors to review how much we charge families for school meals. Despite a significant jump in the cost of each meal to the school, the governors have agreed to continue subsidising meals every day for families. This means that, from September, the cost of each meal will increase to **£2.50** per day (£12.50 per week) A slight increase will also be made to Pre-School meal costs. This continues to provide great value!

From September, the current Year 2 children will no longer be eligible for free school meals (unless in receipt of benefit), so will be required to pay for school meals each week from September, using ParentPay.

Seaside Special Lunch – 15th July – next week

Mrs Eglon will be providing a special seaside themed menu on Thursday 15th July. The meal will be made up of: *Harry Ramsden's crispy battered fish, chips, peas and tomato ketchup, followed by doughnut muffins*

For children who usually have a packed lunch and would like to join in for the seaside special, the option has now been added to ParentPay (£2.40)

Leavers' Lunch – as chosen by our Year 6 children – 22nd July

After careful consideration, the Year 6s have decided the whole school menu for the 22nd July. It was a difficult choice! The whole school will enjoy: *Minced beef enchiladas, mixed salad and garlic bread, followed by artic roll and peaches (Leaders) / ice cream and peaches (rest of the school)*

For children who usually have a packed lunch and would like to join in for the Leavers' Lunch, the option has now been added to ParentPay (£2.40)

End of year picnic – final day of term

As per tradition at Sleights, our final day will be celebrated with a picnic lunch. Unlike previous years, we are asking that teddy bears stay at home, to reduce the amount of items being brought into school, in line with our Covid risk assessment. The menu includes:

Pork sausage in a homemade roll, chips, vegetable bites and tomato ketchup, followed by iced sponge

For children who usually have a packed lunch and would like to join in for the picnic lunch, the option has now been added to ParentPay, (£2.40)

Next week's menu

Monday	Cheese and tomato pizza, diced potatoes, peas and sweetcorn, followed by ice cream and peaches
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	Special Seaside Lunch: <i>Harry Ramsden's crispy battered fish, chips, peas and tomato ketchup, followed by doughnut muffins</i>
Friday	Beef lasagne, carrots, broccoli and fifty fifty bread, followed by fruity gingerbread and custard

Sleights is a nut free and peanut free school.