



Weekly Newsletter

10th December 2021

News from Sleights

The **Explorers** have been thinking about their families and homes this week. The children have enjoyed using boxes and paint to recreate their houses. The Explorers looked carefully at photographs, sent from home, to map out windows and doors. Elsewhere, there has been so much big building going on, with huge tubes, bricks and planks. The children have loved it!

The **Pioneers** worked hard earlier in the week to create their own advent wreaths. The children have also been mesmerised by the Nutcracker ballet - asking lots of questions about the story and sharing their own ideas. These included - "She's got good moves", "It's amazing that she's walking on her toes" and "The music made it sparkly." The quality of the discussions and feedback was excellent!

The **Learners** have been busy creating their own story maps, using the "Christmas Carrot" advert as inspiration. The children have been also been busy tackling arrays for multiplication in maths. This was something they really enjoyed! The Learners dance session with Hannah Verity on Tuesday was also something enjoyed by everyone - the routine of "Santa Claus is coming to town" is really taking shape!

Adventurers have been enjoying exploring rocks in their science topic. The children learnt about the three different types of rocks; igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic and explored and sorted a range of rocks into these categories. Adventurers have also been learning the French words for things relating to Christmas and are continuing to enjoy our history topic and learning about the Bronze Age.

This week, the **Discoverers** have enjoyed creating monsters as part of their new narrative writing unit and, once again, have shown such enthusiasm and skill. The children also named their adopted panda, settling on 'Bobby' - more on this later in the newsletter. Keep a close eye on the Whitby Gazette for an article celebrating the adoption!

In **Leaders** this week, there has been lots of excitement with our first opening of the ukuleles. The children realised how hard it was to keep their fingers in the right places on the frets and how everyone ended up with little lines imprinted on finger ends. We look forward to more practise. Leaders have also nearly reached the end of their learning in Tudors, investigating the Spanish Armada. I'm sure they'd love to tell you how much they have learned.

Have a great weekend with your families.

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

Staffing update

Earlier in the week, we learned that Mrs Walker has secured a Deputy Headteacher position and will be leaving Team Sleights. Whilst we are sad to see her go, we are really pleased for Mrs Walker and wish her our very best and biggest congratulations. In her time with us, Mrs Walker has been a leading teacher and driver in improving our school. Mrs Walker's promotion recognises the leadership development that Sleights' staff enjoy during their time with us. I know that the families who have worked directly with her will recognise her absolute dedication and commitment. She will be missed.

Behind the scenes, Governors and I have already begun the recruitment process for Mrs Walker's replacement. We anticipate that a new teacher will take over Leaders after the Easter break. We appreciate that a new teacher joining mid-year may cause some worry, but we will be working tirelessly to ensure a smooth handover for the children. I will keep you posted with recruitment updates, when I have more information. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please do get in touch.

Our Reading Advent Calendar

Thank you to so many families for taking part in our reading advent calendar on Tapestry this week. The views of each chapter of "How Winston Delivered Christmas" have been great. It is so exciting finding out who is reading each day! As an alternative advent calendar, each night at 6.00pm, a new chapter from the book will be read by a member of Team Sleights all the way through to Christmas Eve. We hope you enjoy sharing these together as a family to follow along at home.

Christmas Calendar at Sleights

We have a busy final week planned for the children to celebrate Christmas! Whilst we continue to have restrictions in place, we hope that we can enjoy this special time together in school, with lots of fun and festivity!

Monday 13th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christmas Party Day, including party lunch. This will include lots of dancing and games. The children can come to school in non-uniform.
Wednesday 15th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christmas Lunch day
Friday 17th	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final day of the term – finish at 3.15pm (normal time)
Activities taking place throughout the week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stories and hot chocolate around the Christmas tree • Christmas crafts • A virtual theatre performance in classrooms
Our own virtual Christmas concert	<p>We are excited to share our own Christmas concert on Tapestry, which will be posted on Friday 17th December. This will contain the retelling of the Nativity story, alongside festive contributions from the classes. We are really looking forward to sharing this with you!</p>

The launch of "The Planeteers" Eco Club



Our new eco committee met again this week to decide on two very important things – the group's name and logo design. After long deliberation, Ava's logo design was chosen (shown on the left) along with the name **The Planeteers**. Well done to her!

Ava tells the newsletter:

"I am very happy that my design was chosen. I thought of this logo and like the design. I chose the earth, a tree for forestation, the rainbow to show brightness and happiness in the world. The butterflies and bees are there because they are very useful."

The new logo will now be recreated for high visibility jackets, which the children will wear for carrying out eco jobs around school.



THANK YOU
Discoverers

Meet the latest member of Team Discoverers!

Last week, the Discoverers welcomed a new friend to their class in the shape of a cuddly panda toy called Bobby. After reading their class text 'The Firework Maker's Daughter' last term, the children studied China and were concerned about the low numbers of pandas. This prompted the children to make a change!

So, Discoverers organised to raise funds and sponsor a panda of their own. Whilst their movie and pizza night had to be postponed, the children were delighted to use their money to adopt Bobby and look forward to receiving updates from him in the coming months.

Clubs after Christmas

After the Christmas holidays, the following clubs will be available for each class:

- **Tuesday after school:** Dance with Hannah Verity for Learners and Adventurers (Years 1, 2 and 3) No charge, but permission on ParentPay, please.
- **Wednesday after school:** Sports with Mr Gokool for Discoverers and Leaders (Years 4, 5 and 6) Payment to Mr Gokool via this link: <https://4-4-2-soccer.class4kids.co.uk/>

Spring Term Menu

	Week 1 WC 3 rd , 24 th January, 14 th February, 14 th March, 4 th April	Week 2 10 th and 31 st January, 28 th February and 21 st March	Week 3 17 th January, 7 th February, 7 th and 28 th March
Monday	Cheese and Tomato Pizza, diced potatoes, peas and sweetcorn, followed by chocolate crunch	Pasta bolognese, green beans, sweetcorn and bread, followed by oat and sultana cookie	Chicken Korma, rice, cauliflower, green beans and bread, followed by chocolate cornflake pudding
Tuesday	Chicken and tomato pasta bake, carrots, green beans and garlic bread, followed by cheese and crackers	Chicken and vegetable pie, roast potatoes, peas, cauliflower and bread, followed by cheese and crackers	Creamy macaroni and cheese, broccoli, sweetcorn and garlic bread, followed by fruit platter
Wednesday	Savoury minced beef and Yorkshire pudding, roast potatoes, cauliflower, sweetcorn and sliced wholemeal bread, followed by fruit jelly and ice cream	Roast pork and apple sauce, gravy, creamy mashed potato, broccoli, carrots and pumpkin seed bread, followed by creamy rice pudding and peaches	Roast chicken, sage and onion stuffing, gravy, roast potatoes, spring cabbage, carrots and bread, followed by fruit yoghurt
Thursday	Sausage, mash and onion gravy, carrots, broccoli and 50/50 bread, followed by apple crumble and custard	Quorn dippers, potato wedges, tomato ketchup, peas, sweetcorn and herby bread, followed by chocolate orange sponge and chocolate sauce	Nacho beef bake, sweetcorn, green beans and bread, followed by banana sponge and custard
Friday	Fish fingers, baked beans, peas, chipped potatoes and tomato bread, followed by fruity jam sponge	Crunchy breaded fish, chipped potatoes, green beans, carrots and 50/50 bread, followed by fruity flapjack	Harry Ramsden's battered fish, chipped potatoes, peas, sweetcorn, tomato ketchup and wholemeal bread, followed by carrot cake

Swimming in January - reminder



After Christmas, swimming will begin again for Mrs Taylor and Mrs Hann's class (**Discoverers** and **Pioneers**) Swimming will take place on **TUESDAY MORNINGS**. Each session will cost £3.00 which includes hiring the pool and the cost of the bus. This amount is also subsidised by the school. If your child is in Discoverers or Pioneers, we ask that you log on to ParentPay to provide consent and make payment for swimming sessions, please. We would be grateful if families could provide this consent before the Christmas break. Thank you. Payments can be made in one go, or weekly.

St John's Crib Service

We have been asked to share details of the St. John's Crib Service on Christmas Eve, which will take place at 3pm.

Sleights is a nut free and peanut free school.

Next week's menu

Monday	Christmas Party Day: Sandwiches, pizza, sausages, carrot and cucumber bites, followed by iced sponge cake
Tuesday	Pasta bolognese, mixed greens and carrots, followed by cheese and crackers
Wednesday	Christmas Dinner Day: Roast Turkey, stuffing, sausage, mashed potatoes, carrots, peas and gravy, followed by an iced chocolate orange cookie
Thursday	Cheese and tomato pizza, diced potatoes and mixed salad, followed by apple and berry crumble and custard
Friday	Fish fingers, carrots, peas and chipped potatoes, followed by fruit shortcake

Illness and absence from school

I am really grateful for families working with us to try and reduce the spread of any winter bugs or illness in school. However, I just wanted to remind everyone of a few points relating to absence and illness:

- If your child has vomited or had diarrhoea, they should not attend for a **full 48 hours** since their last bout of illness. This is an NHS requirement and something enforced for all at Sleights, including staff.
- We understand the difficulties in finding suitable appointments (dentist, opticians, doctor) but would ask, where reasonably possible, that these are made in advance for outside of school time. We understand that emergency appointments don't work like this, so in these cases, please let us know if a child is missing from school due to medical appointments.
- If your child is absent from school, please let us know as soon as possible (before 9.30am each day) This can be done through a variety of ways – email to me or the school office (both addresses are on the newsletter) Text the school mobile number or give us a ring. We are not always able to get to the phone on a morning, but we do pick up voice messages.

Mrs Stubbs will make contact with families where we have not heard a reason for absence after 9.30am, so please help us by sharing this information as soon as you can. Thank you.

Applying for Reception Class (September 2022)

It has been great to hear about the applications being made for Reception (September 2022) The deadline for applying is 15th January 2022. If you would like to arrange a discussion with me or Mrs Hann, or Pioneers (Reception Class) teacher, or have a full school tour, please let me know.

All applications are made directly to North Yorkshire County Council, who provide school with a list of applicants in April. Families will receive their school offer on **19th April 2022**. To make your application, please log on at: <https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/apply-place-primary-or-secondary-school> where you will be asked to set up an account. We hope to see your applications soon. If you would like any help with this, please do let us know.