



Weekly Newsletter

14th January 2022

News from Sleights

Our first full week of the new year has been extra busy, with visits to the forest, a first swimming session and so much great learning taking place across school. Go, Team Sleights!

It has been lovely to see our **Explorers** enjoy so many great activities this week! The children were introduced to Beebot robots and were able to navigate them around their room, as part of their work on position and direction. The children have also enjoyed lots of counting and reading talk. I have seen so many smiles and great learning!

The **Pioneers** were so excited for their first swimming session this week! The children were amazing at the pool, taking the responsibility of the bus journey and changing so sensibly. Some of the Pioneers were unable to join the first session, as they were unwell, but I know their session next Tuesday will be just as fun! In the classroom, the children have worked incredibly hard to create story maps and have enjoyed lots of cobbler play too!

In **Learners**, the children have been studying an animation called 'The Shirt Machine' to inspire their writing. The children delighted in then creating a unique shirt of their own, each with a special function – there was an edible shirt, a shirt that plays musical instruments and even a shirt that would hypnotise your parents to think it was Christmas Day every day!

The **Adventurers** enjoyed Wednesday afternoon in the forest, where they studied the soil, as part of their science work. In their classroom, the children have enjoyed hoovering! As part of their work on explanation texts, the Adventurers took apart a Hoover to see how it worked, before testing it out on the carpet. The children were all very keen to have a go!

Scientists have emerged from **Discoverers** this week, after more learning about the water cycle. They have created water cycles to add to their windows, watching as the cycle unfolds, and have observed rain within a jar, looking closer at precipitation. They are also very excited to be learning about the Ancient Egyptians, and have started exploring the wonderful ways in which they preserved bodies!

Our **Leaders** have been a class full of scientists and animators this - Aardman Animations watch out! Leaders have been busy creating animations using Lego. After lots of trial and error experimenting, they created animations which tell a story built up from multiple frames. In science, the Leaders have been investigating materials and solubility by dissolving sugar in cold, warm and hot water. I know that they are looking forward to investigating whether we can get the sugar back once dissolved.

Have a great weekend with your families,

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

This half term's Christian Value



This half term, the children will be exploring **perseverance** in Collective Worship. This school value is really important to us, as we want our children to have the confidence to have a go and never give up. As part of this, the children have been exploring what it means to persevere and thinking about things that are happening right now that we need to persevere with. The children have shared examples such as learning to swim, ride a bike, tie our shoelaces and master particular skills in maths. In Discoverers, the children decided to write our own quote to help refer back to when we need help. It says:

'There are times when we might find things tricky, but after working hard and keeping going, the end result will feel even more accomplished and worthwhile.'

Staying Safe – We need your help

Learning how to act safely when using the internet is an incredibly important part of safeguarding our children. To help us at Sleights, we are excited to launch a free online safety package to families at Sleights. Families can create a free online account to learn at home and receive tips and guides for staying safe online.



To set yourselves up:

- Follow this link: <https://nationalonlinesafety.com/enrol/sleights-ce-primary-school>
- Click the option of Parent (My child attends this school) and create your account.
- On the left hand side of the screen, you will see a big menu of guides and courses, which can be completed at home. We are encouraging families to spend time completing the "Annual Certificate in Online Safety" to help increase understanding and safety at home.

We are working hard to promote online safety across school, including ongoing staff training for staff and online safety lessons in the classroom. We hope that this work, alongside families signing up, will help us achieve a National Online Safety award.

At the end of the newsletter this week, we are sharing a guide on staying safe on Roblox – a very popular online game for many of our children.

Parking

Again, I am sharing my worries and frustration about the parking situation outside school. We have had, again, a number of inconsiderate drivers who have parked on the double yellow lines, or on the zig zags. Can I remind, again, that this is irresponsible and dangerous. Ongoing enforcement will take place to keep our children and families safe.

Flu Clinic Catch Up

If your child missed the flu nasal spray in school, a drop in session is being held at the Stakesby Arms on Monday 17th January between 3.30pm and 5.00pm. No appointment is needed, so families can just turn up.

Food allergies

We take food allergies in school incredibly seriously. Mrs Eglon works tirelessly to make sure any allergies in school are catered for safely and we regularly review plans if allergies or needs change.

Whilst we do all we can in school and in the kitchen to reduce the risk of allergies, we can never say we are fully allergen free. However, one way we can all do our bit to keep children safe is to make sure food that comes into school, such as snack or packed lunches is considerate of allergies.

Just a reminder, children should **NOT** bring any food items in which contain **nuts** or **peanuts**. A number of our children our school have severe allergies to nuts or peanuts and we must all do everything we can to keep them safe.

Height and Weight Checks – Families in Year 6 and Reception

A separate letter has been sent home, but on Wednesday next week, children in Reception and Year 6 will have their height and weight checked, as part of the National Child Measurement Programme, completed by NHS staff. This will be carried out in a sensitive, private way, away from other children. Results are not shared with the school and are only communicated to families later, in a letter. Children will not be made to take part on the day if they do not want to.

If you are happy for your child to be measured, you do not need to do anything.

If you do not want your child's height and weight to be checked, or your child has a medical condition that affects their height or weight, please let us know using the contact details provided below:

Contact: 0300 3030916 Email: hdft.nyorksdton@nhs.net

Year 6 SATs meeting

This week, Mrs Walker has been busy contacting Year 6 families to invite them to a SATs information meeting. The government have stated that these assessments will still take place in May. To support children with these and share our school approach with families, a virtual meeting will take place on either Monday 24th or Wednesday 26th January. A meeting link will be shared with families for accessing this. We hope to see lots of families join us.

Heinz special lunch

To celebrate 153 years of everyone's favourite sauce, the children will enjoy a 'Heinz' menu on 20th January. This will be made up of:

Pork sausage in homemade roll, wedges, beans and broccoli, followed by jam sponge and custard

If your child usually has a packed lunch, but wants to join us for this special meal, please book this on ParentPay using the school meals option and adding Heinz into the notes box, please. The meal will cost £2.50.

Next week's menu

Week 3	
Monday	Chicken Korma, rice, cauliflower, green beans and bread, followed by chocolate cornflake pudding
Tuesday	Creamy macaroni and cheese, broccoli, sweetcorn and garlic bread, followed by fruit platter
Wednesday	Roast chicken, sage and onion stuffing, gravy, roast potatoes, spring cabbage, carrots and bread, followed by fruit yoghurt
Thursday	Heinz lunch: <i>Pork sausage in homemade roll, wedges, beans and broccoli, followed by jam sponge and custard</i>
Friday	Harry Ramsden's battered fish, chipped potatoes, peas, sweetcorn, tomato ketchup and wholemeal bread, followed by carrot cake

We ask that no nuts or peanuts are brought into school as ingredients or food items.



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

ROBLOX



With more than 150 million users worldwide, Roblox is one of the most popular video games of recent times. Roblox allows users to create their own gaming experiences using Roblox Studio: building levels and games then allowing other people to play them. Similarly, players can play each other's creations, either on their own or with other people online. While it's a tool that can help foster creative thinking, Roblox is also intermittently in the news amid concerns over young users' safety.

No Age Rating

Roblox is rated 7+ by PEGI, but the platform itself doesn't have a minimum age requirement. It does ask for a date of birth when registering, but this can be easily fabricated. The sheer quantity of games available on Roblox means that some will fall into teen/adult categories. Users can also interact with each other freely - and the game has, historically, attracted scammers, griefers and online predators.



Chat Functionality

Users can join group chats with almost anyone through the Chat & Party function. While the chat has some filters, predators still try to find ways around these to prey on young children. There have been recent reports of adults pretending to be children, attempting to groom younger players and encouraging them to chat privately in an unmoderated environment away from the game.

In-App Purchases

Robux is the in-game currency used to buy things like special outfits or emotes, and to play certain sections of the game. A subscription service (costing £4.99 per month) called Roblox Premium offers more privileges and more in-game currency. Robux can also be purchased in batches, for up to £4.99. Children can easily pay for these, or purchase a membership, without realising it.



ODers

An 'ODer' (online dater) joins Roblox to find someone to 'date' online. While there's nothing inherently wrong with finding love on the internet, it becomes an issue in a space that's populated by children and young teens, like Roblox. Online dating is against Roblox's community guidelines, but certain player-built games on the platform are specifically for 'ODers' and should be avoided by children.

Online Predators

Roblox's developers aim to maintain a safe place for children; they employ human moderators for their players' protection. But there will, sadly, always be individuals who try to bypass these safeguards so they can chat to children and attempt to communicate outside the game. Anyone asking for your child's personal information or to talk privately should be blocked and reported.



Advice for Parents & Carers



Take Note of Ratings

Recent press reports drew attention to Roblox's issues with potentially offensive content. Some players were using Roblox Studio to create games featuring nudity, sexual activity and extreme political views. In response, Roblox is introducing a ratings system which will rank content by age appropriateness, with clear warnings if a game is not suitable for younger players.



Set Parental Controls

Roblox has controls that allow parents to moderate who their children can talk to and which games they can play. To enable these, add your email address to your child's account through the Security menu, and create a secure PIN to stop settings being tampered with. Then head into the Privacy menu where you can apply moderation to in-game chat, personal messages, invites and more.



Disable Messages

It's advisable to block all messaging if you have concerns over your child's safety. If they're playing with friends they know in real life, encourage them to chat in another way (like on the phone), so you know exactly who they're talking to and how. Accounts can be tweaked to allow messages from specific groups of people, such as friends or users that your child follows.



Block and Report

To report players in a game, find the Roblox symbol on screen (or the 'Settings' button on some devices). Identify the offending player and click the flag icon. Clarify why the player is being reported by choosing a reason from the list. If you think a particular game is inappropriate, you can also flag it for a moderator to check by following the same steps but selecting 'Game' instead of 'Player'.

Encourage Creativity

It could prove a little too complex for younger children, but Roblox Studio is a great place to start learning the fundamentals of game design. Many budding developers have created Roblox games which have become popular among the community. There are plenty of tutorials on making games on sites like YouTube. You never know, your child's creation might be the next big thing!



Meet Our Expert

Mark Foster has worked in the gaming industry for several years as a writer, editor and presenter. He is the gaming editor of two of the biggest gaming news sites in the world, UNILAD Gaming and GAMINGBible. Starting gaming from a young age with his siblings, he has a passion for understanding how games and tech work, but more importantly, how to make them safe and fun.



<https://corp.roblox.com/parent/>
<https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-56666666>



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