



# Weekly Newsletter

21<sup>st</sup> January 2022

## News from Sleights

Despite the ongoing challenges that Coronavirus presents to our community, I have been immensely proud to see the great work of our children, staff and families this week. There is a lot to celebrate!

I was really impressed to see the models and buildings being created on Thursday afternoon in **Explorers**. The children carefully selected a wide range of materials, including blocks, tubes and wheels, to create their own motor vehicle. When I asked about it, the children told me simply, "It's amazing!" and I absolutely agreed!

The **Pioneers** have been amazed to take a range of objects apart this week, including telephones, Beebots and laptops. Carefully using tools, the children explored the mechanisms of each object and were fascinated by what they discovered. This prompted some excellent in depth discussion about how things work. The children have also created some brilliant Beebot drawings, which contain some very accurate detail.

In **Learners**, I was really impressed to see some coding in action on Wednesday afternoon. The children worked with great confidence, as they created their own algorithms and debugged them to make characters move. The Learners really enjoyed showcasing their work. Thursday's afternoon session was very musical too, with children composing their own percussion pieces, carefully thinking about beats and rhythms.

The **Adventurers** have been enjoying dance sessions with Hannah Verity on a Tuesday afternoon. In this week's session, it was great to see everyone getting involved and working hard to choreograph together. In the classroom, the children have been enjoying their class text, the Iron Man, which is perfect fit to our 'Inventors and Inventions' whole school topic.

Thursday afternoon is always a joy, as it means I get to hear a musical update from our **Discoverers** and their class band. In anticipation for the Eskdale Festival in March (more details to follow) the children are currently tackling a medley of Queen tracks. "We will rock you" was particularly impressive this week. We are so impressed with their continued progress.

Our **Leaders** have been developing French descriptive skills this week, tackling the very tricky grammar rules, which meant lots of research and concentration! You may also notice some playground artwork this afternoon, as the children have enjoyed identifying Egypt and some of the country's main features, as part of their history work.

Have a great weekend with your families,

Scott Grason [headteacher@sleights.n-yorks.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@sleights.n-yorks.sch.uk)

## Coronavirus cases in school

Families will be aware that this week, we have had a number of confirmed cases of Covid in our school community. The increase in cases at Sleights matches the increase we are hearing about locally. We recognise that this is a worrying time for everyone, but we are continuing to work hard in our individual class bubbles, have additional cleaning in place and adults in school wear face coverings.

We are committed to ensuring that we can do all we are able, but I am sure you will appreciate, this is particularly challenging circumstances.

As we continue to see cases at Sleights, I would urge families to continue wearing face coverings whilst at school and carry out regular testing. Where children feel unwell, please speak to us about the best way forward. We are keen, as I know families are, to keep cases low, so that everyone remains safe and well, whilst continuing to learn happily at school. Your ongoing support with this is greatly appreciated.

### **Parking**

I would like to thank all families for their consideration this week, as the parking situation has improved directly outside of school. The double yellow lines will continue to be patrolled in the coming weeks. I would be grateful for your continued support in keeping our children safe.

### **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.

### **Non-uniform day – 18<sup>th</sup> February**

Children are invited to wear RED for our final day of the half term on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February. We are hoping to raise money for the Children’s Heart Unit Fund (CHUF), based at the Freeman Hospital in Newcastle. The charity raises much needed funds to support children with heart challenges who require support and surgery. I hope that, together, we can raise lots of money to support this incredible work.



To donate, please use ParentPay, where a payment item has been set up. Thank you for your support!

### **Staying Safe Online – feedback from our children**

Staying safe online is really important! In school, we continue to support children with online safety and recently spoke to our children about the ways they can keep safe. The discussions were fantastic and we found that:

- The children have a good understanding of how to stay safe online. A range of strategies were shared when something was a worry, for example seeing inappropriate content.
- Discussions demonstrated children had a clear understanding of age restrictions on games and social media.
- Children told us they must not share personal details online, including their names or addresses.
- Children confidently told us that they knew not to talk to strangers online.

### **Music Club for Discoverers**

As a follow-up to the excellent work the Discoverers have been doing in school with their class band, Miss Edwards (from the County Music Service) will be offering an after-school club for Brass and Woodwind players on Mondays. Depending on numbers, the young musicians will be able to form two extra ensembles, one for just Brass (Trumpets & Trombones) and the other for Woodwind players (Clarinets & Saxophones). This will give the children the opportunity to rehearse together in smaller groups and prepare pieces for performance. Mrs Taylor has spoken to the children about this opportunity, so if they would like to attend, please let us know on ParentPay and provide consent. Places are limited and the start date is to be confirmed.

### Recorders

Last week, Mrs Rowland began recorder sessions for Discoverers and Leaders. A number of children required a recorder, so school have purchased some to sell at a reduced rate. If your child requires a recorder, these can be purchased on ParentPay for £5. Unfortunately, due to our school risk assessment, we are unable to offer shared recorders and would encourage buying one to practise at home with.

### Year 6 SATs meeting – Next week

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 24<sup>th</sup> or Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> January. A meeting link will be shared with families for accessing this. We hope to see lots of families join us.

### Height and Weight Checks – Families in Year 6 and Reception – Next week

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.nyorksdtton@nhs.net](mailto:hdft.nyorksdtton@nhs.net)

### Chinese New Year lunch

To celebrate Chinese New Year, the children will enjoy a special lunch menu on 3<sup>rd</sup> February. This will be made up of:

*Sweet and Sour Chicken, Red Dragon Rice, Peas and Sweetcorn, followed by Sachima (rice cakes)*

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 Chinese New Year into the notes box, please. The meal will cost £2.50.

### Next week's menu

	Week 1
Monday	Cheese and Tomato Pizza, diced potatoes, peas and sweetcorn, followed by chocolate crunch
Tuesday	Chicken and tomato pasta bake, carrots, green beans and garlic bread, followed by cheese and crackers
Wednesday	Savoury minced beef and Yorkshire pudding, roast potatoes, cauliflower, sweetcorn and sliced wholemeal bread, followed by fruit jelly and ice cream
Thursday	Sausage, mash and onion gravy, carrots, broccoli and 50/50 bread, followed by apple crumble and custard
Friday	Fish fingers, baked beans, peas, chipped potatoes and tomato bread, followed by fruity jam sponge

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