



Weekly Newsletter

18th February 2022

Happy Half Term!

The last seven weeks have certainly been very busy ones for everyone in Team Sleights. As we start the half term break, I hope that families and staff are able to take opportunities to rest and recharge. Since returning after Christmas, we have delighted in seeing the children work incredibly hard and make such great progress across the curriculum. The challenges of Covid cases in school tested us all at the end of January, but it was excellent to see the school community pull together. Information about changes to our Covid restrictions after half term can be found later in the newsletter. In the meantime, a huge thank you for your continued support.

Have a great week with your families,

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

Covid restrictions after half term

As I know families are aware, Sleights has remained one of the few schools locally to keep a significant number of restrictions in place for managing Covid. As we approach a new half term and consider the national strategy of 'living with Covid', we feel the time is now right to review our own measures and position.

With this in mind, when we return after half term, we are looking forward to reintegrating our full community back together. We know that the children, staff and families have missed this and we are all looking ahead to a return to arrangements more familiar with pre-Covid times. A summary of our changes is shared below:

What will change?	What will remain the same?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Children will enjoy playtimes together. We have working towards this at lunchtime.We will come together as a school to worship again.Leaders will join the Adventurers and Learners in the hall, where we will reintroduce family service. The children will have a seating plan and place to sit, so that there are no worries or concerns about returning when children miss time from school.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Our one way 'pick up and drop off' system. This has been very popular amongst families.An encouragement for face coverings by adults, including families, around school.Additional cleaning during the school day – including all classrooms and touchpoints.Discoverers and Pioneers, for now, will continue to eat lunch in their classrooms (due to spacing).

We are looking ahead to these changes, we do also recognise the need to be careful and keep arrangements under ongoing review. If we see a spike in cases, or issues to cause concern or alarm, we will look to review, amend or revise arrangements accordingly.

Parents Evening

We are also delighted to announce that our next parents evening will take place face-to-face. Booking details for appointments will be sent home after the half term break, but meetings will take place after school on either:

Monday 28th March, or Tuesday 29th March.

These appointments will be for children in Reception (Pioneers) upwards. Staff from Pre-School (Explorers) will contact families directly to arrange a time to discuss the children's progress.

East Barnby

Just a reminder to our Year 6 and Year 5 families, East Barnby will be taking place between Monday 21st and Friday 25th March. If you missed the family meeting last week, or need any additional information, please get in touch.

Non-uniform day

We have seen The Children's Heart Unit Fund make a real difference to our own Sleights' families and Heart Heroes. As I write the newsletter, we have raised over a massive **£215**. This is a huge achievement and something that will make a significant difference. The Children's Heart Unit Fund raises vital funds to support children and their families requiring lifechanging operations and care. In the classrooms today, children have talked about the charity and its work, to gain an understanding of where our donations will go.

A huge thank you to everyone for their brilliant support for our 'Wear Red' day for the Children's Heart Unit Fund.



World Book Day – Thursday 3rd March – Thursday after half term



We love reading at Sleights! As a school, we always celebrate reading and all things books, but we will also be joining worldwide celebrations on Thursday 3rd March for World Book Day. Children can come to school as their favourite book characters, or dressed for a book party, to celebrate 25 years of World Book Day. **There is no requirement to come in a costume.** The children will also be given a £1 book token, which can be exchanged for one of twelve new books, or be put towards another book.

To celebrate World Book Day, North Yorkshire County Caterers have produced special menu, inspired by Charlie's Mackesey's 'The Boy, Mole, Fox and Horse'. If your child usually has a packed lunch, but would like to join in on World Book Day, please buy one school meal on ParentPay, writing World Book Day, in the notes.

World Book Day Menu:

Positivity Pizza, You can do it diced potatoes, brave broccoli and courageous carrots, followed by Mole Mud chocolate muffins

Supporting Mental Health at Sleights

Children's mental health and emotional wellbeing is so important to us at Sleights. It is because of this that we have our very own school wellbeing nurse, Mel Randell, who carries out play therapy in our own play room. This week, Mel worked with each class around school to promote positive wellbeing and understanding emotions. Activities including drawing emotions, creating happy jars and using sand buckets to drain worries away. The children said:

- "It was great to see our worries (sand) drain away"
- "I learned about the 'alarm clock' in my brain"
- "It was great to make a positivity jar filled with things that will make us feel happy"
- "We asked lots of questions about our bodies and feelings"
- "It was good to find out why we react in certain ways"

We look forward to continuing to learn about mental health and share positive messages later in the year.



TikTok

We have been worried to learn that about a number of children with profiles on TikTok. A number of these profiles are open and have unrestricted access from others. I am sure families will share our worries about the safety of this. In school, we continue to promote messages around staying safe online and would appreciate families reinforcing this at home. To support these discussions, we have included a guide to TikTok at the end of the newsletter.

Drama activities in school

Over the last two weeks, children in Leaders, Discoverers and Adventurers have been joined by Louise, from Red House Theatre Company to complete some history based drama activities. The children enjoyed bringing their work on Ancient Egypt to life and getting a hands-on experience of history. The work created was great to see!

SATs boosters for Year 6 after half term

Thank you to Year 6 families for providing consent for children to attend our booster groups. These sessions will take place every **MONDAY** and **THURSDAY** until 4pm.

Music Club for Discoverers after half term

Music club for children in Discoverers will start on Monday after half term. The club will run until 4.15pm. so children signed up will need to bring their instruments, please.

Next week's menu

Week 2	
Monday	Pasta bolognaise, green beans, sweetcorn and bread, followed by oat and sultana cookie
Tuesday	Chicken and vegetable pie, roast potatoes, peas, cauliflower and bread, followed by cheese and crackers
Wednesday	Roast pork and apple sauce, gravy, creamy mashed potato, broccoli, carrots and pumpkin seed bread, followed by creamy rice pudding and peaches
Thursday	World Book Day Menu: Positivity Pizza, You can do it diced potatoes, brave broccoli and courageous carrots, followed by Mole Mud chocolate muffins
Friday	Crunchy breaded fish, chipped potatoes, green beans, carrots and 50/50 bread, followed by fruity flapjack

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

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

TIKTOK

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

TikTok is a video-sharing social media app which lets people create, view and download looping 15-second clips. Typically, these are videos of users lip-syncing and dancing to popular songs or soundbites (often for comic purposes), enhanced with filters, effects and text. Designed with young people in mind, TikTok skyrocketed in popularity in 2019 and has featured near the top of download charts ever since. It now has around a billion users worldwide.

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Most videos appearing on a child's feed are light-hearted and amusing. However, some clips have been reported for featuring drug and alcohol abuse, themes of suicide and self-harm, or young teens acting in a sexually suggestive way. The sheer volume of uploads is impossible to moderate entirely – and since TikTok Jump's introduction in mid-2021, users can view third-party content outside the app.

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CENSORED

EXPLICIT SONGS

TikTok primarily revolves around videos of users lip-syncing and dancing to music. Inevitably, some featured songs will contain explicit or suggestive lyrics. Given the app's young user-base, there is a risk that children may view older users' videos and then be inclined to imitate any explicit language or suggestive actions.

W&H**!

TIKTOK FAME

The app has created its own celebrities: Charli D'Amelio and Lil Nas X, for example, were catapulted to fame by exposure on TikTok – leading to many more teens attempting to go viral and become 'TikTok famous'. While most aspiring stars hoping to be 'the next big thing' will find it difficult, setbacks may in turn prompt them to go to even more drastic lengths to get noticed.



HAZARDOUS VISIBILITY

Connecting with others is simple on TikTok – including commenting on and reacting to users' videos, following their profile and downloading their content. The majority of these interactions are harmless, but – because of its abundance of teen users – TikTok has experienced problems with predators contacting young people.

ADDICTIVE NATURE

Like all social media, TikTok is designed to be addictive. It can be hugely entertaining – but that also makes it hard to put down. As well as the punchy nature of the short video format, the app's ability to keep users intrigued about what's coming next mean it's easy for a 5-minute visit to turn into a 45-minute stay.

IN-APP SPENDING

There's an in-app option to purchase 'TikTok coins', which are then converted into digital rewards for sending to content creators that a user likes. Prices range from 99p to an eye-watering £99 bundle. TikTok is also connected with Shopify, which allows users to buy products through the app.

Advice for Parents & Carers

TALK ABOUT ONLINE CONTENT

Assuming your child is above TikTok's age limit, talk to them about what they've viewed on the app. Ask their opinion on what's appropriate and what isn't. Explain why they shouldn't give out personal details or upload videos which reveal information like their school or home address. In the long run, teaching them to think critically about what they see on TikTok could help them to become social-media savvy.

MAINTAIN PRIVACY SETTINGS

The default setting for all under 18s' accounts to 'private'. Keeping it that way is the safest solution: it means only users who your child approves can watch their videos. The 'Stitch' (which lets users splice clips from other people's videos into their own) and 'Duet' (where you build on another user's content by recording your own video alongside their original) features are now only available to over 18s. This might clash with your child's ambitions of social media stardom, but it will fortify their account against predators.

LEARN ABOUT REPORTING AND BLOCKING

With the correct privacy settings applied, TikTok is a relatively safe space. However, in case something does slip through, make sure your child knows how to recognise and report inappropriate content and get them to come to you about anything upsetting that they've seen. TikTok allows users to report anyone breaching its guidelines, while you can also block individual users through their profile.

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

'Family Pairing' lets parents and carers link their own TikTok account to their child's. Through your mobile, you can control your child's safety settings remotely – including limiting screen time, managing their ability to exchange messages (and with whom) and blocking a lot of age-inappropriate content. TikTok's Safety Centre also provides resources for parents and carers to support online safety among families. These resources can be found on their website.

USE RESTRICTED MODE

In the app's 'Digital Wellbeing' section, you can filter out inappropriate content (specific content creators or hashtags, for instance) using 'Restricted Mode'. This can then be locked with a PIN. You should note, though, that the algorithm moderating content isn't totally dependable – so it's wise to stay aware of what your child is watching.

MODERATE SCREEN TIME

As entertaining as TikTok is, you can help your child to manage their time on it in the 'Digital Wellbeing' section. Under 'Screen Time Management', you can limit the daily permitted time on the app (in increments ranging from 40 minutes to two hours). This preference can also be locked behind a PIN. That way, your child can get their regular dose of TikTok without wasting the whole day.

Meet Our Expert

Parven Kaur is a social media expert and digital media consultant who is passionate about improving digital literacy for parents and children. She has extensive experience in the social media arena and is the founder of Kids N Clicks: a web resource that helps parents and children thrive in a digital world.



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#WakeUpWednesday

SOURCES: TikTok.com

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