



Weekly Newsletter

18th March 2022

News from Sleights

The **Explorers** have had a very busy week meeting some people who help us. At the start of the week, the children met Vicky (one of our governors) who is a hospital ward sister. The Explorers enjoyed finding out how to make people feel better and using some of the tools a nurse uses. On Thursday morning, the children were also delighted to be joined by the fire engine crew from Whitby. They saw how the engine worked and saw the lights flashing – which was lots of fun!

I was impressed to see the **Pioneers** combining their writing and maths work this week. Having created their own story of the Three Billy Goats Gruff, the children have been drawing trolls, which they then used to measure and compare sizes. The language and accuracy used was quite brilliant!

This week, the **Learners** excitedly started their work to make our school hedgehog friendly. The children enjoyed time outside listing the things that would help hedgehogs thrive at Sleights, including lots of holes and tunnels in fences to help hogs travel. In the forest, the children have set up some areas for hedgehogs to keep warm, using sticks and leaves to make some bushy areas, but some actual hedgehog houses will be arriving soon! Go, Hedgehog Heroes!

The **Adventurers** were very busy when I visited on Thursday afternoon. The children have been exploring photography, in computing, considering the best way to take images and the language of portrait and landscape. The children were working hard to capture full images and were investigating the best views around school to snap.

We were immensely proud to see our **Discoverers'** band perform at the Eskdale Festival Gala concert on Saturday evening. Despite very late notice and, as a result, a few less players, the children performed brilliantly and we have received so much excellent feedback about their work and achievements. We are already looking ahead to more performance and can't wait to see even more brilliant progress. Well done to them all!

The **Leaders** enjoyed a day in the forest on Monday morning. A particular highlight was lighting fires and toasting marshmallows! However, the main focus was to create a frame, using items from the forest. The children all persevered, using knots to construct their frames, which will be used to showcase their work in the classroom.

Have a great weekend with your families,

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

Booking Holidays

I appreciate the challenges and difficulties that Covid and lockdowns has had on holidays and big celebrations that may have had to be cancelled. However, I am increasingly concerned by the volume of holiday requests we are currently receiving. I must stress that we are unable to authorise any holidays or time away from school, unless in very exceptional circumstances. I know that we are all in agreement that children have already missed too much time from school because of school closures, so would urge that families do not add to this time by booking time away in term time. Thank you.

Reminder of timings

We just wanted to remind families that the doors open at 8.50am each morning and we encourage everyone to be in school and ready to learn then. Whilst the school day officially starts at 9.00am, these extra ten minutes really help! The school day ends at 3.00pm for Pre-School families and 3.10pm for the rest of the school. If children have not been collected by 3.15pm, they will be taken to Kids' Club, where a charge may be applied.

Parents Evening – appointment times coming home next week

Our booking system for parents evening appointments has now closed. Thank you to families for booking these with us. Next week, we will send home a confirmed date and time, based on your choices. Face to face appointments will take place on **Monday 28th March, or Tuesday 29th March** for children in Reception (Pioneers) upwards. Staff from Pre-School (Explorers) will contact families directly to arrange an alternative time.

We are keen to share progress with everyone in school, so if you can't make one of the days offered, please let your child's class teacher know as soon as possible, so we can arrange an alternative time.

Second Hand Uniform and Book Swap

Before their parents evening appointments, families are invited to join us in the hall to look at their children's work. In the hall, we also hope to set up a second hand uniform stall and book swap. Individual details are shown below:

- **Uniform:** We know that children outgrow uniform quickly, so want to support families in replacing small items, with good quality, second hand clothes. This is one of the planet saving ideas raised by our eco group, the Planeteers. Before parents evening, please bring in any donated uniform, which will be sorted and available for a small donation in school on parents evening. Please can uniform be clean and in good condition. Donated items can be handed to class teachers. Thank you.
- **Book Swap:** We also know how expensive buying new books are! We want to trial a children and adult's book swap on parents evening. Again, simply bring in books you wish to donate to a new home (children or adults) and we will make these available on parents evening.

Ukraine appeal

We were beyond overwhelmed by the sheer volume of amazing contributions to the Ukraine appeal last week. The amount of donations brought in was staggering and is something that we know will make a huge difference. Thank you all so much!

**UKRAINE
APPEAL**

With Millbry Hill no longer taking donations, we were pleased to pass all of your donations to a collection point in Stokesley, who were arranging transport of the items this week.

East Barnby – NEXT WEEK

We know we have some very excited children in Year 5 and 6 ready to embark on their East Barnby adventure next week. Children should arrive at school at the normal time on Monday morning and will return home on Friday afternoon at the usual pick up time too.

If your child is bring medication, a permission form will need to be completed in advance. Mrs Taylor and Mrs Walker have copies of these.

We still have a number of payments outstanding for the residential trip. Please can families make these instalments on ParentPay. Please do talk to us if you require any support.

New Build Updates

Behind the scenes, we have been incredibly busy in meetings to plan and arrange our new build projects. As families know, our two Early Years classrooms are being demolished and replaced in the summer term. This will mean that in September, both Pre-School and Reception will have brand new, purpose built classrooms to enjoy! Exciting times. Whilst details and dates are to be confirmed, we expect that the project will begin at the end of June. This will mean that, for the last four weeks of term, the children in Reception and Pre-School will work together, using the hall as their classroom base. We know that this will provide an invaluable transition period, as Reception adjust to working in the main building and Pre-School children spend time with Mrs Hann. I look forward to sharing more details, as they are confirmed. In the meantime, please do get in touch if you have any questions.

Work on the school site – NEXT THURSDAY and FRIDAY night

Contractors will be on the school site after 4pm next Thursday and Friday evenings. With this in mind, when picking up from After School Club, please use the gate near Mrs Brown's classroom (the gate families leave through each morning). This will not impact collection for the normal times.

Comic Relief

It was a sea of red in school today, as we supported Comic Relief and the Red Nose Day appeal. A huge thank you for your donations. I will update you next week about our final total!



Pre-School places for September 2022

We already have had a great deal of interest in places for September 2022 in our Pre-School. This will be a particularly exciting time for the first group of children to make our new classroom home. We still have some spaces available from September for children aged two and above. If you have, or know of, children who would like to become part of Team Sleights, please do get in touch. We have limited availability and places do fill up fast. If you have any questions, please do get in touch.

Mr Gokool's Sports Club

Just a reminder that Mr Gokool's sports club is now open to children in Years 3 – 6 (Leaders, Discoverers and Adventurers). Mr Gokool has stated that the club can only run with high enough numbers, so please do help keep this very popular club going! To book your place, please let Mr Gokool know directly by completing the details on his website here: <https://4-4-2-soccer.class4kids.co.uk/>

Earth Hour



This morning in worship, the Adventurers, on behalf of the Planetears Eco Club, shared details of the worldwide 'Earth Hour'.

Families are encouraged to join millions of people around the world and switch off your lights and devices in support of nature and our planet on **Saturday 26th March at 8.30pm.**

Why not spend the hour playing games by candlelight, or enjoying time together device free? We hope lots of families can come together to support our earth.

Lent

It has been so lovely to hear about and see how the school community has been tackling the Lent Calendar challenges. We are really pleased to hear about your actions at home. Below are the suggested activities for next week.

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|--|---------------------------------------|
| 21 st March | 22 nd March | 23 rd March | 24 th March | 25 th March | 26 th March | 27 th March |
| Mindful Monday | Happy Hobbies | Worship Wednesday | Reading Day | More chores! | A Saturday to Reflect | Smiling Sunday |
| Take time to sit still and listen. | Try out a new hobby today, or during your week. | Spend extra time in worship today, making sure to reflect on your thoughts. As an alternative, spend time reflecting on your actions. | Spend time throughout your day with a book. | Do an extra two jobs for your family today. | As your week is coming to an end, reflect on all the things that are positive. | Make your jaw hurt, by smiling a lot! |

For Leaders and Adventurers - New Teacher Days

To support the transition for our children in Leaders and Adventurers to their new teachers after Easter, we are pleased to share the following arrangements:

- Thursday 31st March – Mrs Porter will be teaching Leaders.
- Tuesday 5th April – Mrs Brown (new teacher) will be teaching Adventurers.

We know that this time before Easter will mean that the children and teachers will get the chance to work together, so that in the new term, the classes can hit the ground running.

Maths Month – Sumsday competition



Between 25th March and 31st March, the school will also take part in a Sumsday contest with other schools in North Yorkshire. Throughout the challenge, individual children and schools will be celebrated on a county wide leader board, recognising the hard work of mathematicians.

It would be amazing to see our school represented on the leader board, so please do encourage your children to take part at home. We will be providing time in school too. As part of the leader board, the children's names are shared. If you do not wish for your child to take part in this, please do let me know.

Swimming in the summer term – Leaders and Learners



After Easter, swimming will start for our Learners. The Leaders will also attend for a second time this year, as we know the importance of being able to swim before leaving primary school and how Covid closures may have impacted on lessons. 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 Leaders or Learners, 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 Easter break. Thank you. Payments can be made in one go, or weekly.

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 | Quorn dippers, potato wedges, tomato ketchup, peas, sweetcorn and herby bread, followed by chocolate orange sponge and chocolate sauce |
| 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.