



# Weekly Newsletter

8<sup>th</sup> April 2022

## News from Sleights

I want to start this week with a HUGE well done and thank you to everyone in our brilliant Team Sleights' community. Today marks the start of a very well deserved two week holiday and I absolutely know that everyone is ready to rest and recharge!

This term has been a very busy one. Whilst we have, unfortunately, seen the challenges of Covid around school, we have also seen a term of huge success and celebration. Some highlights have included:

- seeing so many more children taking up learning an instrument;
- our Discoverers winning first place with their newly formed band at the Eskdale Festival;
- so many challenges met head on at East Barnby;
- the school returning to work together as one;
- the launch of a campaign to save the hedgehogs, led by our Learners;
- the purchasing of lots more equipment for our computing curriculum – including lots of new iPads and Chromebooks;
- the further development and expansion of our forest area;
- celebrating children's achievements at parents evening - face to face for the first time in two years!
- positive mental health activities for every child with our specialist nurse (Mel);
- more children now being able to swim;
- incredible progress in reading and writing for our youngest children.

This is all on top of the usual great things that happen in the classroom every day. This short list just scratches the surface of a very brilliant thirteen weeks!

I want to congratulate and thank every child, family and staff member who have worked tirelessly together during the spring term to make sure every one at Sleights is happy, succeeds and flourishes. This is a very special school to lead – thank you!

Have a brilliant Easter holiday – we will see you all on **TUESDAY 26<sup>th</sup> April**.

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

## Goodbye and Good Luck, Mrs Roe and Mrs Walker!

Today, we also say "Goodbye and Good Luck" to two of our brilliant teachers.

After nine years at Sleights, Louise Roe begins her well earned retirement today. Having taught so many of our children across her time with us, Mrs Roe has made a big impact on the lives of many! Her brilliant artistic skills and enthusiasm for drama will be missed by everyone. We know that Mrs Roe will enjoy her retirement and will take on many new adventures!

Moving to a Deputy Headship post in Scarborough, today we also say "goodbye" to Leanne Walker. Mrs Walker joined the team in 2018 and has worked hard developing many areas of school provision. In particular, her work developing Collective Worship and our school curriculum has been outstanding. In her new post, we know Mrs Walker will showcase the same talent.

Both Louise and Leanne are key members of our Sleights' team and we will certainly miss them and wish them the very best of luck for the future and all they do. Thank you to them both for all they have done!

### **New teaching arrangements for Leaders and Adventurers**

As children and families know, after Easter, Mrs Porter will take over in Year 6. The children already know Mrs Porter, who has worked with the class each Thursday for the last month or so.

Joining Year 3, we welcome Alix Brown. Mrs Brown has also met the Adventurers, having spend three days teaching them ahead of her official start date. We wish both Alix and Rhiannon best of luck in their new posts in school.

### **Some superstar shout outs!**



We think that every child at Sleights is a superstar and this week I wanted to celebrate two out of school achievements.

Throughout March, **Jenson** has been working hard to raise funds for the World Wildlife Foundation by walking over 100 miles! We have all enjoyed regular mile count updates, as Jenson and his family have been walking everywhere and anywhere – he even kept up his counting at East Bamby! We are immensely proud of Jenson, who has managed to raise over £100 for the WWF.

Inspired by her work in school to protect the hedgehogs, **Olivia** has also been busy creating her own posters to raise awareness of hogs in her home and the wider community. Olivia has shared some top tips on keeping hedgehogs safe and shared these around the town. I was really excited to be sent an photograph of her brilliant poster being showcased on the West Cliff. Go, Olivia! Well done for spreading a great message.



### **Easter**

Over the holiday period, we know that our families will enjoy celebrating Easter together. In Collective Worship this week, it was lovely to welcome both Father Michael Gobbet and Rev. John Hartley for our Easter worship. As always, the children enjoyed the worships and were able to discuss and share their views about this special time of the year.

### **Staying Safe – “Huggy Wuggy”**

This week, families have been telling us about “Huggy Wuggy”. Whilst this sounds gentle and harmless, the reality is very different. We understand that across the country, children are talking about “Huggy Wuggy”, who appears in a YouTube video. The creature has rows of sharp teeth. The video content includes talk of death and whispers horrible things in your ear whilst giving hugs. They also sing songs with challenging lyrics. The nature of the gentle “Huggy Wuggy” name means that the content often gets through filters, which means it is easy to watch at home. We wanted to share this update with families, so that everyone has the same information about the potentially inappropriate content that might be being viewed. Please let us know if you need any support with this.

### **Thank you for your feedback**

Last week, we asked for your views about bullying and behaviour at Sleights. We have been really pleased to see so many responses and received some great feedback. A key message for us to take away is that 100% of families who responded said that their child was happy in school and well we teach the children how to stay safe. This is great news. We will use all feedback responses to inform our policy review and I will update families in the summer term.

### **Work in school over the holidays**

If you are passing school over Easter, you may notice a number of workers on site. The whole school site (internally) is being repainted and we can't wait to see the finished work! The work is being completed in two phases (with the second phase being completed over summer).

In preparation for our new build projects in the summer, we are also having some work carried out to the trees around school and some work carried out in the boiler house. Busy times!

### **A message for PIONEERS families**

Due to the successes of the Learners' trips to the mobile library, on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April (the first Friday back) Mrs Hann and I will be taking the Pioneers to the mobile library to choose a selection of books to enjoy back at school. We are looking forward to a walk in the village and choosing some exciting new titles.

### **Snack – a reminder**

In order for us to place snack orders with the kitchen, we ask that orders are put through by Monday morning before **9.30am** please. We know that some weeks, this isn't always possible and totally understand this. We are, however, starting to see some frequently late orders, which makes things a little challenging in school. Your help to keep everything running smoothly is greatly appreciated.

### **Class Photographs – advanced notice**

On **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> May**, we will be joined by Tempest Photography, who will take class pictures. The images will be available to purchase by families. More information closer to the time.

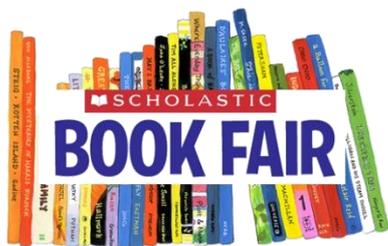
### **A message to EXPLORERS families**

If you have applied for a place in next year's Reception class (September 2022), the national offer day is coming up. On Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April, families should receive confirmation from North Yorkshire County Council of their school places. After we return from the Easter break, we will be in touch to arrange a new starter family meeting and begin the exciting work to start Reception class. If you have any questions in the meantime, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us.

### **Secondary School Transition**

The transition week for children moving to Eskdale and Caedmon College will take place between 11<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> July. This is a full week for Eskdale and we understand the same for Caedmon College. More details will be sent directly from the schools. Key staff from Eskdale and Caedmon College have begun their visits and will meet the children after the Easter break.

### **The Book Fair is coming!**



We are looking forward to welcoming the travelling book fair back to Sleights after the Easter break. The book fair will open every day before and after school between **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May and Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May**.

Before the fair opens, the children will get chance to take a look at some of the books available in school time. We will also open the fair on lots of occasions, to give families plenty of opportunity to buy books – timings below. Card payments are no longer accepted, but families can pay in cash or on a dedicated website available on the day of the fair. Staff will help with this. We hope the fair will help families buy some great books and help promote reading to the children. In addition, for every book bought, the school receives a reward, which can then be used to buy books for school. We hope to see lots of support.

### **Upcoming Sports Fixtures**

We are looking forward to taking part in some inter school sports competition in the summer term. Permission will be required on ParentPay, please, for each event and a text will be sent when this has been made live. Upcoming dates include:

- **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May** – Adventurers taking part in 'Quad Kids' (mixed sports) at Whitby Sixth Form Site
- **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May** – A Year 6 group taking part in Cricket contest at the Cricket Club
- **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May** – Year 6s taking part in tennis at Whitby Sixth Form

## Easter Sports Club



11TH - 14TH APRIL | SUITABLE FOR AGES 5 - 11

08:30 - 16:30

**MULTI  
SPORT**

**GOAL**  
Game of Actual Life



**FREE SCHOOL MEAL CHILDREN:**  
YOUR CHILD IS ENTITLED TO A FREE SPACE ON OUR COURSE. MEALS & SNACKS ARE PROVIDED ON EACH DAY BOOK ON SCSS WEBSITE WITH CODE

**PAYING PARENTS:**  
£20 PER DAY (INC. FOOD) 16 ADDITIONAL SPACES EACH DAY BOOK ON SCSS WEBSITE

**VENUE:**  
EAST WHITBY ACADEMY  
STAINSACRE ROAD, YO22 4HU

**TO BOOK, PLEASE VISIT:**  
SIMONCARSONSPORTSSCHOOL.CO.UK

Photographs and videos may be taken during the sessions on any day for promotional purposes. If you would like to opt out of this, please send us an email with your details (venue & child's name). If we don't receive an 'opt-out' email, we will assume consent.

FOR ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR QUERIES  
CONTACT NUMBER: 07794 281398 or EMAIL: OFFICE.SCSS@GMAIL.COM



## Whitby Music Centre Open Morning

The Music Centre meets each Saturday morning, where children can go along and enjoy learning their instrument as part of a larger band. So many of our children now enjoy music lessons, it would be brilliant to see them join the band on a Saturday morning too!

On **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May**, the Music Centre is hosting an open morning with FREE music sessions at Caedmon College (Sixth Form site) These sessions are led by County Music Service staff and are a chance to sample bands and ensembles.

**9.30-10.45am: Wider Opportunities Whitby**  
(for beginner Brass and Woodwind players)

**10.15-10.45am: Singing**  
(all ages welcome)

**11.00-12.15 pm: Whitby Area Band**  
(for more experienced players who can read music)

**11.00-12.15 pm: String Ensemble**  
(all ages and abilities welcome)

Adult players are also welcome to join in for the morning and sample the wide range of bands.

For more information contact: [Bob.Butterfield@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:Bob.Butterfield@northyorks.gov.uk)

## New Menu - first week back

	Week 1
<b>Monday</b>	School closed
<b>Tuesday</b>	Chicken Wrap, Summer Vegetable Sticks, Fiesta Rice, followed by Fruit Jelly and Ice Cream
<b>Wednesday</b>	Savoury Minced Beef and Vegetable Pie, with creamy mashed potatoes, gravy, peas and cauliflower, served with sliced wholemeal bread, followed by cheese and crackers
<b>Thursday</b>	Sausage in a homemade bun, served with tomato ketchup, diced potatoes, mixed summer salad and coleslaw, followed by Summer Mousse
<b>Friday</b>	Harry Ramsden's battered fish, served with chipped potatoes, baked beans, peas and tomato bread, followed by Fresh Summer Fruit Platter

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

### 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/>

### 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.