

Sleights Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School
Ingham Close
Sleights
Whitby
North Yorkshire
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Working together to be happy; to flourish; to succeed through our Christian Values of perseverance, respect and trust.

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22nd February 2019

Dear families,

After a long half term, full of hard work, success and achievements, I think that everyone deserves a well-earned rest next week! As always, there is a great deal to be proud of and our children have, once again, this term shown us determination, great effort and huge smiles in all that they have done. Thank you to everyone in our Sleights family for making this half term such a great one!

In the classrooms this week

Despite it being the last week of the half term, there has been little rest around school. In many cases, the children have been working hard completing assessments and demonstrating the excellent progress that they have made. We look forward to sharing this information with you at parents' evening after the holidays.

When I have visited Explorers this week, they were enjoying building and being doctors or vets. On Thursday afternoon, a group of Explorers were challenging themselves to see if they could build a tower from bricks that was taller than they were. Their smiles when they achieved this goal were really special. Elsewhere, children have been using a range of tools to "make people better" – I even ended up with a bandaged arm!

Some of our Pioneers have visited the Community Centre across from school again this week. It is always so lovely to see some of our youngest children engage so beautifully with our elderly neighbours. The children are also showing some superb reading progress. I was blown away by a group of children who were completing some group reading tasks and were engaging with every word fluently. Simply amazing to see.

In Adventurers, I visited a phonics lesson this week. These activities help the children to understand different sounds and how these sounds can be used to write words. What I saw was impressive. All children were engaged and were showing a good understanding of what they were hearing and saying and then using this to make their own sentences. I have to also mention how impressed I was to see some of our Year 1 children joining their handwriting. Great work!

I also visited a Discoverers spelling lesson this week. What was great to see here was the confidence and enjoyment of every child in the lesson. I know how hard spelling is, but the children were absolutely loving their task of investigating different spelling rules. They were articulate about their learning, explaining clearly and with ease how each rule worked. What I really enjoyed seeing was how every child was also able to apply the many rules they had explored into words and sentences. Wonderful progress was so clear to see.

Finally, the whole school took part in collective worship on Thursday, led by our Leaders children. The focus was courage and the children presented two different drama pieces to show how courage had been shown (or should have been shown!) The children did a great job at engaging the whole school and questioning other classes about the courageous behaviour they had seen or what they should have seen. Mrs Vicar was also able to join us, as well as all staff members. Thank you to Leaders for approaching their worship planning and delivery with such sensitivity and maturity. You did yourselves very proud.

Mrs Burton

We are delighted to be able to announce that Mrs Burton (one of our Discoverers teachers) has now had her baby. The Burton family welcomed baby Joshua into the world earlier in the month. We are pleased to learn that both Mrs Burton and Joshua are doing well at home with their family. Congratulations to them.

Church School Questionnaire

A huge thank you to those families who have returned the questionnaire sent home last week about our Church School ethos. It is really lovely to see your feedback and hear your views after the huge improvements and efforts that have been made in school. As I said last week, we will receive a Church School inspection (known as SIAMS) before July and this feedback is so important for us to be able to share. Thank you so much.

World Book Day – 7th March 2019

We look forward to holding World Book Day Celebrations on the 7th March (the first week back after the holidays) To give families plenty of notice, we are sharing the details now. All children are invited to come to school wearing a costume related to their favourite book characters. During the day, lots of book and reading related activities will be held to celebrate the enjoyment of reading. Children will also receive a one pound book token to spend.

Parents' Evenings – 11th and 12th March

We look forward to holding our parents evening meetings after the half term break. Once again, families will be invited into school to see their children's work and speak to the class teacher. Tea, coffee and refreshments will be served by school governors in the hall. Letters to book appointments have been handed out, please speak with your class teacher if you have not received one.

Eskdale Festival

As I am sure you will be aware, we are quickly approaching the annual Eskdale Festival competition. The festival takes place over the first two weeks back after the holidays. We wish all of the children the very best of luck and would like to thank Mrs Wall, our Vice Chair of Governors, for her absolute commitment and dedication to mentoring our children. Mrs Stubbs has also worked extremely hard to organise the arrangements for travelling to and from the Spa. It should be a great fortnight for everyone involved.

Thank you to Mrs Waldie

We are so grateful to Natasha (Archie's mum) for thinking of us recently and donating her family friend's beautiful electric piano. The instrument is stunning is sure to get lots of use in the coming years at Sleights. Thank you to Natasha and Mrs Waldie.

Whitby Eskmouth Scouts Quiz


Mrs Cooper, one of our school volunteers has asked us to share the details of an upcoming quiz at the Whitby Conservatives Club to raise funds for the Beavers Group in Sleights. The quiz will take place on Wednesday 6th March, starting at 7.30pm. There will also be food and a raffle.

String instruments holiday session

Sarah Hydes, one of the music teachers that visits school has asked us to share details of a fun, one off session, with the potential to create a regular group that is taking place during the holidays. For those children who are wanting to have ago at violin, viola or cello, they can attend between 1.00pm and 2.30pm at The Loft, Old Co-op building in Loftus on Thursday 28th February. The session will cost £3 and families are asked to book in advance by emailing Sarah at shydesmusic@moshwhitby.co.uk

Attendance update - 0% unauthorised absences – well done everyone! Only Pioneers managed to achieve our 96% target this week. We must all improve these figures after the holiday.

Whole school attendance so far this year:	95.4%	Target for whole school attendance this year:	96%
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Whole school attendance this week	Pioneers attendance this week	Adventurers attendance this week	Discoverers attendance this week	Leaders attendance this week
95.1%	97.8% 	94.6%	94.5%	94.5%

Have a great week off with your families.

Scott Grason
Headteacher