



*"Helping each child flourish"*

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20<sup>th</sup> October 2017

Dear families,

I can't quite believe that we have completed our first half term! The term has been an incredibly busy one, but I am really pleased with the progress that has already been made and wanted to share with you some of the positives of the half term:

- Attendance – Our comparison to last year's figures show an improving picture!
- Collective worship – We now have a calendar of events focused on developing Christian understanding of values.
- Gathering feedback – Questionnaires from staff, parents and children have been used to help plan the next steps of the school.
- Parking – We have tackled the double yellow parking problem (hopefully!) and now have a safe area for our children to cross when they come to school.
- Special Educational Needs provision – As a staff, we have looked carefully about how we support children in our school who may require additional support.
- Reflection space – We have developed the prayer and reflection space to provide opportunities for children to think and reflect on important events and people in their life. This has proved very popular!
- Governors – All of our governors now have exciting roles and parts to play in the development plan of the school for the coming year.
- Marking and feedback – We have very recently reviewed our marking policy to make sure it is having the biggest possible impact on our children. This includes the introduction of response time, as described in the letter sent home earlier this week.

The list is a long one, but the biggest positive of the half term has been getting to know the children, families and staff at Sleights. I am already looking forward to building on these relationships and the successes of the term when we come back after the holiday.

### **Harvest Festival**

It was great to see so many families at St. John's on Tuesday. I am sure you will agree, the children did an excellent job and made us all very proud. A big thank you for the many donations of food that was brought to school. I have contacted the food banks to arrange for us to deliver these to them.

### **Kids' Club:**

I am pleased to tell you that after half term, Kids' Club will have a theme night every night! Having spoken to Wendy and Reanna, we all know how popular the Friday themes have been, so we wanted to open each night up as a theme for lots more children to attend.

We are also introducing a special Monday rate where the first hour will be charged at £2.00, not the usual £3.00! On Tuesday – Friday nights, Kids' Club costs £3.00 for one hour, or £6.50 for two. This includes a drink and snack.

The themes for our first week back are:

- Monday - junk modelling
- Tuesday – movie night
- Wednesday – Playdoh making
- Thursday – Games night
- Friday – Lego

### **Flu nasal spray**

If you have already completed the online NHS consent form, on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November, children from Class 1, Class 2 and Class 3 will have their flu nasal sprays.

### **Y5/6 Girls Football**

More brilliant news from our girls' football team! After winning the Whitby team event last week, on Wednesday afternoon, the girls travelled to Eskdale to compete against the winners of different competitions. Despite terrible weather conditions, as ever, the girls showed excellent attitudes and came 3<sup>rd</sup> out of over 50 schools! This is a huge achievement. Well done to the team for their hard work and efforts!

### **Class 2 trip and dinosaur visitors**

Class 2 had a great trip to the beach to fossil on Thursday morning, as part of our Beneath our Feet topic. Not only did Class 2 have a great time finding fossils, the rest of the school also enjoyed an excellent afternoon of meeting dinosaurs and learning different facts, as the visitors who had worked with the children on the beach came to school. I saw lots of smiling children leaving school on Thursday! Well done to Mrs Roe for organising it.

### **Response**

On the first Monday back, we are opening the doors from 8.50am, to allow children to respond to their teacher's marking from the previous day and complete some key skill work. Just a reminder that parents do not need to take children into the classrooms and families should not use the front door. If you have any questions, or need to another letter to explain response time, please do let me know.

### **A plea from Early Years!**

As we are approaching Christmas, I am sure that many old toys will be getting cleared out ready for new arrivals. With this in mind, please could any unwanted action figures (superheroes etc.), animal figures or toys for the sand be donated to the children in Early Years? Thank you in advance.

### **Parents' Evenings**

Just a reminder that our parents' evenings will take place on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November and Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November. We will send appointment slips home after the holiday to arrange a suitable time. As Miss Stubbs will be joining us after the holidays, we have decided that the Monday and Tuesday will be open classroom sessions after school for Class 3 parents, to allow parents to come in and meet the new teacher. Later in the term, we will hold parents' evenings for Class 3 to have discussions with Miss Stubbs then.

### **Key Stage 1 SATS meeting**

Thank you to the parents who came along this week to hear all about KS1 SATs. If you missed it, or need a copy of the information that was shared, please speak to Mrs Roe or Mrs Burton.

### **Bonfire lunch**

We will be having a special bonfire lunch on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November. The menu will be sausage, chips, beans, broccoli and bread, with sticky toffee pudding and custard for dessert. Any child who normally has a packed lunch, but would like the bonfire lunch, they are more than welcome. Please just let Mrs Stubbs know in the office.

### **Our collective worship theme for the first week back is: democracy**

I hope you all have an excellent week off next week. I look forward to hearing all about what the children have got up to when we return on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October – remember doors open from 8.50am.

Thank you for your continued support.

Scott Grason  
Headteacher