

Year 3 Welcome Letter

Friday 28th May 2021

Inspiring lives; creating possibilities; shaping futures

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Dear Parents/Carers,

'Inspiring lives, shaping futures, creating possibilities'

At Sitwell Junior School, our aim is to promote a love of learning by providing rich, rewarding experiences through a creative curriculum. Through celebrating efforts and achievements, we aim to develop pride in the success of our pupils so that they are ready to face future challenges.

This letter is designed to give you an insight into the learning experience we will be providing your child during their time in Year 3. We value our effective communication and strong links between staff, parents and children. Together, we can make a difference!

The Curriculum at Sitwell Junior School gives children opportunities to learn, build on and develop new skills. Children are exposed to a range of subjects and activities that allow them to experience different topics and learning styles that encompass the Sitwell 7 Values: responsibility, respect, resourcefulness, resilience, reflection, relationships and risk taking.

Our Year 3 Topics

Autumn 1 and Autumn 2 – **Scrumdiddlyumptious**

Spring 1 – **Rock 'n' Roll**

Spring 2 – **Predators**

Summer 1 and Summer 2 – **Extreme Earth**

To encourage a love of reading, we are going to study at least one key book per half term, linked to the current topic. In Year 3, the books will be:

Scrumdiddlyumptious – **Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by Roald Dahl**

Rock 'n' Roll – **The Wild Way Home by Sophie Kirtley**

Spring 2 – **Charlotte's Web by E. B White**

Summer 1 and Summer 2 – **The Abominable by Eva Ibbotson**

It would be greatly appreciated by the school if, wherever possible, you could supply your child with a copy of the above-mentioned books, perhaps as a birthday, Eid or Christmas present, as learning will be closely linked to this. However, if not, please do not worry as your child will still be able to access these books in school.

We have chosen these topics as they will allow the children to take part in creative activities during the course of the year.

For each topic, our original plan is to take the children out on a day trip. These visits will support your child's learning during the topic, and will be an informative, fun way to engage the children and really immerse them in their learning. Due to current circumstances, if we cannot attend the visits outlined, we will look to host some virtual engage days. However, at the moment we anticipate that they will be as follows:

Scrumdiddlyumptious – Chocolate Workshop

During our chocolate workshop, we will take the children on an exciting, comprehensive and very carefully crafted 'chocolate journey'. The workshops have a very high visual and physical stimulus content, helping the children to become a "Level 10 CHOCOLATOLOGIST". We will learn about the rich heritage of the chocolate brand, explore the origins of cocoa, find out how to taste chocolate like an expert and have a go at hands-on chocolate making, as well as enjoy a live chocolatier demonstration.

Rock 'n' Roll – Creswell Crags

As an engaging start to our topic, we will delve into the mysteries of the Stone Age in Britain, walking in the footsteps of the Ice Age hunter and entering a world of fire and flint. Whilst here, we will discover a legacy etched in stone with cave art 10,000 years older than the pyramids and explore life on the edge of the Ice Age world. We will participate in an activity inside one of the caves, and educate ourselves in hands-on workshops which allow us to touch on prehistoric art, animals of the Ice Age, rocks and their uses or evolution.

Predators – The Yorkshire Wildlife Park

To immerse the children in this topic, we will visit the Yorkshire Wildlife Park. The park is a walk through wildlife adventure offering a unique view into the world of animals. Taking the educational tour, students will engage in national curriculum linked activities and get hands - on with incredible creatures and unique artefacts. The visit will include a group activity to show how energy flows through a food chain with all associated terms used, followed by a teeth matching game. Children will get to handle a range of animal bio-facts including skulls, teeth and live animals.

PE/Games

The children will have two PE sessions each week. Weather permitting, one will be outdoor and one indoor all year round. We ask that the children wear their PE kits to school on their timetabled PE day. For further information, please see the Welcome Pack information.

Learning at Home

Reading

In Lower School, we aim to encourage children to acquire a love of reading. Part of this requires the children to be able to read fluently, so it is really important that you listen to your child read as often as possible. This only needs to be for a short time, as little and often is the best approach when supporting

your child with their reading. Your child will be asked to choose a book from the colour band appropriate to their ability (in terms of reading and understanding) and a non-fiction book from the library. Their home Reading Diary will be monitored by an adult on a regular basis and the children will be able to change their books during class-based reading sessions.

If your child is finding the text difficult to read, or they are struggling to remain on task when reading, it is a good idea to 'take it in turns' for example by you reading a page, your child reading a page and so on. Children learn a lot from listening to adults reading too. After your child has read a short section, it is helpful for you to ask them some questions to check their understanding of what they have read. For example: what did Jack do when the door opened? How do you think he felt at that moment? Which word tells you he felt that way? What do you think might happen next? **Your child needs to make sure they have their reading book and reading diary in school every day**, as there might be opportunities for them to read to an adult in school as well. Every Friday, we will look at your child's reading diary and issue a 'smile' if they have read at least four times during the week.

Topic

We encourage independent learning in Year 3 and projects are published half termly. Children will come home with a list of ideas for a project from their class teacher for you to help with, or you can come up with an idea of your own linked to the half term's topic. More details will follow in September.

We are setting the children a 'mini project' that we would like them to complete during the summer holidays. This is to create an 'All About Me' box which will provide them with the opportunity to get to know each other better and for their class teacher to learn about them too. These will be shared with the rest of the class during the first few weeks of the new term.

For more guidance, please see our 'Learning at Home' Policy.

We hope this information will enable you to support your child in their learning activities throughout the school year. We do hope that you will be able to show your support to school in our endeavour to offer broad educational experiences to our children.

Thank you for your continued support.

H.Sim

N.Doughty

F.Iqbal

Miss H Sim

Mrs N Doughty

Miss F Iqbal

(The Year 3 Team)