

Y6 Welcome Letter

Monday 5th September 2022

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to Year 6! It's unbelievable how quickly this time of year comes around, isn't it?

As you are aware, 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 6. 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 encompassing the Sitwell 7 Values.

Our Year 6 Topics

Autumn 1 – **Frozen Kingdom**

Autumn 1 and 2 - **War and Peace**

Spring 1 and 2 – **The Land of the Free!**

Spring 2 and Summer 1 – **How do Beliefs Change the World?**

To encourage a love of reading and writing, we are going to study at least one key book, linked to each topic. In Year 6 the books will be:

War and Peace – **The Midnight Guardians (Ross Montgomery)**

The Land of the Free! – **Wizard of Oz (L. Frank Baum)**

How do Beliefs Change the World? – **Darwin's Dragon's (Lindsay Galvin)**

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. Further information about the trips can be found below:

Frozen Kingdom

As part of our learning around Shackleton's Journey, we will venture into the polar regions, researching about the environment, the animals, major events and tourism within the areas. We also have planned some chilling experiments to immerse the children into the icy depths of the subject. We will be inviting parents in to look at the work from this topic on **Monday 17th October**.

War and Peace

A firm favourite in Year 6! From the ancient battles and some rather unique methods to more recent battles, our army of learners will march into the past to identify the causes and effects of the different battles, and how they impacted on others, notably women and children.

The Holocaust Centre

This year, restrictions permitting, we are intending to visit the National Holocaust Centre in Newark to learn more about a Jewish child's experience in Germany during World War Two. We will follow Leo as his life changes beyond all recognition and his quest for safety in England.

VE Day Celebration

To bring our 'War and Peace' topic to a close, we will be holding a VE day express day. We will be celebrating victory, in Europe, in style and all are welcome to come and celebrate with us!

Crucial Crew

Crucial Crew gives Year 6 pupils life skills to deal with and avoid a range of potentially hazardous situations. The children face real life emergency situations and learn how to deal with them, by reading the situation, acting sensibly or calling for help. It is supported by staff from Rotherham Road Safety, South Yorkshire Police and South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue. Further information will follow in due course.

The Land of the Free

The Land of the Free Engage Day

Soar across the Atlantic Ocean as we jet off to the USA, fuelling our geographical curiosity! To immerse children into the new topic, children will participate in various activities, including Design and Technology, American sports and food tasting, to celebrate American culture. These activities will be carefully planned so that children feel as though they have travelled to the U.S.A. Throughout this topic, children will explore the culture, traditions, famous people, tourism and climate, and make links between Great Britain and the U.S.A. We believe that this topic will be an exciting one and one which will enthuse and excite the children as they progress through Year 6.

The Land of the Free Express Day

Children will take part in a travel company-style promotion aimed at persuading others to visit the U.S.A. This will be a great way for children to showcase their learning.

How do Beliefs Change the World?

Our final topic takes us back to the past as we explore the different beliefs that have shaped cultures or have been part of history's most famous moments. We begin with ancient civilisations and some

of their rituals that fascinate the world thousands of years later, before investigating how the Reformation caused years of uncertainty, leading up to the Gunpowder Plot. We will also learn about The Suffragettes and the fight for equality.

Bikeability

In June, the children will be able to take part in the 'Bikeability' scheme, which is aimed at teaching children how to be safer when riding their bikes whilst out on the streets. Further details regarding this will be sent out in due course.

End of Year Treat

An absolute highlight of the year! As an end of year treat, we will be having a fun day in school, where children will have a whole of equipment to play with, food treats, water fights and even more. We have ran this day for the past two years and have found it to be a hugely successful and exciting.

PE/Games

The Year 6 children will have two sessions of PE every week. Weather permitting, one will be outdoor and one indoor all year round. We ask that all children come to school in their P.E. kit on the days that they have P.E. This term, Year 6 will have P.E. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. PE kit is as follows: white t-shirt, black shorts/leggings, black pumps (indoor), black tracksuit, and trainers (outdoor).

SATS

Yes, they will be happening! With this in mind, we will be hosting a SATS information meeting later on in the school year. The purpose of this meeting is to inform you of what will be happening and how you can support your child at home. However, be assured that our aim for the children is for them to enjoy a curriculum that enthuses and prepares them for the next stage of their education. We do politely ask that, should you wish, you avoid giving your child past papers to complete as we use these as assessment tools to identify where there are gaps. When we do complete assessments, they are to inform us of their next steps in learning.

Reading in School

This year, the children will be provided with a reading spine that incorporates the expectations and challenge needed for Year 6. The books have been carefully chosen for their vocabulary and themes. We will be encouraging the children to read as many of these as they can as we feel these books will further develop their love of reading.

Learning at Home

Reading

At Sitwell Junior 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 every day. This only needs to be for a short time each day, 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 our reading spine as their home reading book.

Like last year, instead of sending reading diaries home, we will be using Marvellous Me as a way of recording your child's reading at home. Through the app, you will be able to access a link to the form

that should be submitted before Friday morning. Therefore, it is vital that you have signed up to Marvellous Me. There will be further details about this in due course.

In addition to this, your child should continue to access Reading Eggs a computer based programme which is tailored to your child's reading ability. The site has a wealth of reading texts and questions for your child to work through. As well as accessing this in class, they will be able to do so at home, providing you with further insight into your child's reading ability. Again, further information will be sent out in the near future.

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 in school every day.**

Topic

We encourage independent learning in Year 6 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.

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.

Residential

As many parents are aware, Year 6 children enjoy a residential visit; there will be further details sent out about this in due course.

End of Year

This may be in the distant future; however, on leavers' day, the school is not involved in any celebrations beyond the school gates; all organisation is conducted through parents. Once the date has been confirmed, we strongly urge that arrangements (party buses, venues etc) are organised as soon as possible, thus avoiding any issues nearer the time. On the day they leave, they will be leaving at 2pm.

Should you have any further questions, please see a member of the Year 6 team., who will happily answer them (or attempt to!).

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs N. Elliott Mr J. Berkshire Miss C. Houghton Miss A. Holmes

(The Year 6 Team)