

## Newsletter – Autumn 1

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2019

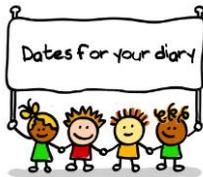
*Inspiring lives; creating possibilities; shaping futures*

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### Dates for your Diary



5<sup>th</sup> September: Y4 Clown Faces  
Family Learning Event 1:30pm-3pm  
9<sup>th</sup> September: Y6 Weekly STEM  
Sessions with AMRC begin  
9<sup>th</sup> September: After-school clubs  
begin  
13<sup>th</sup> September: Individual  
photographs  
17<sup>th</sup> September: Y6 Visit to  
Holocaust  
24<sup>th</sup> September: Y6 SATs  
Information Meeting for Parents in  
the School Hall 3:15pm  
9<sup>th</sup> October: Y5 Weekly STEM  
Sessions with AMRC begin  
15<sup>th</sup> October: Y3/Y4 Open  
Afternoon 1.30pm - 4.30pm  
16<sup>th</sup> October: Y3-Y6 Open Evening  
3:30pm – 6:30pm  
17<sup>th</sup> October: Y5/Y6 Open  
Afternoon 1.30pm - 4.30pm  
25<sup>th</sup> October: INSET Day  
25<sup>th</sup> October – 3<sup>rd</sup> November:  
School Holiday  
4<sup>th</sup> November: Back to School



### Welcome Back



I can't believe we're already here again at the start of another school year! Where has the Summer gone? It's lovely to see all of the children back in their uniforms looking smart and ready to learn. Staff worked hard over the Summer to ensure classrooms were ready to welcome children back after the long break.

It's been great to see the staff working hard to prepare to launch new topics this year, following both the Cornerstones Curriculum and the Creative Themes for Learning, to continue to ensure our children are exposed to a range of subjects and activities that allow them to experience exciting learning, different styles and topics, encompassing the Sitwell 7 Values - respect; responsibility; resourcefulness; resilience; reflection; risk taking and relationships.

It has also been lovely to welcome Miss Iqbal, Miss Chapman and Mr Snow to Sitwell. We hope they enjoy their time with us.



## Sitwell Seven

At Sitwell Junior School, we focus on a set of shared values which help us to work with one another co-operatively and with respect. These values make our school community happy and harmonious, a fun place, where children feel secure. Our Values are important to all pupils, staff and parents.

The whole staff team and all pupils are involved in promoting values and recognising their positive effects around school. The values have been selected by pupils and staff as values which are important within the school community and which will be important throughout life.

We will ensure that our seven shared Values known as 'The Sitwell Seven' are interwoven into the teaching and learning in order for children to make maximum progress as lifelong learners and thinkers. These are:

**Respect**  
**Resilience**  
**Relationships**

**Responsibility**  
**Reflection**

**Resourcefulness**  
**Risk Taking**

**Any photographs, outside of school, which show your child developing one of the Sitwell Seven Values would be greatly appreciated and may feature in the next newsletter.**

### Individual Photographs



On Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September, the photographer will be in school to take individual and family photographs. If you would like your child to be photographed with younger brothers or sisters from the Infant School, please could you bring them into school at 8.30am. Smart uniform and a smile will be the order of the day.

### Training Days 2019-20

This year, we have five training days:  
Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> September  
Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October  
Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February  
Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June  
Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July

**School will be closed for the one day in July and staff will be working these as 3 twilight training sessions.**

## Attendance and Punctuality

You may be aware that attendance and punctuality are monitored closely at Sitwell Junior School. We place great importance on children being present at school every day, on time to ensure that pupils get the most out of their time with us.

### **Appointments during School Time**

There may be occasions where a pupil needs to attend a hospital appointment. Generally, if these are booked in advance you can request an appointment which does not interfere with the school day. However, we do understand that this is sometimes not possible. We would request that dentist and doctor's appointments are also booked out of the school day unless they are emergency appointments. The school will not authorise time taken out for appointments which need not take place during the school day.

We also cannot authorise pupils to be out of school if another family member has an appointment. We offer before and after school clubs if you need assistance with childcare in these circumstances.

### **Holidays taken during Term Time**

The Department for Education (DfE) is clear regarding the legislation surrounding holidays in term time. The law does not give any entitlement to parents to take their child on holiday during term time and therefore the school is unable to authorise holidays during term-time. Any applications for term time leave must be in exceptional circumstances and the Head Teacher must be satisfied that the circumstances warrant the granting of leave. Parents can be fined by the Local Authority for taking their child on holiday during term time without consent from the school.

As a school, we fully appreciate the financial difficulties that some parents face when booking holidays, particularly during school holidays. However, there is an expectation that all schools follow firm policies and stringent checks to ensure that there is a significant reduction in the number of absences during term time.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your full support in this matter by not taking your child out of school during term time.

## Year Group Welcome Letters & Home Learning

Today, your child will have received their year group newsletter for this half term – please keep this safe as it details useful information regarding your child's learning and important key dates for your diary. Your child will have also received home learning for their new topic. Do not forget that children are always learning - at home as well as at school. Experiences outside of school can be just as educational as at school. At the end of our 'Learning at Home' Policy (which is available on the school's website or from the school office) you will find lots of ideas, and links to websites, that you can access to compliment your child's learning at school. For up to date information and to find out what your child has been learning about in school, why not follow our twitter page @SitwellSchool Here are some of our tweets from the last school year.



Year 6 had a fantastic day learning about life during World War One, especially the gruesome parts! They were also enthralled by looking at postcards and letters from the era. The adults were fascinated, too!



Our Year 5 Recycling Conference has got off to a great start. I didn't realise our parents were so competitive!



Our Winter Book Week was once again very successful! The work produced is of an extremely high standard! Well done Sitwell!



5HS coding and sequencing on the CodeSpark app with our new iPads!





## Rotherham Charter



I am delighted to confirm that Sitwell Junior School has been reaccredited with Rotherham Charter Gold. Their visit to Sitwell Junior School included: a video presentation showcasing Charter practice, informal discussion with parents and grandparents, a tour of the school with two Year 6 children, and a fully updated portfolio that we looked at in discussion with Mrs Doughty (Charter Champion).

Read on for their detailed evaluation of the school:

The Charter principles are well integrated into the life of the school and very clearly showcased in the impressive and accessible Charter portfolio, which is one of the best we have seen. A clear summary leaflet of Charter practice has also been written and this could be circulated as an excellent Charter introduction for families new to the school.

The friendly, positive ethos can be felt from the moment you step foot in school. The welcome is heart-warming with smiles and greetings from all, as one parent explained, "Children always go in with a smile on their face and go home with a smile on their face." The Reception area celebrates diversity with the display celebrating: 'One school, many cultures, together we make the perfect blend.' Photographs of the entire staff team are clearly displayed.

There are many opportunities for children to develop their independence and leadership skills throughout school with initiatives such as: Power Cadets, Playground Buddies, School Council and Value Leaders. The children who showed us round school had an excellent understanding of initiatives and emphasised the importance of supporting others. There are a wide range of after-school clubs.

Communication and sharing of information is a huge strength. Staff are available in the mornings and also take the children to the playground at the end of the day, so they are available for parents and carers. Parents told us: "There's always somebody to welcome you"; "Very, very approachable." The school website, Twitter and e-mail communication are efficient and up-to-date.

The 'Sitwell Seven' values are brought to life throughout the school with fantastic personalised photographs of children living the values. There is a healthy emphasis on self-improvement and personal progress rather than comparison with others. Photographs celebrate children making progress together in a way which values all. A child told us, "I feel supported. The teachers help us to show improvement." Individual success is also celebrated in 'Pupil of the Term' assemblies.

There is an exciting curriculum celebrated with high quality displays throughout the school. Children are proud of their own and other pupils' work and are passionate and engaged about the topics they are working on. Parents and carers are given regular opportunities to share children's work through 'Express Days' and weekly morning activities.

During the visit it was clear that there is a relaxed and friendly ethos and all voices are heard, valued and respected. The parents, grandparent, children and Charter Champion we met communicated openly and honestly. There are regular questionnaires and feedback forms.

The portfolio of Charter evidence is impressive and well supported by our experience and discussions with others.

It is a pleasure to reaccredit Sitwell Junior School with Charter Gold!