

Newsletter – Autumn 2

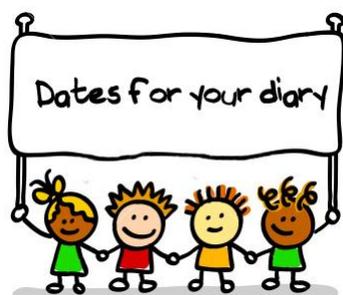
Friday 6th November 2020

Inspiring lives; creating possibilities; shaping futures

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 Twitter: @SitwellSchool



Here are some important dates for autumn term 2. This is not an exhaustive list as other events may be added as the term progresses – hopefully!

w/c	After School Provision recommences
02.11.20	
09.11.20	Travelling Books in school
13.11.20	Children in Need
16.11.20	Anti-bullying Week – Odd Socks Day
02.12.20	Flu immunisations
07.12.20	Y3 Pupil of the Term Assembly
08.12.20	Y4 Pupil of the Term Assembly
09.12.20	Y5 Pupil of the Term Assembly
10.12.20	Y6 Pupil of the Term Assembly
11.12.20	Christmas Celebration Day – Christmas Dinner Christmas Jumpers Santa Dash
19.12.20	Break up for Christmas

Thank you

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support during the first half term of this academic year. Our return to school after the unexpected closure, followed by the usual summer break, was a challenge for all of us. However, by working together we made it a successful return for everyone; most importantly the children who are happy to be back in school. Thank you all for your constructive feedback and positive comments in respect of our COVID-19 safety procedures. In light of further lockdown measures announced this week, we will continue to review our policies and procedures and inform you of any necessary changes as and when they occur.

Year Group Half-Termly Newsletters

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.

Your child may also have received home learning, if they have started a new topic for this half term. 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.

To keep up with the latest school news please follow the school's Twitter page @SitwellSchool which is regularly updated – you might even catch a glimpse of your child and their learning. You can also find copies of all correspondence on the school website www.sitwelljunior.uk

Parent Questionnaires

Thank you to the parents who took the time to complete the recent parent questionnaire which was sent out in an email and completed online via Google Forms. The responses were very positive overall. Here are some of the highlights: 98.7% of parents feel their child is happy and 98.8% believe their child feels safe at Sitwell Junior School. In addition to this, 96.3% of parents feel the school keeps them informed about what their child will be learning and 98.8% of parents feel their child does well at Sitwell. Understandably in the current climate, for some of the questions a number of the responses were recorded as 'Don't know' and from reading the 'Any other comments' section this was mainly due to the current situation preventing parents from coming into school and sharing in your child's learning. This half term, we will do all we can to share information and your child's learning with you remotely, for example through email, the school website and twitter. In response to your feedback on the questionnaires, please see the following frequently asked questions:

Where can I find out what my child will be learning about in school?

Each half term, your child will bring home a half termly newsletter. This will provide you with details about what your child will be learning in the core subjects of English and Maths as well as the topics your child will be learning. Our topics incorporate the foundation subjects, such as Geography, History, Art and also Science and Computing. Our Yearly Overviews, Topic Overviews and Knowledge Organisers can all be found on the school website: <https://www.sitwelljunior.uk/curriculum-statement/>

How can I support my child with learning at home?

The half termly newsletter mentioned above will provide details on how you can help your child with learning at home. Each half term, your child will also receive a Home Learning letter. This will provide details of a project they can carry out at home linked to their topic. For other ideas on how you can help your child with learning at home, please see our Learning at Home Policy or our school website: <https://www.sitwelljunior.uk/learning-at-home/>

How will I know how much progress my child is making?

Each term, we will have open afternoons/evenings during which you will be able to talk to your child's teacher about their attainment and progress towards end of year expectations. At the end of each term, we complete assessments which consist of both tests and teacher assessments in Reading, Writing, Maths and GPS. These are discussed during our open afternoon/evening appointments. At the end of the academic year, you will receive a Record of Achievement which will provide a detailed report of your child's progress throughout the year across the primary curriculum.

How can I get in touch with my child's class teacher?

Under normal circumstances, we operate an open door policy and welcome parents into school at every opportunity. We usually arrange curriculum express days for the children to share their learning with you and invite you to share in your child's successes during assemblies and other celebration events. You are also given the chance to catch the class teacher for an informal chat after school. However, none of this is possible at the moment and this is as difficult for us as it is for you. Therefore, if you need to talk to your child's class teacher, please telephone the school office, or email the school (info@sitwelljunior.uk). In the next few weeks, we are hoping to get Class Dojo up and running, which is a communication app that should help us to connect with our families more easily. So watch this space for more information!

Children in Need 2020

On **Friday 13th November**, we will be holding a 'dress down' day for Children in Need. The children can come in non-uniform, their favourite party clothes, something spotty, or even a football kit – they can choose! All we ask is that the children bring a donation of £1 to raise money for Children in Need.



Anti-bullying Week 2020

The theme for Anti-Bullying Week 2020 is: United Against Bullying. Anti-Bullying Week will happen from **Monday 16th - Friday 20th November** and will start with Odd Socks Day to mark the first day of Anti-Bullying Week.

Odd Socks Day

All you need to do is wear odd socks! It's a great way to celebrate what makes us all unique in Anti-Bullying Week! It will be held on **Monday 16th November 2020**, the first day of Anti-Bullying Week.



Travelling Books

As always in November, we have 'Travelling Books' in school next week, helping us raise money to buy more books in school. During the week, classes will have the opportunity to browse the book fair. However, we will not be able to open the fair before or after school due to the current circumstances. If your child would like to purchase a book, complete the pre-browse order form and send in the correct amount, or alternatively you may phone Travelling Books on 0330 088 5756.



Christmas Celebration Day

On **Friday 11th December**, we are planning a Christmas celebration day. On this day, children can come to school wearing a Christmas jumper and the school meal will be a Christmas dinner style grab bag option which will consist of a turkey sandwich and roast potatoes. The children will also take part in a 'Santa Dash' in the playground, for which we ask them to contribute £1 to a very worthy, local charity – Rotherham Hospice. We would like the children to wear their best Christmas hat or head gear for this part of the day. In the afternoon, the children will take part in some Christmas activities and games with their class.

Christmas Concerts

Sadly, we are unable to perform our Christmas concerts in the usual way this year. However, we are hoping to put something together to share with parents and are currently looking into alternatives ways of doing this. As soon as we have more information on this, we will let you know.



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