

Y4 Welcome Letter

Monday 6th September 2021

Inspiring lives; creating possibilities; shaping futures

www.sitwelljunior.uk

info@sitwelljunior.uk



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Dear Parents/Carers,

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 for your child during their time in Year 4. 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 4 Topics

Autumn 1 – **Art Bot!**

Autumn 2 / Spring 1 – **Language**

Spring 2 – **Transport and Trade**

Summer 1/2 – **Land of Hope and Glory**

To encourage a love of reading, we are going to study at least one key book per term, linked to the current topic. In Year 4 the books will be:

Art Bot! – **Stormbreaker by Anthony Horowitz**

Language – **Beowulf by Michael Morpurgo**

Transport and Trade – **The Train to Impossible Places by P.G. Bell**

Land of Hope and Glory – **The Railway Children by E. Nesbit**

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 year. For most of our topics, we plan to take children out on a day trip. These visits will further develop children's understanding of each topic and will help to fully immerse them in their learning. Due to current circumstances, if we cannot attend the visits outlined, we will look to host some engage days in school.

Art Bot

This is a science led topic with a big focus on electricity. Our plan this year is to visit Magna Science Centre. Here we will take part in the big circuits workshop where the children will be challenged to make big circuits from a range of different materials.

To express their learning from the topic, children will use their understanding of electrical circuits to design and create their own clown face.

Language

For this topic, we hope to visit Weston Park Museum in Sheffield. Based on the rare Anglo-Saxon 'Benty Grange' helmet, the children will explore who the owner of the helmet may have been. Using role play and craft activities children will find out more about life in Anglo-Saxon times in this exciting workshop. Who was the man from Benty Grange?

Transport and Trade

To engage the children, we will visit the South Yorkshire Transport Museum. Children will be transported to the museum on a heritage bus, provided by the museum. Here they will see a range of modes of transport from past and present as part of their guided tour.

To express their learning from the topic, children will design and make their own vehicle!

Land of Hope and Glory

To engage the children, we will take part in a St George's Day celebration, eating, drinking and taking part in all things English. In addition to this, we plan to take children out on a school trip. However, the details of this trip are yet to be confirmed.

Our Home Learning Schedule

Times Tables Practice

In Y4, all children are expected to recall the multiplication and division facts for the multiplication tables to 12 x 12. This means that they need to practise counting in multiples and have a rapid recall of any of the above multiplication facts. At home, this can be supported by the use of the children's online Times Tables Rock Stars account.

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 the colour band appropriate to their ability (in terms of reading and understanding) and a non-fiction book from the library.

This 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 will soon have login details to 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 4 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 to follow.

PE and Swimming

The Year 4 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. Year 4 will have P.E. on the following days:

4WN - Tuesday and Friday

4EL - Tuesday and Thursday

4ZN - Tuesday and Thursday

PE kit is as follows: white t-shirt, black shorts/leggings, black pumps (indoor), black tracksuit, and trainers (outdoor).

Swimming sessions will begin towards the end of March and will last for 12 weeks. We will provide more details nearer the time.

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 offer your support to school in our endeavour to offer broad educational experiences to our children.

Thank you for your continued support

Mrs O. Nixon Mrs J. Winters Miss E. Longstaff Mr Z. Nazir

(The Year 4 Team)