

Y5 Welcome Letter

Monday 6th September 2021

Inspiring lives; creating possibilities; shaping futures

www.sitwelljunior.uk

info@sitwelljunior.uk



Twitter: @SitwellSchool

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 5. 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 5 Topics

Autumn 1 and 2 – **Up, Up and Away**

Spring 1 – **Stargazers**

Spring 2 – **Who Wants to be a Millionaire?**

Summer 1 and 2 – **The Explorers**

To encourage a love of reading, we are going to study at least one key book per topic. In Year 5 the books will be:

Up, Up and Away – **The Many Worlds of Albie Bright by Christopher Edge**

Stargazers – **Wonder by R. J. Palacio**

Who Wants to be a Millionaire? – **Street Child by Berlie Doherty and Oliver Twist by Charles Dickens**

The Explorers – **Running Wild by Michael Morpurgo**

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 these. They are all available online from Amazon or The Book Depository

and these websites often have discounts and special offers on children's books. 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. The children will also attend the following trips to support this further:

Up, Up and Away – Gulliver's Valley Theme Park

During our Up, Up and Away topic, the children will be learning all about the forces involved in roller coasters. They will study Isaac Newton and his discovery of gravity, as well as learn about famous aviators such as Amelia Earhart, Amy Johnson and the Wright Brothers.

We are planning to visit the nearby Gulliver's Valley Theme Park so that the children can experience the excitement of a day bursting with thrills, chills and adventure, whilst also learning more about forces. This day will help them learn more about the scientific forces that make theme park rides move. The children will also take part in a roller coaster forces workshop session as part of this day.

Stargazers – The National Space Centre

During their visit to The National Space Centre, the children will experience a wide variety of interactive hands-on galleries to learn and explore more about our amazing solar system. They will find out the answers to questions such as: how are stars formed? What is gravity like on other planets? And what is it like to be an Astronaut? Furthermore, they will experience a 360 degree Planetarium show and take part in informative workshops and activities to learn more about space and the solar system.

Who Wants to be a Millionaire? – Victorian Experience Day

The children will experience a day in the life of a Victorian child! They will be learning more about what school would have been like in the Victorian era, as well as what life would have been like for both the rich and poor of Victorian England.

The Explorers – Yorkshire Wildlife Park

During our summer topic, we will be visiting the Yorkshire Wildlife Park where the children will learn about the different fascinating biomes of our world and the amazing animals that have adapted to live in each climate. With a particular focus on rainforest creatures, the day is sure to be memorable and help the children to discover so much about amazing creatures of the world!

We really appreciate your support in helping us to provide these memorable experiences for our children as they help to bring our curriculum alive. Unfortunately, if we receive insufficient contributions towards the cost of any experience, we will be unable to go ahead and will have to cancel.

PE/Games

The Year 5 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 5 will have P.E. on Mondays and Wednesdays. PE kit is as follows: white t-shirt, black shorts/leggings, black pumps (indoor), black tracksuit, and trainers (outdoor).

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 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 5 and project ideas are published half termly. Children will come home with a list of ideas for a project from their class teacher or you can come up with an idea of your own linked to the half term's topic. The aim of this type of home learning is that you and your child learn together, so the more you support them with this project the more learning they will get out of it. Please see the separate letter for home learning ideas.

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.

R. Evans

T. Snow

M. Chapman

Miss R. Evans

Mr T. Snow

Miss M. Chapman

(The Year 5 Team)