

Newsletter – Spring 1

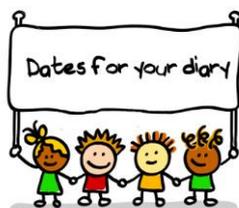
Friday 7th January 2022

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Here are some important dates for spring term 1. This is not an exhaustive list as other events may be added as the term progresses.

06.01.22	Y3/Y4 Celebrating Differences Assembly
07.01.22	Y5/Y6 Celebrating Differences Assembly
21.01.22	Life Skills Day
26.01.22	Y5/6 Sports Hall Athletics Competition
18.02.22	INSET Day School closed for children
19.02.22	Break up for Half Term
28.02.22	Return to School
01.03.22- 03.03.22	Parent Consultation Meetings (Further information to follow)

Fundraising

I am pleased to announce that we raised a total of £427.95 for Children in Need, £157 for Unite the Uniforms, £70 for our Christmas Jumper Day for the Rotherham Hospice and £279 for our Christmas Hamper organised by Friends of Sitwell. Thank you for your donations!



Message from Mrs Dawson



Happy New Year everyone and welcome back to school for the start of 2022. I hope that everyone had a great Christmas. The children have made a wonderful start on their return to school; every time I visit their classrooms, they are very keen to chat and share their news or work with me. Seeing their learning in action is a particular highlight for me!

I really wanted to take this opportunity to recognise the amazing pupils, staff and parents that make Sitwell an incredible place to learn and work and to thank you all for your continuing support over the last term. Once again, the children have risen to our high expectations in terms of their learning and behaviour. Visitors to school, including colleagues from our Trust, have been blown away by our children's positive attitude and commitment to their learning. They have also been impressed by how polite and well-mannered our children are. Who could ask for more?

Year Group Half-Termly Newsletters

On Monday, you will receive your child's year group newsletter for this half term – please keep this safe as it details useful information regarding your child's learning. Your child will also receive some new 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. 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 and sign up to Marvellous Me?



Parent Views

Thank you to all of the parents and carers who responded to the online questionnaire. We are delighted that we had 101 responses and that the outcome was positive. Of all of the parents who shared an opinion, 94% of parents said that their child is happy at school and 95% agreed that their child feels safe. Also, thank you for your lovely comments about the staff in school - these have been passed on and were gratefully received. For those parents who recorded their child's name in the survey and raised any questions, we have already been able to address some of these through conversations with the class teacher. Others will be followed up over the coming half term. If you are able to record your child's name on the questionnaire, this allows us to deal with any of your specific queries and speak to the most relevant members of staff.

Here are some of the comments on the questionnaires made by some of our parents:

- "I think the school is brilliant overall."
- "Exceptional. The school has done so well dealing with the whole Covid situation. My child has been happy in every year group."
- "Staff are approachable and try to make time where possible to listen to concerns."
- "Everything is flowing really nicely at school at the moment, drop offs and pickups are easy and quick, which is great for the coming winter, not much waiting around or messing around."

You Said, We Did

We are pleased with the responses given in the questionnaires and are working hard to improve all areas of school especially those where parents would like to see particular improvements.

Communication in School

One area raised by two parents relates to the different communication systems used by school and the confusion that this can cause. As such, we will stop using Teachers2Parents with immediate effect and the admin team will now only use Arbor as the school's main method of communicating important information to you as a parent. As a cashless school, we will continue to use parentpay.com as a method of payment for school trips, breakfast club and after school clubs and the website www.live-kitchen.co.uk will still need to be used to pre-order and pay for school meals.

Uniform

Three parents raised questions about uniform. Children have been asked to wear their PE kits on their PE days to ensure that no learning time is wasted on changing into and out of PE kits at the start and end of lessons. This ensures that their learning time is maximised. In terms of black trainers, these can be purchased from a variety of shopping outlets such as Asda, Primark, Sports Direct, M&S and other similar stores. In terms of school uniform, as outlined in the government statutory guidance – Cost of school uniforms - we will ensure we are compliant with much of the guidance by September 2022.

SITWELL 7 VALUES

RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY, RELATIONSHIPS, RESILIENCE, RESOURCEFULNESS, REFLECTION, RISK-TAKING

Home Learning

We also received a couple of comments referring to the lack of homework provided by the school. This is always an area that divides parents. However, there is a clear rationale as to why we prefer to set home learning tasks rather than weekly homework, which is supported by the latest evidence based educational research produced by the Education Endowment Foundation, which found the following:

- the impact of homework at primary school level is low
- homework has the greatest impact if it links to classroom work and increases a specific area of knowledge or develops fluency in a particular area (for example, reading or times tables)
- the impact of homework diminishes as the amount of time pupils spend on it increases
- studies involving digital technology have greater impact

With this in mind, there is no formal timetable of 'homework' for children at Sitwell Junior School. We only ask children, parents/carers to commit to the following:

- Read with your child for around 10-20 minutes every day and record this on the Marvellous Me app Reading Log link
- Practise times tables using the Times Tables Rockstars website or app regularly (<https://trockstars.com/>)
- Practise reading, phonics and comprehension regularly using the Reading Eggs online learning platform (<https://readingeggs.co.uk/>)
- Encourage children to practise their weekly spellings.
- Complete a half-termly project linked to the learning being covered in class that half term.

As a consequence of this feedback, so that you are able to support your child with their learning at home and to ensure you are aware of what your child will be learning over the school year, we have adapted our long-term plans so that you can see what your child will be learning week by week in every subject. The autumn term plans are now available on the school website and the spring term plans have started to be added and will be available in the next two weeks. As you can see from the plans, your child receives a broad and balanced curriculum and a good range of subjects are delivered. For a copy of the Learning at Home Policy, which provides further suggestions of activities your child can complete at home, please click the link here: <https://www.sitwelljunior.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2022/01/SJS-Learning-at-Home-Policy-2021.pdf>

Once again we would like to thank all of the parents and carers who responded to the questionnaire. We take all of the feedback on board and will continue to make changes throughout the course of this year. When it is safe to do so, we will also be introducing half-termly coffee mornings where you will be able to come into school, grab a coffee or tea, meet other parents and speak to school staff. Further information to follow.

Like always, if you have any queries or concerns please do not hesitate to contact the school so that these can be resolved. Alternatively, there are a number of staff available on the playground every morning, including myself (Mrs Dawson, Headteacher) and Mrs Walker (Deputy Headteacher) should you wish to speak to somebody in person and class teachers are always available at the end of the day once they have safely handed over their children to parents/carers. Open evenings are also an ideal time to ask any questions or share any concerns you may have so that these can be resolved. Finally, a complete breakdown of the questionnaire can be found here: <https://www.sitwelljunior.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2022/01/Parent-Questionnaire-November-2021-1.pdf>



Bronze Awards



Well done to the following children who have reached 50 smiles and attained their Bronze certificates and prizes.

Y3 Pupils

Aya, Ava, Leo, Hiba, Jack, Finlay, Teddy, Eleanor, Sofia, Sadaf, Darcie, Amelia, Alexandra and Karmen

Y4 Pupils

Usman, Hannah, Darcy, Emilija, Finley, Emma-Kate, Erica, Chloe, Lucy, Aiyla and Aminah,

Y5 Pupils

Amna, Rayaana, Benjamin, Hassan, Manvir, Laila, Mohammed, Declan, Eden, Zikra, Sonam, Isabel, Aqsa, Anja, Jasmine, Aminah and Penny



Head Boys and Head Girls



Well done to the following children who have been assigned the role of Head Boy or Head Girl in Y6:

Mika, Almos, Haris A, Safiyah and Hibba.

Values Leaders

Well done to the following children who have been assigned the role of a value leader in Y6:

Affan, Aisha, Neve, Adon, Ayaan, Hajra, Ashim, Alishba, Kim, Faiza, Sophie, Dareesha, Jessica, Bilal and Aafiah.

Pupil of the Term

Just before Christmas we held our Pupil of the Term assemblies. A big well done to the following children who were nominated by their class teachers for showing the Sitwell Seven values throughout Term 1.

Sadaf, Darcie, Ava, Ibrahim, Ali, Alexandra, Kamila, Usman, Finley, Aminah, Aisha, Amin, Haider, Penny, Tudor, Isabella, Isabel, Declan, Haadee, Yusuf, Bushra, Adon, Moazz and Isaak.

They all received their certificate and book prize in their year group assembly during the last week of term.



Y6 Prefects



Well done to the following children who have received their purple prefect badges!

Safiya, Aafiah, Ayaan, Adon, Ashim, Neve, Bilal, Mika, Almoszamil, Ghyll, Oliver, Max, Ethan, Zaynab, Evan, Abdul, Haadee, Hajra, Zayan, Kim, Sophie, Alishba, Rayyan, Jessica, Safa, Affan, Sam, Aiden, Moaaz, Moizz, Badar, Bushra, Haris, Florence, Haroon, Hibba, Lidia, Isaak, Niamh, Nina, Isabelle, Haris, Hashir, Lily, Zeeshan, Alex, Dareesha, William, Faiza and Aishah.

Well done to the following children who have received their bronze prefect badges!

Alishba, Jessica, Ashim, Isabelle, Aafiah, Mika, Haris, Aishah, Dareesha and Sophie.

Winter Displays

Just before the Christmas break, we held our Winter Book Week, where each class became immersed in a winter story. As a result, the work produced is of an extremely high standard. Wouldn't you agree?

