

Year 3 Welcome Letter

Monday 5th September 2022

Inspiring lives; creating possibilities; shaping futures

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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 3. 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 3 Topics

Autumn Term – **Rock ‘n’ Roll**

Spring Term - **Extreme Earth**

Summer Term – **Ancient Civilizations**

To encourage a love of reading, we are going to study at least one key book per half term, linked to the current topic. In Year 3, the books will be:

Rock ‘n’ Roll – **Stone Age Boy by Satoshi Kitamura and The Wild Way Home by Sophie Kirtley**

Extreme Earth- **The Abominable by Eva Ibbotson**

Ancient Civilizations- **Egyptian Cinderella by Shirley Clemo, Secrets of a Sun King by Emma Carroll and The Orchard Book of First Greek Myths by Saviour Pirotta.**

It would be greatly appreciated by the school if, wherever possible, you could supply your child with a copy of the books mentioned above, 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 course of the year. For each topic, our original plan is to take the children out on a day trip. These visits will support your child’s learning during the topic, and will be an informative, fun way to

engage the children and really immerse them in their learning. At the moment, we anticipate that they will be as follows:

Rock 'n' Roll – Creswell Crag

As an engaging start to our topic, we will delve into the mysteries of the Stone Age in Britain, walking in the footsteps of the Ice Age hunter and entering a world of fire and flint. Whilst here, we will discover a legacy etched in stone with cave art 10,000 years older than the pyramids and explore life on the edge of the Ice Age world. We will participate in an activity inside one of the caves, and educate ourselves in hands-on workshops which allow us to touch on prehistoric art, animals of the Ice Age, rocks and their uses or evolution.

Extreme Earth – Cannon Hall Farm

On our trip to Cannon Hall farm we will experience life on a working farm. We will be met by a tour guide who will help show us around the farm and take the time to answer any questions we have. We will visit the curious critters in the reptile house, developing our knowledge of chameleons, leaf cutter ants and cockroaches. Moreover, we will watch on as sheep and ferrets race head to head and learn how milk is produced during the cow and goat milking demonstrations. Additionally, we will observe the meerkats being fed and learn all about the Shire horse's farming history.

PE

The children will have two PE sessions each week. Weather permitting, one will be outdoor and one indoor all year round. We ask that the children wear their PE kits to school on their timetabled PE day. This term, PE days for Y3 are as follows:

3HT - Wednesday and Friday

3KL - Monday and Friday

3ND - Monday and Friday

PE kit is as follows: white t-shirt, black shorts/leggings, black pumps (indoor), black tracksuit and trainers (outdoor). For further information, please see the Welcome Pack information.

Home Learning

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 reading spine as a book to take home.

This year, we will continue 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.**

Times Tables Practice

By the end of Y3, all children are expected to recall the multiplication and division facts for the multiplication tables 2,3,4,5,8 and 10. 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. Logins will be set up and sent home with the children in the Autumn term.

Topic

We encourage independent learning in Year 3 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.

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

Thank you for your continued support.

H. Sim

N. Doughty

K. Levick

Miss H Sim

Mrs N Doughty

Mrs K Levick

(The Year 3 Team)