

# Y5 Welcome Letter

## Monday 5th September 2022

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*Inspiring lives; creating possibilities; shaping futures*

[www.sitwelljunior.uk](http://www.sitwelljunior.uk)

[info@sitwelljunior.uk](mailto: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 – **The Magnificent Maya**

Spring 1 and 2 – **The Terrible Tudors**

Summer 1 and 2 – **Investigating our World**

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:

The Magnificent Maya – **The Curse of the Maya by Andy Lonergan and Johnny Pearce**

The Terrible Tudors – **Treason by Berlie Doherty**

Investigating our World – **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:

### **The Magnificent Maya - a virtual reality (VR) workshop**

During our Magnificent Maya topic, the children will be learning all about what it meant to live in a Mayan civilisation and understand how they changed the world. We'll be looking at some of the myths that existed and how they worshipped their ancient gods in many weird and wonderful ways.

We are planning to invite a virtual reality workshop into school where the children can explore first hand what it meant to be Mayan and to encapsulate themselves in ancient Maya civilisation through the means of virtual reality. The children will develop a knowledge of how the Mayan city of Chichen-Itza flourished around 600 AD, what the savage and barbaric sport of Pok-A-Tok was and how people were sacrificed at the top of El Castillo (Temple of Kukulkan).

### **The Terrible Tudors - Gainsborough Old Hall**

Within our spring topic, The Tudors, children will delve into the fascinating world of Tudor England, paying particular attention to the life and times of King Henry VIII. We are planning to hold a Tudor trial and sentence somebody in school where parents will be invited to come in and be our jury.

The children will then be invited to a banquet for Henry VIII at Gainsborough Old Hall! Through costume and role play, pupils will discover the people who lived and worked at Gainsborough Old Hall. They'll be welcomed to explore the kitchen, take part in hands-on activities to prepare a feast fit for the king and learn about Tudor etiquette. Finally, they'll take on the role of the guards to keep the king safe, as well as jesters and musicians to entertain him, alongside experiencing a Tudor household and Henry VIII's court.

### **Investigating our World – Peak District Explorers**

During our summer topic, we will be visiting the Peak District National Park, an area of outstanding natural beauty to learn how to become explorers and use essential map skills to navigate around challenging terrains and undulating landscapes. On a multi-sensory journey, pupils will be challenged to discover more about the landscape they are in. Through using, designing and exploring different maps and map skills, pupils will have a fun hands-on day using different maps in the real world.

Throughout the topic we will pay particular attention to South America where we will understand the key role that the Amazon rainforest plays and how deforestation is directly affecting the rest 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. The 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 reading spine as their book to take home.

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 has 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.

*T. Snow*

*M. Chapman*

*Z. Nazir*

Mr T. Snow

Miss M. Chapman

Mr Z. Nazir

(The Year 5 Team)