



Year 5 Newsletter Autumn Term 1 | Tuesday 5th September 2023

Resilience Respect Reflection

Sitwell 7 Values

Resourcefulness Relationships

Responsibility Risk-taking

3 Rules: Ready, Respectful, Safe

Looking forward...Year 5 Topics...

The Magnificent Maya - a Virtual Reality Workshop

During our Autumn Term 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

In the Spring Term, 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 there. 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.

An Introduction....

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 newsletter 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.

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.

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. Our class reading books in Year 5 will be as follows:

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**

This year, we are continuing with 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 a form that should be submitted weekly before Friday morning. If you are yet to sign up to Marvellous me, please contact the office who will be happy to help.

In addition to this, your child should 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. If your child has forgotten their log in details, the class teacher can access these for them.

Supporting your child at home...

Our long term plans, outlining the objectives we will cover in our maths, English and topic sessions, are currently being updated and will be available to view on our school website very soon. If you wish to support your child at home, or to discuss their learning with them, please use the following link, which will take you directly to the relevant part of our school website:

[Long Term Plans](#)

Reminders!

P.E. Schedule

The Year 5 children will have two sessions of PE every week, with PE days being on Tuesday for all three classes, and then Monday for 5TS, Thursday for 5ZN and Friday for 5WW. We ask that all children come to school in their P.E. kit on the days that they have P.E. PE kit is as follows: white t-shirt, black shorts/leggings or black tracksuit, and black trainers.

Twitter and Marvellous Me

If you would like to keep up-to-date with your child's learning in school, then check out the school's Twitter page. The account details are listed at the top of this letter. We also encourage you to track your child's learning on the Marvellous Me app.

Times Tables

We encourage children to practise their times tables on **Times Table Rock Stars**. These skills are so important and are one of the key building blocks in maths.

Year 5 Home Learning

Autumn Term



Below are some home learning project ideas related to this term's topic, 'Magnificent Maya'. This home learning encourages the children to become investigative learners and to develop their enquiry skills, independence and creativity.

The first project needs to be completed and returned to school by **Monday 16th October** and the second by **Monday 18th December**. If your child needs any paper, or other resources that school can provide, please encourage them to ask their class teacher.

Project Ideas

- Find out about the history of the Maya. Could you make a timeline of events?
- Research two different things which were invented by the Maya. Could you create a fact file about them?
- Create a set of rules to explain how to play the game Pok-a-Tok.
- Research the different Mayan gods or Kings and create a google slides presentation about these.
- What are Mayan hieroglyphics? Can you write something using them?
- Make a moving Mayan calendar.
- Design and build a Mayan village, temple or house out of cardboard.
- Cook something using sweetcorn or chocolate (Mayan cuisine). Make sure to have adult supervision!

Please can you make sure your child brings their projects into school on the following days:

Project 1 – Monday 16th October

Project 2 – Monday 18th December

This will give time for the children to share their projects with the rest of the class before the end of each half term.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mr Nazir, Mr Snow, Mrs Winters and Mrs Walker.

The Year 5 Team