Sitwell JUNIOR SCHOOL

Inspiring lives; creating possibilities; shaping futures

Year 5 Newsletter Autumn Term 2 | Monday 2nd November 2026

Looking Back… What a Brilliant Autumn 1!

Welcome back! We hope you all had a fantastic, restful half-term break.

First and foremost, the Year 5 team want to say a huge congratulations to the children. We have been absolutely blown away by how brilliantly they have settled into the new school year. Their behaviour has been exemplary, and their buzz for learning has made our classrooms such joyful places to be.

Last half term brought a lot of change, but the children took it completely in their stride. They showed incredible flexibility—and a mountain of resilience—as they moved between different classrooms and teachers for Reading, Writing and Maths. We are already seeing this layout pay off big time, and the children can see it too!

Beyond the core subjects, they have thrown themselves headfirst into history, uncovering the secrets of the ancient Maya civilisation, and turning into mini-scientists to explore the power of forces. A particular highlight was definitely our Discover VR workshop. Watching the children navigate a virtual Maya village with such genuine excitement was a joy. Even better was hearing them recall and share their knowledge with such confidence—they truly did themselves proud.

We have no doubt that this wonderful energy will keep rolling right through the next half term. Thank you so much to all our parents and families—your support makes a world of difference and we appreciate it immensely!

Looking Forward… Autumn 2…

We have another incredibly busy and exciting half term ahead of us in Year 5!

First up, we are continuing our fantastic topic, **'Magnificent Maya'**! This half term, we are taking a geographical look at this fascinating civilisation. The children will be studying a range of maps to understand exactly where the Maya lived and how they spread across the countries that made up Mesoamerica.

In **Art**, the children will be getting hands-on with clay to sculpt their very own Mayan ceramics, inspired by real ancient artefacts. Meanwhile, in **Spanish**, we will be boosting our language skills so we could theoretically survive and thrive in modern-day Mesoamerica!

Here is what else we will be exploring across the curriculum:

- **As Mathematicians:** We will be developing our core skills across the four key operations: addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division.
- **As Writers:** We will be diving into the world of narrative texts, learning how to hook a reader and weave a brilliant story.
- **As Scientists:** We are blasting off into space! The children will be exploring our incredible solar system and learning all about the planets within it.

🎵 **Young Voices – An Unmissable Opportunity!** 🎵

During our Music lessons this half term, the classrooms will be filled with song as we prepare for our spectacular **Young Voices performance on Wednesday 24th February**!

While this event happens outside the normal school day, we strongly encourage every single child to take part. It is a genuinely magical, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for them to perform on a grand stage in front of a massive audience. It is an experience that children talk about for years and truly never forget!

Haven't signed up yet? If you haven't given permission for your child to join us yet, please do so as soon as possible so they don't miss out on the magic. For a sneak peek at what's in store, why not take a look at the **Young Voices website**.

Special mentions!

Congratulations to all of the children that have achieved Star Learner of the Week, or have read 5 or more books from the Year 5 reading spine. If your child has an achievement from outside of school to share, please email info@sitwelljunior.uk with details of the achievement and your child's name so that we can share this in future newsletters.

Supporting your Year 5 Child at Home

Below you will find links to recommended online resources that you and your child may find useful to further their learning.

At Sitwell, we understand the importance of **all** children being **fluent readers**, a life-skill that underpins any learning in all subjects. Our aim is for all children to **read often**, **read widely** and to develop **a love of reading**. Therefore, when supporting your child or encouraging them to further their learning independently, **please always make reading the priority**. Click here and here for tips on reading with your child.

Reading, the instant recall of **times tables** up to 12 x 12 and your child's **weekly spellings** are the best places to start when supporting your child. All other suggestions below should be seen as a bonus should you or your child wish to make use of them.

If you have any questions, please speak to your child's class teacher. Thank you for your continued support!

Our Curriculum

Please click here for our **Long Term Plans** which provide an overview of what your child will be learning in each subject each half-term. These plans will help keep you informed about what your child is learning at school so that you can support them at home and/or discuss their learning with them.

Reading

School reading books: Every day, your child should bring home a **fiction** or **non-fiction** book from the Year 5 Reading Spine. If your child is still working on phonics, then they will also bring home a phonics book too. It really is vital that children engage with these books as they have been carefully selected to broaden children's knowledge, build their vocabulary and allow them to explore different themes. Click here and here for tips on reading with your child.

Reading Logs: Please record your child's reading at home in their reading diary by **Friday morning** each week. We strongly encourage all children to read at home for **15 minutes** at least **4 times per week**. The most important thing your child can do above **anything else** is read as much and as widely as possible! A dojo point will be given for achieving at least four reads during the week.

Spelling

Click here for your child's weekly spellings.

Maths

Times Tables Rockstars: This is a resource that your child will be very familiar with! It is a great way, but not the only way, for your child to develop confidence and master their tables up to 12 x 12.

White Rose Maths - Video Lessons: Click here to find **video lessons** for each maths lesson your child is taught at school. First, select your child's year group and then the relevant 'block' (e.g. Place Value). We recommend working through each video of a specific block **after** your child has completed the corresponding lesson at school.

White Rose Maths - Workbooks: Click here for some **free maths workbooks** with answers included. First, select your child's year group. Here you will find a workbook for each 'block' of learning. To make the most of this resource, we recommend working through each workbook **after** your child has completed that block of learning at school. We also recommend having a look at the corresponding workbooks of previous year groups to increase your child's confidence and retention (e.g. a year 5 child could look at the year 3, 4 and 5 fractions workbooks, as appropriate).

Maths Bot: Click here for a brilliant online resource which makes the most of Artificial Intelligence! Maths Bot is free and instantly generates arithmetic questions, both mixed practice or on one specific topic. Once you input your answers, it even marks it for you.

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.

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 sweet corn or chocolate (Mayan cuisine). Make sure to have adult supervision!

Thank you for your continued support.

Miss Chapman, Mrs Nixon, Mrs Smith, Mrs Winters and Mrs Walker.

The Year 5 Team