Sitwell JUNIOR SCHOOL

Inspiring lives; creating possibilities; shaping futures

Whole-School Newsletter Autumn Term 2 I Monday 2nd November 2026

I am delighted to share that our new school year is off to a fantastic start! 🏫✨

Our children have settled beautifully into their new routines, embracing school life with real enthusiasm and making wonderful new friendships. It has been so heartening to see their eagerness to learn and their growing confidence in the classroom every single day. 😊

Our staff have worked tirelessly to build strong, positive relationships with the children, greeting them warmly every morning and after lunch, establishing clear routines and consistently encouraging positive behaviour. This sense of 'botheredness' and consistency shows our pupils just how much we care about them and how committed we are to their success.

In the classrooms, the children continue to impress us with their brilliant attitudes and determination to do their best. Every year group has already embarked on some truly exciting learning journeys:

- 🦴 **Year 3** have fully immersed themselves in their **'Rock 'n' Roll'** topic, stepping back in time to discover the Stone Age!
- 🛡️ **Year 4** have been travelling back through history in their **'Invasion'** topic and are looking forward to their upcoming visit to Clifton Park Museum to learn even more about Roman Britain.
- 🥽 **Year 5** have been captivated by the **Maya civilisation** and were particularly enthusiastic about their immersive PrimeVR workshop experience!
- ❄️ **Year 6** have delved deep into the **Frozen World** and had a fantastic, hands-on time during their visit to Crucial Crew.

So much incredible learning has already taken place this term, and there is still so much more to look forward to! Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

📌 Dates for your Diary 📌

(Subject to Change)

02.11.26 First Day of Autumn Term 2
02.11.26 Y4 Visit to Clifton Park Museum
03.11.26 Halloween Dress-Up Day
04.11.26 Y6 School Nurse Visit (Height & Weight Checks)
05.11.26 Y5 WMIM Sleep Workshops
10.11.26, 14:00 Y4 Roman Assembly for Parents
11.11.26 Remembrance Day
13.11.26 Children in Need Day
13.11.26 EFL Utilita Kids Cup
13.11.26 Y5 & Y6 Understanding Exploitation Workshop
16.11.26 Anti-Bullying Week & Odd Socks Day
16.11.26 BBC Live Session - Anti-Bullying
16.11.26 Road Safety Week
16.11.26-20.11.26 Travelling Book Fair in School
18.11.26 Public Health Oral Workshops & Disclosing Activity
24.11.26 Y3 Visit to Clifton Park Museum
24.11.26 Y6 Visit to Broom Methodist Church - Experience Eco
25.11.26 Y5 Visit to Broom Methodist Church - Experience Eco
26.11.26 Superhero Day (Woodland Provision)
27.11.26 Professional Learning Day – School Closed
30.11.26 Assessment Week in School
01.12.26 Y4 IEP Reviews with Parents (Telephone Appointments)
01.12.26 Y4 WMIM Sleep Workshops
02.12.26 Y3 IEP Reviews with Parents (Telephone Appointments)
04.12.26, 09:30-10:15 Y3 Stone Age Dress Rehearsal
04.12.26, 13:45-14:30 Y3 Stone Age Parent Assembly
08.12.26 Y5 IEP Reviews with Parents (Telephone Appointments)
08.12.26, 13:30 Drama Club Dress Rehearsal
08.12.26, 15:15 Drama Club Performance for Parents
09.12.26 Y6 IEP Reviews with Parents (Telephone Appointments)
10.12.26, 14:00-15:30 Winter Fair
11.12.26, 10:00 Lower School Christmas Assembly
11.12.26, 14:00 Upper School Christmas Assembly
14.12.26, 10:00 Upper School Christmas Assembly
14.12.26, 14:00 Lower School Christmas Assembly
15.12.26 Y3 Pupil of the Term Assembly
15.12.26 Christmas Dinner Day/Jumper Day
16.12.26 Y4 Pupil of the Term Assembly
17.12.26 Y5 Pupil of the Term Assembly
17.12.26 Christmas Parties
17.12.26, 16:00-17:15 Christmas Disco
18.12.26 Y6 Pupil of the Term Assembly
18.12.26 School Closes for the Christmas Break
04.01.27 Children Return to School

😊 Our School Community 😊

I'd like to begin with a huge thank you! 👏

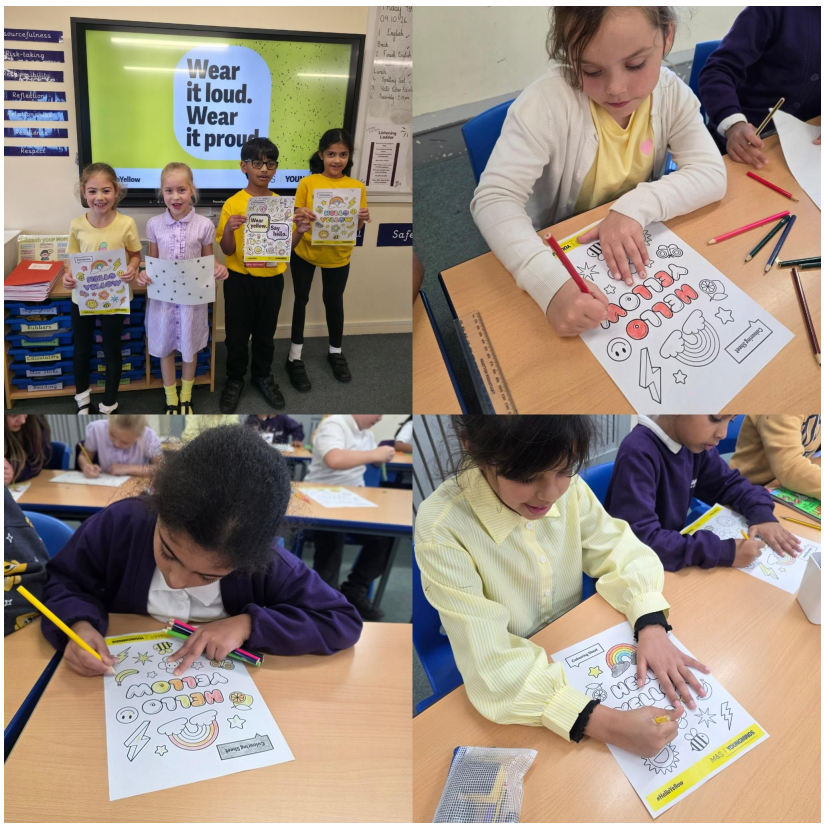
Last half term saw the successful launch of our parent workshops, and we couldn't be more delighted with the fantastic turnout and engagement. We know just how vital it is to build strong, positive partnerships between school and home, and these sessions are such a wonderful way to strengthen that connection. We really hope you're enjoying them as much as we are, and that they're helping to give you useful insights into the strategies we use in school to support your child's learning and development. These workshops will continue in Autumn 2. 💡✨

Back in September, we held our annual **Macmillan Coffee Morning**, and thanks to your incredible generosity, we raised a brilliant **£383**! ☕🍰 It was so heartening to see so many of you coming together to enjoy some delicious treats while supporting such a meaningful cause - one that is very close to all of our hearts. Every cup of coffee and slice of cake helped raise vital funds for Macmillan Cancer Support 💚, making a real difference to the lives of those affected by cancer. It was a lovely morning, and our children certainly loved being a part of it too! 🧁😊

In October, we marked **World Mental Health Day** by taking part in **Hello Yellow**! 💛 Our whole school community came together wearing bright yellow to highlight the importance of mental health. By standing together in this way, we sent a clear and powerful message to our children: *mental health truly matters*. 🟡🧠 This links directly to our school vision, as we firmly believe that strong mental wellbeing is the foundation for happy, resilient and enthusiastic learners. ⭐

We were also thrilled to host a **Managing Worry** workshop in school, led by the *With Me in Mind* team. 💭 For those who were able to join us, we hope it provided you with practical tips, gentle strategies and reassuring advice to help support your child through any worries or anxieties they might experience. 🌱

Finally, a huge thank you for your generosity during our **Harvest Festival**. 🌾🥫 Your contributions will make a genuine difference to local families who are currently facing hardship. John from the Rotherham Food Bank collected all of your kind donations, which are now being distributed to help those in need across our local area. 🙏



🗓️ School Community Events ✨

This half term is set to be a busy and exciting one, with lots of fantastic events lined up for our children and families to enjoy!

🎃 Halloween Dress-Up & Competition! 👻

Tomorrow (Tuesday 3rd November), we are inviting children to come to school dressed in their spooky Halloween costumes! 🧙‍♀️🧛 During the day, we will host a competition, with a prize for the best dressed awarded in each class. 🏆✨ If your child does not wish to dress up in costume, they are very welcome to wear non-uniform instead. 👕👗 We kindly request a **£1 donation** for all those taking part and not wearing school uniform.

🟡 Children in Need 🐻

The annual Children in Need Day is almost upon us! On **Friday 13th November**, we will be holding our Children in Need day in school. Children are invited to come in wearing their favourite pyjamas, spotty, or yellow clothing in exchange for a suggested **£1 donation**. 💛 If children prefer not to dress up in pyjamas or yellow/spots, they are very welcome to wear regular non-uniform.

🧦 Anti-Bullying Week

The week commencing **Monday 16th November** is Anti-Bullying Week, and this year's theme is Break the Silence. We will kick off the week with **Odd Socks Day on Monday 16th November**, where children and staff are encouraged to wear odd socks to celebrate what makes us all unique! 🧦🌈

📚 Travelling Book Fair

Also during the week commencing **Monday 16th November**, we are delighted to host the Travelling Book Fair in school! 📖 From Monday to Thursday, you and your child are invited to visit the fair before school (8:40am-9:00am) and after school (3:10pm-3:30pm) to browse, purchase and order new books. 🎟️✨

🎄 Christmas Celebrations at Sitwell ✨

We are so excited to announce a fantastic series of festive events as we count down to the Christmas holidays! Here is a glimpse of what we have planned:

❄️ Winter Fair

Our annual Winter Fair will take place on **Thursday 10th December, from 2:00pm to 3:30pm**. More details will be shared soon, but if you, or anyone you know, would like to hold a stall, please contact the school office to express your interest! 🛍️✨

🎶 Christmas Assemblies

This year, we are delighted to invite parents to a series of festive Christmas Assemblies, starting with our **Lower School Assembly on Friday 11th December**. The children are looking forward to singing some festive songs to help get everyone into the holiday spirit! 🎤🌟 Further details and times will be shared shortly.

🎅 Christmas Jumper & Christmas Dinner Day

Tuesday 15th December is our Christmas Jumper and Christmas Dinner Day. On this day, children can wear their regular school uniform bottoms, but swap their Sitwell jumper or cardigan for a festive top or jumper. 🎄🍽️ We kindly request a **£1 donation** for taking part.

🎶 Christmas Disco

The festive celebrations will continue with our Christmas Disco on **Thursday 17th December**, after school from **4:00pm to 5:15pm**. 🎉💃 More details regarding tickets will be shared soon.

🤝 Parent Consultation Meetings ✨

A huge thank you to everyone who joined us for our recent Parent Consultation Meetings. It was wonderful to welcome so many of you into school to discuss how well our children are doing. We really valued the opportunity to share their progress, listen to your feedback and celebrate their achievements together. 🌟Strong partnerships between home and school make such a positive difference to our children, and it is always a real pleasure to catch up with you in person. Thank you, as always, for your continued support! 💬

A big thank you, too, for taking the time during the consultation evenings to sample our school lunches, kindly provided by ABM, our catering team! 🍽️ We hope you enjoyed tasting what's on offer. We really appreciate all the feedback we received as we continue to work together to ensure our school lunches remain both delicious and nutritious. 🥗😋

If you ever have any questions regarding our school meals or how to place orders, please feel free to pop in or contact our school reception team, who will be more than happy to help. 📱👍

🎉 Let's Celebrate! 👏

Good attendance at school is so important. We know that children who attend school regularly are much more likely to achieve positive outcomes, build strong friendships and thrive throughout their childhood and beyond. 🌟

As a school, we aim for at least **96% attendance** each week, and we love recognising and celebrating good attendance with the children throughout the year.

During the last half term, we achieved a brilliant **97.7% attendance** across the whole school - what a fantastic start to the academic year! 🙌 A huge well done to **all of our classes** who hit and exceeded our target.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support in helping our children arrive on time and ready to learn every day! ⭐🎒

Class	Attendance - Autumn 1	Class	Attendance - Autumn 1
3HT	98.7%	5MC	97.8%
3CH	98.6%	5WW	96.2%
3RE	97.8%	5NS	96.9%
4CD	97.2%	6KL	98.4%
4JB	98.3%	6TS	97.3%
4ZN	98.3%	6NE	97.7%
Woodland Provision			97.1%