



Newsletter - Issue 14

Monday 18th December 2017

Inspiring lives; creating possibilities; shaping futures

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Dates for your Diary

18th December: 10am Y3/4 Christmas Concert
 18th December: 2pm Y5/6 Christmas Concert
 19th December: Y3 Christmas Party
 20th December: Christmas Dinner Day
 20th December: Christmas Jumper Day
 20th December: Y4 Christmas Party
 21st December: Y3 Pupil of the Term Assembly 9:15am
 21st December: Y4 Pupil of the Term Assembly 10:30am
 21st December: Y5/Y6 Christmas Disco
 22nd December: Y5 Pupil of the Term Assembly 9:15am
 22nd December: Y6 Pupil of the Term Assembly 10:30am
 9th January: Y4 Jorvik Visit
 10th January: Y3 Scrumdiddlyumptious Engage Day
 10th and 11th January: Y5 Gainsborough Old Hall Visit
 11th January: Y6 Holocaust Centre

Extra-Curricular Activities

At Sitwell Junior School we pride ourselves on the rich curriculum we provide for our children so that they have the opportunity to develop a wide range of interests and talents. An important part of this is provided through our breakfast, lunchtime and after school clubs. After half term, we are pleased to inform you that an even wider range of clubs will be on offer, where many will be led by staff within school, ensuring that safeguarding remains our number one priority.

Please would you complete and return the attached form by Monday, 8th January. If your child already attends one of the clubs below, there is no need to fill in the form, as they will already be on the register. Please note, Young Voices will run for the first two weeks only after the Christmas break. One Voice will begin after the February half term. Unfortunately, due to lack of numbers, Street Dance will no longer run on a Friday.

Day	Extra-Curricular Club
Monday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young Voices - Miss Evans, Mrs Cowburn & Miss Tunstall • Football (girls) – Mr Berkshire • Football (boys) - Mr Casse
Tuesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knitting – Mrs Cowburn & Mrs Foster • Xcite Sports (the sport changes each half term) • Recorders – Miss Evans
Wednesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y5/Y6 Maths Masterclass (For children who show a talent in maths and are interested in the subject) - Mr Epton • Fitness Boot Camp – Mr McQuillin
Thursday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spanish Club – Mrs Walker • Drama Club – Miss Tunstall
Friday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fab Lab (External Science Club)

Let's Celebrate

Attendance

Good attendance at school is vital to enable children to make as much progress as possible during the school year. We urge you not to take holidays during term time unless it is absolutely unavoidable. We look to achieve at least 97% attendance across school each week and always recognise the good attendance of individual children throughout the year. Each week we also look at class attendances and our best attending classes take the certificate for the week, go in first for dinner on Friday and earn a smile each. During our thirteen week back we hit 97.4% across school –above target. Well done to the 8 classes who had attendance above target.

3NO: 98.4%	6NE: 98.4%
5RE: 98.3%	6JB: 98.1%
4GT: 98%	5ND: 98%
3RE: 97.8%	4GO: 97.6%
5HS: 96.9%	6EL: 96.5%
3SW: 96.2%	4JF: 94.4%

Parent and Co-opted Governors

Sitwell Junior School has vacancies for Parent Governors and Co-opted Governors. If you would like to volunteer please complete an expression of interest form and return it to the school by Friday 19 January 2018. Further information is available on our Vacancies section of our School Website or you can see more by visiting our Governance Area on Oakwood's School Website at:

<https://www.oakwood.ac/General-Information/Governance-of-our-Trust.aspx>

Half Termly Newsletter

After half term, we have decided to make changes to our newsletter system. Instead of receiving a weekly newsletter and to save on paper, we will now be producing a newsletter at the start of each half term. Please remember, Twitter and the School Website are regularly updated to keep you abreast of year group news and up to date information.

Y3 News

Well, we have reached our final week in the Autumn Term of Year 3 - and what a term it has been. All of the Year 3 children have settled into the school extremely well, have engaged in all experiential learning opportunities and are making good progress. They have taken on our Sitwell 7 Values and are already applying them to their learning on a daily basis. Some children have already earned 50 Smiles and many of them are well on their way there. So, here is a big well done to each and every one of them from all of us in Team Year 3.

This week in Year 3 we will be completing all our work around the Urban Pioneers topic. The children will individually be listened to when reading, to check their understanding of the text and to ensure they are reading from the appropriately banded books. We aim to make sure that each child has new books to read over the Christmas break. Don't forget, they can also read any books they have at home and this reading can be recorded in their reading diary too. **Can we remind you to check your child's book bag for letters every day, as we have noticed that some contain letters which have been sent home over the past few weeks.**

We will be finishing off our narrative unit in English this week and covering any gaps that have been identified in maths (in particular multiplication facts and place value). As it is the last week of this half term, we will also be finishing off our calendars, making Christmas cards, and enjoying our **Christmas Party on Tuesday afternoon. Don't forget that your child can bring some party clothes, in a carrier bag, with their name on, to change into for the afternoon.** Thank you for your continued support this term and we hope you enjoy the break.

Y4 News

We cannot believe that it is the final week of the Autumn term! We have had a very busy but fantastic term in Year 4 with our topic 'I am Warrior'! Some of our highlights include:

- *Roman Engage trip to Clifton Park Museum*
- *Takeover Day 2017 at Clifton Park Museum*
- *Roman Express Day*
- *Writing our Newspaper Reports about the eruption of Mount Vesuvius*
- *Drumming*
- *Swimming*

In Maths, we will be completing some Christmas-themed maths investigations to test our knowledge on what we have learnt this term. Further, we will be continuing to focus on Roman numerals and singing the Roman numeral song which the children love!

In our English lessons, we will be assessing the effectiveness of our own and others' writing. This will involve us editing our work to make improvements. After that, we will complete our final copy making sure we include our non-negotiables.

In Topic lessons, we will be completing our volcanoes before finally going outdoors to create a volcanic explosion. There will be pictures on twitter and the school website!

Y4 CHRISTMAS PARTY – this will take place on Wednesday 20th December in the afternoon. The children need to come to school in their uniform, but can bring their party clothes in a carrier bag with their name on to get changed into in the afternoon. This year, we will provide the children with a drink and a bun. The party will involve some dancing and party games in the hall.

Thank you for all of your support this term. We wish you all a lovely holiday.

Year 5 News

Over the course of this term, the Y5 children have worked extremely hard and have developed all of the Sitwell Seven values. Some children have already reached 50 smiles and have therefore been awarded with their bronze award and many more are very close!

This week in Year 5 we will be completing all our work around the Stargazers topic, including our play scripts and in maths, our fluency, reasoning and problem solving questions for addition.

On Thursday afternoon, the children will attend the Upper School Christmas Disco. They may bring some party clothes, in a carrier bag with their name on, to get changed into in the afternoon. School will be providing a drink and a bun for all children.

Thank you for your continued support this term; it has been busy but productive! We hope you all enjoy the festive break.

Book of the Term

As part of our continuous drive to develop the children's love of reading, we will be continuing with 'Book of the Term'. It is hoped that this will continue to engage and enthuse the children as they will be able to read for pleasure and discuss what they have read with friends. Additionally, children can complete activities (which can be found under the Home Learning section on the school website) that are linked to the book, further developing their comprehension and language skills as they are also linked to the National Curriculum objectives for reading. One of the activities that children will be able to complete is a book review for each book, which will then be displayed around school, thus giving children a real sense of writing for purpose. Once they have completed any of the activities, they can be given to Mrs Elliott.

Our next book will be 'Bad Dad?' by David Walliams. As with other David Walliams' books, this story is a laugh-out-loud and heart-warming story of a boy and his father, who take on the villainous Mr B and win. 'Bad Dad is a fast and furious, heart-warming story of a father and son on an adventure - and a thrilling mission to break an innocent man into prison!' – Waterstones. Should you wish to purchase the book, it can be bought from a number of recognised book shops, including online shopping websites.

Happy reading!

CLUB NEWS

PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE NO AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS THIS WEEK.

Sitwell Seven

The 'Value of the Week' is Risk Taking.

Children will learn the importance of identifying opportunities within the classroom and accepting failure graciously, rebounding after disappointments. In school, we will encourage children to share ideas even when they are not sure and ask them to meet new work and concepts as a challenge.

Risk Taking like other skills, needs to be learned and practised over time. When children learn how to take thoughtful risks, they also learn how to think independently. Children are constantly trying out new things and learning a great deal in the process. They love to move from adventure to adventure. They face the risk of mistakes and even of injuries, but that does not deter them.

To develop this value further at home, you can encourage them to try new things and as a family start a family adventure journal where your child records the adventurous things you have done together. You can also talk to your children about what it means to be afraid and how it is really great to try new things. When you notice they have taken a risk, point it out to them and see how their faces light up with just the notion that YOU noticed them being brave. Finally, try not to pass your fears onto them and encourage them to think independently.

Y6 News

We have reached the final week of the term and it will be a busy one!

On Monday afternoon, we have our final performance of 'Gimme, Gimme, Gimme'. If you saw it on Friday, I'm sure you were very impressed. We are so proud of all the children for how hard they have worked to ensure the production was ready on time. Thank you to all parents and carers who have helped at home with learning lines and providing costumes. We really appreciate your input and couldn't do it without you!

On Thursday afternoon, we have our year 5 and 6 Christmas party. Children can bring their party clothes in a bag labelled with their name so they can get changed in the afternoon. School will be providing a drink and a bun for all children.

On Friday morning, we have our Pupil of the Term assembly where we will celebrate not only these children, but other successes from throughout the term.

Our 'A Child's War' project will be continuing until the February half-term holiday, so this week we will continue with a range of reading and topic activities linked to this. We are very proud of the effort and determination all Year 6 children have put in to the term and hope this continues in to the New Year.

From all of the Year 6 team, we would like to wish you a very happy holiday.

Y4 Swimming

Please note there will be no swimming this Friday 22nd December. Swimming will start again on Friday 12th January.

