



Y4 Welcome Letter

Tuesday 4th September 2018

Inspiring lives; creating possibilities; shaping futures

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Dear Parents/Carers,

'Inspiring lives, shaping futures, creating possibilities'

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 4. 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 4 Topics

Autumn 1/2 – **Art Bot!**

Spring 1 – **Language**

Spring 2 – **Transport and Trade**

Summer 1/2 – **Land of Hope and Glory**

To encourage a love of reading, we are going to study at least one key book per term, linked to the current topic. In Year 4 the books will be:

Art Bot! – **Stormbreaker by Anthony Horowitz**

Language – **Beowulf by Michael Morpurgo**

Transport and Trade – **How to Train Your Dragon by Cressida Cowell**

Land of Hope and Glory – **The Railway Children by E. Nesbit**

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 this. 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:

ArtBot!

To engage the children, we will be hosting a 'Potato Power Family Learning Event', where children and adults alike will be challenged to light a bulb using potatoes alone.

During the topic, we visit the National Science and Media Museum to take part in an Engineering Day, where we will learn how science and design and technology go hand in hand to lead to new and interesting inventions.

To express our learning for the topic, the children will present one of their inventions to a Dragon's Den panel, writing a persuasive speech to convince the judges that their invention is the best.

Finally, to really excite the children, we have an amazing opportunity to take part in the Bloodhound Project, where children design and race their own rocket-powered car!

Language

To engage the children, we will be hosting an Anglo-Saxon day in school. During the day, the children will experience a range of workshops. This will include becoming scribes for the day, learning how to make ink and parchment and using quills to write in old English, amongst many other exciting activities.

Transport and Trade

To engage the children, we will visit the South Yorkshire Transport Museum. Children will be transported to the museum on a heritage bus, provided by the museum. Here they will see a range of modes of transport from past and present as part of their guided tour.

To express their learning from the topic, children will design and make their own vehicle!

Land of Hope and Glory

To engage the children, they will take part in a St George's Day celebration, eating, drinking and taking part in all things English. As part of their Land of Hope and Glory topic, the children will take part in a 3-day residential to Whitby. During this visit, they will learn about Captain Cook and explorers in the 18th century. In addition, the children will visit RNLI to learn about the importance of water safety and the rescue work that they do. Further, a visit to Whitby Abbey will provide information about its history. To end the visit, the children will be given time to explore the beach and the creatures that live there. More information will follow. By the end of this topic, children will well and truly be patriots of their country!

Our Home Learning Schedule

Times Tables Practice

In Y4, all the children are expected to recall the multiplication and division facts for the multiplication tables to 12 x 12. This means that they need to practise counting in multiples and have a rapid recall of any of the above multiplication facts. At home, this can be supported by the use of the children's online Times Tables Rock Stars account.

Reading

In Lower 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 colour band appropriate to their ability (in terms of reading and understanding) and a non-fiction book from the library. Their

home Reading Diary will be monitored by their class teacher on a regular basis and the children will be able to change their books once a week.

Whilst reading with your child, it is beneficial if you ask them questions about what they have been reading, for example: *How is Charlie feeling? Can you explain why you think that? What does the word rampaging suggest about the character? Which word or phrase tells you that Charlie was happy? How do Charlie and Augustus differ? Which other story does this remind you of? Sum up what you have read in one sentence; 5 words and 1 word.*

If reading non-fiction, ask your child to retrieve the key facts from the book; identify the key vocabulary and then discuss the layout of the pages, considering the effect on the reader.

Your child needs to make sure they have their reading book and reading diary in school every day, as there might be opportunities for them to read to an adult in school as well.

Children who read at home at least four times in a week will earn a smile.

Topic

We encourage independent learning in Year 4 and projects are published half termly. Children will come home with a list of ideas for a Project from their class teacher for you to help with, or you can come up with an idea of your own linked to the half term's topic. More details to follow.

For more guidance, please see our 'Learning at Home Policy'.

PE and Swimming

The Year 4 children will have two sessions of PE every week (one indoor and one outdoor). These sessions will take place on a Tuesday for all 3 classes and Wednesday (4EL/4ZN) and Friday (4WN). Can you please ensure that your child has the correct PE kit in school on a Monday and that this is taken home on a Friday. This will ensure that the children have their PE kit in school every day, should any unavoidable changes to the timetable have to take place. PE kit is as follows: white t-shirt, black shorts/leggings, black pumps (indoor), black tracksuit, and trainers (outdoor). For further information, please see the separate PE Kit letter.

Swimming sessions will begin on **Friday 1st April, 2019 until Friday 8th July, 2019 at Rotherham Leisure Centre**. We will provide more details nearer the time.

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

Miss E. Longstaff
(The Year 4 Team)

Mrs J. Winters

Mrs K. Smith

Mr Z. Nazir