



Y5 Spring Term Newsletter

Monday 7th January 2019

Inspiring lives; creating possibilities; shaping futures

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Dear Parents/Carers,

'Inspiring lives, shaping futures, creating possibilities'

Welcome back! We hope you all had a lovely Christmas break and enjoyed spending time with your families. We all did and are now looking forward to the exciting term ahead. The children worked really hard right up until the Christmas break and continued to engage in our topic, 'The Explorers'. We are sure their enthusiasm will continue as we move into our next Year 5 topic which is called 'What Will Your Legacy Be? It's going to be a fairly short half term, but we have got lots of exciting learning planned.

What Will Your Legacy Be?

Learning

This term we will be learning about achievements and legacies throughout history. We will explore some of our own personal achievements and then some of the things in modern life that we consider to be big achievements, such as the construction of magnificent buildings and the invention of technologies that have transformed our lives.

As **historians** we will study the development of achievements and legacies throughout British History and in some ancient civilisations, such as the Ancient Egyptians and Mayans. As **artists** we will draw and paint images of some of the achievements we study, draw portraits of famous people we are studying, and create 3d models of famous inventions, for example space rockets, Stonehenge and the Pyramids. As **scientists** we will learn about famous scientists, such as Isaac Newton, medicine and the development of penicillin, describe the changes as humans develop to old age and learn about the earth and other planets in the solar system.

In English, we will be reading 'Wonder' by R. J. Palacio. Although we have plenty of copies of this book in school, it is nice for the children to have their own. This book can be easily purchased from book shops, such as WH Smith or Waterstones, or it is available online at Amazon on the following link, should you wish to purchase your child their own copy:

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Wonder-R-J-Palacio/dp/0552565970>

We will use this book to help widen our vocabulary and as a stimulus for our writing. We will be writing persuasively, including speeches, blogs and letters. We will also write scientifically about the solar system in a non-chronological report about the different planets.

In Maths, we will continue working on using the four operations: addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division to solve problems and will move onto fractions, decimals and percentages.

Engage Day

We are all really excited to be having a visit in school from the Education Group on Tuesday 15th January 2019. This leading provider of school workshops will be bringing with them some virtual reality headsets and every child in the class will become an astronaut. Virtual Reality transports you to places you cannot easily visit. The whole class will simultaneously blast off into space, piloting their research vessels around planets and moons, learning about the solar system. This incredible immersive experience truly boosts learning and fact retention. With this fascinating workshop, perhaps we will inspire the next generation of scientists and astronauts who may one day blast off into space for real! For more information, see the separate letter sent out last half term.

Morning Workshop

We are pleased to announce a weekly morning workshop where parents will be able to come in with their child and complete the morning task set by the class teacher. These morning tasks may focus on maths, reading grammar and punctuation or writing; therefore, giving parents the opportunity to see aspects of the Y5 curriculum. We would like to invite parents in on every Monday morning, starting 14th January, 8:40am – 9am.

Reading in School

We are really pleased with the way the children continued to engage in the Recommended Reads Challenge last half term. It is lovely to see the children reading independently with such enthusiasm and we hope that this will continue into the new year too. Please remind your child to take care of the books, so that all the children in the class get a chance to enjoy them. Also, these books are a great read for adults and children alike, so please read along with your child and talk about the books with them.

Learning at Home

Reading

Being a good reader is the root to being a great writer, so we want every child in Year 5 to read at home to an adult as often as possible. This only needs to be for a short time (around 10 minutes), 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. At the beginning of this new term, we will ensure that the children's reading is assessed, so your child may come home with a book from the next reading band during the first few weeks of this term.

If your child is finding the text difficult to read, or they are struggling to remain on task when reading, it is a good idea to 'take it in turns' for example by you reading a page, your child reading a page, and so on. Children learn a lot from listening to adults reading too. After your child has read a short section, it is helpful for you to ask them some questions to check their understanding of what they have read. For

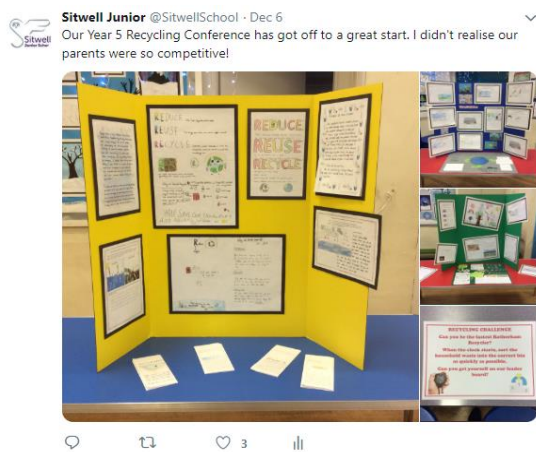
example: what did Jack do when the door opened? How do you think he felt at that moment? Which word tells you he felt that way? What do you think might happen next? **Your child needs to make sure they have their reading book and reading diary in school every day**, as there might be opportunities for them to read to an adult in school as well. Every Friday, we will look at your child's reading diary and issue a 'smile' if they have read at least four times during the week. This is when they will be able to change their reading book, if they have finished it and it has been recorded in their reading diary.

Topic

We encourage independent learning in Year 5 and project ideas are sent home half termly. Please see the attached letter for this half term's topic ideas. These projects are designed for you to produce alongside your child, learning together and supporting them with their ideas. If you and your child have a different idea to the ones shared on the letter, but it is still linked to the topic, then that is great. We love looking at the range of projects that are produced by the children.

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

Don't forget to follow our twitter page [@SitwellSchool](https://twitter.com/SitwellSchool) to find out what your child has been learning about in school and for all up to date school information. Here are some of our tweets from last half term.



It would be really great if you could tweet [@SitwellSchool](https://twitter.com/SitwellSchool) to let us know about your child's learning at home and their achievements outside of school too. For example, tweet some photos of when they are creating their projects at home, or when they achieve something as part of a club they attend after school or at the weekend.

We hope this information will enable you to support your child in their learning activities throughout this half term.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs S. Walker

Miss R. Evans

Miss H. Sim

(The Year 5 Team)