

SIS News

Sitwell Infant School



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Message from Mrs Peart

As our first term draws to a close I would like to pass on my heartfelt thanks to all of our amazing children, wonderful staff and fabulous parents and carers for their hard work, positive attitude and support over the past fifteen weeks. What a term it has been! This has been the first term in two years that we have all been able to work together in a 'normal' way; with children spending time with and developing friendships with children and adults outside of their own class. It has been wonderful to see them playing and learning together so well. Once again, the children have rose to our expectations and adapted to things quickly making lots of progress along the way! It is amazing to see how much they have learned so far this year.

The spring term is going to be just as busy and fun as our autumn term has been. We have lots of lovely learning activities planned in our new themes for each Key Stage, and we are planning for our next educational visits to enhance the children's learning in these topics (please find more information below). I know many of you will have seen the news last night regarding the new COVID variant and may be worrying about what could happen in January. Please do not worry – we have updated our risk assessments and contingency plans in school so that, should things change, we can organise provision and support parents and carers with children's learning quickly and effectively.

Thank you so much for all of your kind and generous gifts this week. We hope you have a lovely Christmas holiday with your family and we look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

Diary Dates

Friday 17th December – School closes for Christmas holidays

Monday 3rd January – Bank holiday - school closed

Tuesday 4th January – INSET Day - school closed

13th January – Coffee Morning

27th January – Class 6, 7 & 8 visit Emergency Services Museum

Parent Stay & Learn sessions to be held in Spring term – dates to follow after Christmas

Spring term learning

After Christmas, each year group will begin learning through a new overall theme:

Foundation 2 (Classes 6, 7 & 8) – Who's Who?

Following their learning about themselves and their families this half term, we will now move onto learning more about important people who help us in our school and local community. We will also learn through children's interests such as superheroes. We will be taking the children to the Emergency Services Museum in Sheffield in January to enhance their learning. A separate letter will be sent out with full information after the holiday.

Key Stage 1 (Classes 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5) – Enchanted Woodlands

During this theme, children in KS1 will learn all about nature and the wonderful world around us. We will be reading lots of stories that are set in forests. Children will learn about trees and plants and take part in a fabulous visit to Austerfield Study Centre to build dens and create outdoor art. This won't take place until March so further information will be shared nearer to the time.

Fundraising

We had a wonderful time coming to school dressed down for Children in Need in November and for our Christmas Jumper Day yesterday for Rotherham Hospice. We raised **£255.45 for Children in Need** and **£115 for Rotherham Hospice**. Thank you!

Google Classroom

Thank you to those of you who have already logged into Google Classroom and are accessing our Home Learning activities each week. It is lovely to see some of the things you are getting up to at home as well! We still have a small amount of families who have not yet logged on. If you need support with this, please come and speak to us. We don't want your child to be missing out on important learning and information from their class.

Sitwell Infant School Dog

Thank you so much for returning the letter about our new member of staff, Alf. We are very excited about him joining us in January and it was lovely to read some of the positive comments you wrote on the letter! I would be grateful if all forms are returned by Friday 7th January so that I am fully aware of each child's feelings towards our new school dog and can plan appropriate activities for the children to get to know him. If we do not receive a response from you for your child, we will assume you do not want them to have any contact with Alf.

Parental Questionnaire

The questionnaire for parents closes tomorrow evening, so if you have not yet been able to give your views, please do so before then. We are eager to hear your feedback and will try our best to solve any issues that are raised. Please follow the link [here](#) to give your views.

After School Provision

We have now allocated all requested places for after school clubs in January. We have limited places available in Disney Dance on Tuesdays, Cheerleading & French on Mondays. If you require a place for your child, please just get in touch and we can book them on.

Names in clothes

We have had a lot of the children's belongings in the Lost Property box this term, and many do not have children's names on so we cannot return them to their rightful owner. Please ensure your child's name is written in the labels of all their clothing.

Attendance & Punctuality

Our attendance for the year up to today is 95.6%. We are just above the national average. Our whole school target for attendance is 96.9% so we have just missed out on it this term! We want children to have the best chances in life and excellent attendance and punctuality is a key factor in this.

To celebrate good attendance in school, we give gold & silver attendance certificates each term to children whose attendance is excellent. Children with 100% attendance receive a gold certificate and children with 97% or above attendance receive a silver certificate. I am so pleased to say that I will be handing out 60 gold certificates and 55 silver certificates tomorrow morning! That is 115 certificates altogether – absolutely amazing! Please help us to work towards our target next half term.

We are also pleased that there have been less incidents of children arriving late at school now that we are all entering school at the same time. Please always try to drop off and collect your child on time every day.

Where attendance figures drop below 90%, this means that children fall into the 'Persistent Absence' category. When this happens, we will write to parents to inform them that we are concerned about the amount of time their child is absent from school and work with them to improve this. We follow the Local Authority attendance pathway – you can find more information about this [here](#).