

SIS News

Sitwell Infant School



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Message from Mrs Peart

Well we are coming to the end of another busy but fabulous half term in school; I can't quite believe how quickly this year has gone by!! As we are getting ready for our final half term together, there is lots of planning going on in the background to prepare school for our new academic year in September. We are excited once again about some of the amazing things we have planned for our school next year!

We are beginning to plan the new classes for September and will be asking children for their friendship choices for their new class at the end of the half term. The Senior Leadership Team will be working closely over the next few weeks to carefully create new classes. As we have a mixed Year 1/Year 2 class, the children have to be moved each year into brand new classes and although this is a huge piece of work, we feel that it helps them to build a range of friendships throughout their three years with us. There will also be some staff changes this year; please see below.

We are also working closely with the Junior School staff to ensure our children moving into Year 3 are well supported and prepared. The letter with key dates for transition to the Junior School will be sent home soon – please make sure to save the dates and attend the sessions if you can.

We are very much looking forward to our final half term together this year – the final one for our wonderful Year 2 children! We hope you have a restful half term when it arrives and we look forward to seeing you on Monday 3rd June.

Diary Dates

Thursday 23rd May – Multi-cultural Festival (PTA Event)

Friday 24th May – school closes for the half term holiday

Monday 3rd June – School reopens

Friday 7th June – Sunflower, Buttercup & Daisy Classes visit
Cannon Hall Farm

w/c 10th June – Year 1 children take Phonics Screening Check

Thursday 20th June – Rose, Tulip, Bluebell, Poppy & Snowdrop
Classes visit Yorkshire Wildlife Park

Staffing updates

Sadly, we have a few staffing changes to update you about, as some members of staff will be leaving us this year.

Miss Griffiths is going to be leaving school at the end of this half term on Friday 24th May. Miss Griffiths has worked in school since 2008 and has been a fantastic teacher and excellent SENDCo during her time with us. She has made an amazing contribution to so many of our children's lives and we are very sad to see her move on. Good luck Miss Griffiths!

At the end of the academic year in July, Mrs Green and Mrs Burrows will be retiring. They have both worked in school for over 20 years and we are terribly sad they are leaving, but I am sure you will agree that they definitely deserve to enjoy their retirement out of school! I hope you will join us in wishing them a very happy and long retirement and say a huge thank you for everything they have done for Sitwell children over the years.

We are happy to let you know that we have appointed two new teachers who will join us in September and become part of the Sitwell family. Some class teachers are moving into different year groups this year as well, please see information below:

Rose Class – Mr McKenzie-Smith

Tulip Class – Mrs Smith

Bluebell Class – Miss Wadsworth
Poppy Class – Mrs Hague
Snowdrop Class – Mrs Razaq
Sunflower Class – Miss Todd
Buttercup Class – Miss Hainsworth
Daisy Class – Mrs Duffy

Eid celebrations

We had a wonderful time in school on Monday 22nd April, celebrating Eid with all our children and families. It was lovely to be able to invite you in to join us in the afternoon. We hope you enjoyed it as much as we did! We are very grateful for all of the amazing donations of food that we received throughout the day – the children (and staff!) loved it! It was a really magical day which I hope was really meaningful and special for all of our children who celebrate Eid.

Sports Day 2024

Miss Wadsworth is in the process of planning our annual Sports Day event, which will take place on the morning of Wednesday 3rd July. The children will again be working in mixed year group teams linked to the Sitwell Superheroes. A letter with further information will be shared when we return after half term, but we wanted to give you plenty of notice about the date so you can attend and cheer your children on!

Year 2 SATs

We just wanted to remind parents of children in Year 2 that they will not be completing the end of year SATs papers this year as they are now non-statutory. Instead, Year 2 children will complete some internal assessments which we will use to support the end of year judgements that teachers will make. The children have completed these assessments in the autumn and spring terms so are very used to them. We will share end of year outcomes in their Records of Achievements.

Transition Plans

Please see below the outline of key information and dates that we have planned next half term to support you and your children through transition into their next year group:

Friday 5th July

Record of Achievement

Each child will come home with their Record of Achievement, which will detail their end of year assessments, attendance record and a class 'Pen Portrait' will also be included so you and your child are aware of their new class staff team.

Tuesday 9th July – Thursday 11th July

Transition visits

All children in school will move up to their new class for three full days. You will bring and collect your children as normal and we will organise them into their new classes once we have taken the register in their existing classroom. Children will then return to their class at the end of the day ready for collection at the normal place at home time.

Wednesday 10th July – 3.30 – 5pm

Parent Walkabout

Parents are invited into school to speak with their child's current class teacher if they have any questions about their Record of Achievement, as well as spend time visiting their child's new classroom.

After School Provision

Live & Learn are again offering after school clubs next half term on Tuesday's and Thursday's 3.15pm-4.15pm. Please note that all places have now been filled in both clubs. Thank you for your continued support.

Attendance

Children's attendance at school at this young age is so important – if children are regularly absent, there will be gaps in their learning that are very difficult to fill and this can impact upon their confidence and self-esteem, as well as their chances of reaching their potential academically. Our target as a school is to achieve 96% attendance for the year. Please see below attendance rates for the whole school, year groups and classes. As you can see, our figures are lower than our target.

ATTENDANCE SO FAR THIS YEAR	
Whole school	94.1%
Roses	94.2%
Tulips	92.3%
Bluebells	94.7%
Poppies	94.9%
Snowdrops	94.1%
Sunflowers	93.9%
Buttercups	93.8%
Daisies	94%

Leave of absences

We have had several parents requesting leave of absences recently. We follow the LA attendance pathway and leave of absences are very rarely authorised, which means that any parents taking children out of school during term time will be fined. The fine is £60 per parent, per child for the absence and if parents take children out more than once, court action could be taken.

Lateness

We are also concerned about the amount of children that are arriving late to school or are collected late on a regular basis, which is also a worry. The start and end of the school day are very clear – 8.45am and 3.15pm – please make sure you are on time every day.