

15th November 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

We began this week with our act of remembrance for Remembrance Day. Our children held an assembly where they thought about the meanings of many of the symbols and also thought about people in their own lives. A minute's silence was held as they kept the children. The week has continued with learning, trips out and continued joy around school.



As staff, we have been discussing the snacks we have in school for our young people. We are a healthy eating school and have fruit and corn-based snacks for children. We understand that many of our young people bring snacks in from home also and we would like to ask that they are as healthy as possible to enable blood sugars to remain stable and no spikes in sugar levels. Thank you for your co-operation with this.

Okapi Class

This week in Okapi class has been full of meaningful learning. We started off with an exhilarating forest school session where the children practiced tying various knots using ropes and even crafted their very own wind chimes. The creativity was great to see and teamwork was on full display. Our classroom was alive with the tales of The Three Little Pigs and Okapi class fully embraced their roles, with some delivering convincing performances as the big, bad wolf—cue the collective "Aaaahhh!" We had lots of laughs and dramatic storytelling as we acted out the scenes. In life skills, we brought our maths learning to life by practicing our measuring and capacity skills while making delicious cookies. The children carefully measured ingredients and learned about different units of measure, all while having a tasty treat to look forward to at the end! This week was also Anti-Bullying Week, an important reminder of how we should behave towards others. Okapi class engaged in a powerful activity where we crumpled a piece of paper each time an unkind word was imagined. When we tried to smooth the paper back out, we saw first-hand that it could never return to being perfectly smooth, symbolising how deeply unkind words can affect others. The class reflected on the lasting impact of their words, and pledged to spread kindness wherever they go. Enjoy your weekend. Mr Noone.



Cat Class

This week has been anti bullying week and our daily morning PSHE slot at registration was heavily themed around this important topic, we had such open, honest conversations. The Anti Bullying Alliance theme for the week this year is respect. (Ms Carter has attached it to the Friday Flyer email.) The children were very proud that is the same as one of our Selwyn values. We were able to watch a recorded live lesson from BBC about respect features Hacker T Dog, which ended with an activity writing an acrostic; the ideas coming straight from the children's hearts. It shows us what a super understanding they have of the word respect. We have a similar



promise in forest school, look after yourself, look after each other and look after the forest. On that nature note, over the last two weeks, all the children in the school have had the opportunity to plant some new hedging in our grounds. They will enjoy watching them grow as we watch them grow! Have a good weekend Mrs Angell

Figge Class

This week has been jam packed with learning in every subject and in every style! They began the week with the introduction of a play script for Oliver Twist and the children enjoyed acting out the famous scene in the workhouse, adding expression and acting skills. They then went on to make their own 3d scenery, in the form of a diorama, and started to write their own scripts...they certainly used all the features taught so far. The week continued with the children exploring different structures in DT and experimented with making paper stronger in different ways. The class planted lots of hedges on the field to form the forest school boundary...and found lots of worms in the process! In life skills, they baked shortbread, which smelt and tasted divine and in art, the children learnt about the sculptor Henry Moore and used body socks to make their own Henry Moore inspired sculptures...it was quite a hilarious afternoon, seeing Mrs Laws getting stuck in one which amused us all greatly!

The glimmer of the week for me was the class PE lesson, which saw the class working together, along with 2 other classes, to learn and perform dance moves; the lesson culminated in a group dance with children teaching the teachers their routines and a group performance to music; it bought me joy to see smiling faces, hear lots of laughter and to see the trust and strong bonds between the young learners. What a delight. Happy weekend all. Miss Chandler



Marco Polo Class

This week, Marco Polo class has been buzzing with activity and learning. In English, we continued reading *Secrets of Elsinore High* and began exploring how we could adapt the story into a play, sparking creativity and teamwork. In Maths, we tackled the areas of rectangular shapes and practiced finding missing lengths. In History, we delved into how World War I began, while in RE, we explored Humanist beliefs, particularly the importance of kindness. As part of Anti-Bullying Week, we focused on respect and how it plays a vital role in preventing bullying. Our brilliant trip to the park was a highlight, offering a chance to enjoy the outdoors and strengthen friendships. The children have worked incredibly hard on building their resilience and have shown fantastic focus in their learning—well done, Marco Polo class! Have a great weekend. Miss Borgeson.



Armstrong Class

This week in Armstrong class we have enjoyed learning about fractions, percentages and decimals in Maths and have put our knowledge to real use when we chopped up and shared out our watermelon snack very precisely. We have extended our knowledge of play script



features in English and edited a script which was full of mistakes. We also made brownies this week and proved that teamwork is vital when chocolate is involved. On the Monday, we remembered people who had died on the battlefield and made some poppies to mark the day. Meanwhile in geography, we have been polishing up on our map reading skills and next week will be looking for key mountain ranges. Have a lovely weekend. Ms Clifford.

Final Thoughts

This week, I went and spent time with other headteachers and senior leaders from the Polaris organisation. It was wonderful to talk about all the exciting things that have been happening at Selwyn and the progress the children have been making. It was also good to hear about the other schools, some of whom have been open for longer than us and some who are more newly opened. We also had a keynote speaker who was a care leaver and is now a motivational speaker. To say it was an emotional hour would be an understatement and re-enforced to us all why we are doing what we are. There is not one young person at Selwyn who has not experienced some form of difficulty or challenge along the way to getting here and we want to work with you, as families, to get the support right, no matter what that might look like.

Yours faithfully
Rebecca Pine
Headteacher

General School Information

Uniform

There is a school uniform for Selwyn Hall School which can be purchased from the school office.

Prices are:

Polo Shirt: £8.25

Sweatshirt: £9.25

Cardigan: £10.25

T-shirt: £ 4.95

School Lunches

All children will be encouraged to have a school lunch and we will order them one every day.

School meals are free for all children at Selwyn Hall School. The menu can be requested from the school office; we are pleased to offer a choice of desserts as part of the meal options and salad and bread are also included as part of the daily meal options and are provided as standard.

There is also an allergen matrix for the menu choices per day.

Please talk to your children about the menu as we will be putting orders in every morning by 9.15am.

Children will be eating their lunch with the adults in school at 12pm.

Thank you.

Term dates for the academic year 2024–2025

Summer Term 2024

Summer Term begins	Monday 15th April 2024
School Closed May Bank Holiday	Monday 6th May 2024
School Closed for Staff Training	Friday 24th May 2024
Summer Half Term	Monday 27th May to Friday 31st May 2024
School Closed for Staff Training	Monday 3rd June 2024
Last Day of Summer Term	Friday 19th July 2024
School Closed for Staff Training	Monday 22nd July 2024

Autumn Term 2024

School Closed for Staff Training	Tuesday 3rd September 2024
School Closed for Staff Training	Wednesday 4th September 2024
Autumn Term begins	Thursday 5th September 2024
Autumn Half Term	Monday 28th Oct to Friday 1st Nov 2024
School Closed for Staff Training	Monday 18th November 2024
End of Autumn Term	Friday 20th December 2024

Spring Term 2025

School Closed for Staff Training	Monday 6th January 2025
Spring Term begins	Tuesday 7th January 2025
Spring Half Term	Monday 17th Feb to Friday 21st Feb 2025
End of Spring Term	Friday 4th April 2025