

# Friday Flyer

20<sup>th</sup> December 2023

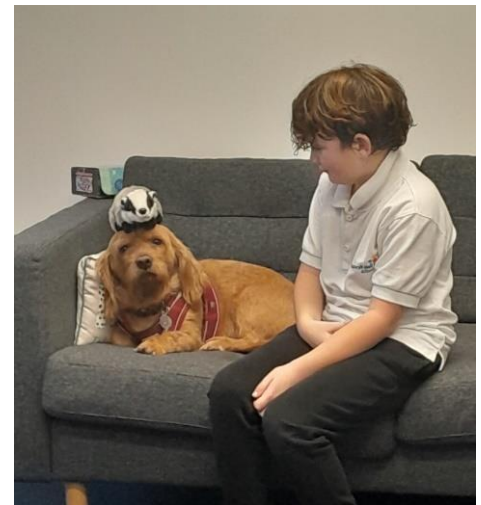
CHRISTMAS EDITION (on a Wednesday!)

Dear Parents and Carers,

Here we are on the last day of term. We have sung and acted out 'The Twelve Days of Christmas' and signed and sung 'We Wish you a Merry Christmas'. The children have had their Christmas parties and we even had a festive 'Starbucks' afternoon, which Miss Hunko organised to our great delight. It has been a busy and successful term and I am so grateful to everyone for their support. The children, as always, have been the real stars of the show and have showed us how resilient and perceptive they are. This week has seen the continuation of maths lessons, English lessons, phonics sessions, as well as a host of other lessons; the children have persevered with their learning throughout. It has been wonderful to see them celebrate all their achievements, this term. December has flown by in a flurry of festive activities and the children have shone throughout.

## **Fox class**

As our first full term at Selwyn Hall draws to a close, it's a great time to reflect on our successes, be they big or small. As you can see from this week's photo, we value collaborative learning with Crocodile class, our parallel year group; extending our friendship group possibilities and because it has been done in slow, Selwyn stages it paved the way for a super experience for a couple of boys in last 'Friday fun time' being spent together discussing the merits and values of star wars Lego minifigures, using books as reference materials. We, at Selwyn, take change slowly and supportively; there is very little to be gained by rushing through, and we as educators can spot the small increments of progress. I am so proud of the changes that I have seen in your children over the past months: requesting to read books to grown-ups when once books wouldn't even be picked up, colouring pictures using different colours when once everything was coloured in black, asking for help when you need it when once the only answer was to feel dysregulated, sitting next to other people at lunch when once being near people was too much, handing work in to me with the name and date at the top when once it was all screwed up into a ball and destroyed. We are helping your children to make choices that are the best for them and their futures, rather than worry about what others are doing. This is what makes Selwyn Hall a truly bespoke educational experience because it is the individual that we build relationships with and can tailor their learning pathways for them. That is what gets me out of bed in the morning. I wish you and your fabulous children a great holiday time, however you may be celebrating. Mrs Angell



### Vulture class

What a wonderful first term we have had in Vultures, with children exceeding expectations in both learning and social interactions. It has been nothing short of wonderful to see all three Vultures learn to play with our younger students as well as staff and amongst themselves. We have learnt and played new games, as well as our trusty football, and discovered the wonders of the parachute! We have now had two successful park and shop visits, where children showed exceptional manners and behaviour; we are beyond proud of the boys' ability to reflect our school rules while offsite. In our core learning, we have been able to conduct scientific experiments, some going incredibly well, while others (our bouncy ball) were a disappointing fail. Vultures have progressed through shape and angles in maths and recently experimented with the use of a compass resulting in some beautiful art work for our classroom. Each student has picked a class read for the end of each day, resulting in us completing 4 class books as well as our own individual reading books, an incredible accomplishment for all considering reading was not the favourite lesson at the start of the term. We have explored the world in geography, planning our dream trip abroad, have travelled back in time to the Mayan civilisation in history, we explored alternative religions and cultures in RE while also focusing on the meaning of Christmas and our family traditions [no surprise that most of the excitement is about the food we are all going to be consuming in just a few days' time]! Life skills has seen us learn to plan and budget, while also learning essential skills like basic kitchen hygiene and road safety, art has allowed us to all explore our creative side and express ourselves in our Mayan Masks and finally PHSE has opened the door to mature conversations and discussions about topics such as alcohol, drug use and addiction where I can honestly say I have been BLOWN AWAY by the incredible engagement, mature attitudes and willingness to learn by all of our learners. We are so incredibly proud of the three Vultures and the attitudes in which they have approached their first term, boys you have smashed it out of the park and achieved some fantastic work! Mrs Bentley and I are so excited for the spring term and to continue supporting you in your journey here at Selwyn Hall, we cannot wait to see what incredible things you do next. We hope you have the most amazing Christmas break; you deserve a nice rest! We look forward to seeing you in January. Miss Hunko and Mrs Bentley

### Crocodile class

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas in Crocodile Class! We have been busy getting ready for the forthcoming festivities designing Christmas decorations for the classroom in art and watering our class Christmas tree. We have been finishing our fractions in maths and been looking into acceptable and unacceptable behaviour and consequences in PSHE, as well as how to show kindness and empathy in RE. We have enjoyed playing 'The Floor is Lava' in PE with Fox Class and learning about using capital letters and inverted commas in English and practicing our pencil skills. We have been identifying key features of maps as well as the geography of the UK and are now moving onto looking into lines of symmetry in maths. Finally, we have been looking at keeping safe online and looking at kitchen hygiene in preparation for cooking after the Christmas break. We have had such an exciting term! We have a new member of Crocodile Class which has been lovely and friendships have blossomed between the pupils: sharing, learning and playing together. We have also gained a new member of staff, which has been fantastic; the children have really enjoyed learning and showing her new games. We have learnt lots and there have been such massive highlights: seeing pupils learning to write, improving their reading and becoming thoughtful, young people which has been a pleasure, and I cannot wait to see what the rest of the year brings. Thank you so much for all your support this term; the children have made such incredible progress academically and socially. Have a wonderful Christmas break and I look forward to seeing you in January. Miss McInnes



## **E-safety**

Are you planning on giving your child a new games console, mobile phone, tablet, or computer game this Christmas? Do you have friends or family who are? Visit [www.essex.police.uk/sortyoursettings](http://www.essex.police.uk/sortyoursettings) for practical things you can do to help make your child's new device safer when they are online. #StaySafe

## **The Big Ambition**

Accompanying this newsletter is a flyer about 'The Big Ambition', which provides a much-needed opportunity for the children of England to tell policy makers what is important to them ahead of the General Election. The Children's Commissioner for England has recently launched this initiative to hear directly from children, young people and parents across the country. Please follow the link in the attachment to find out more and have your say.

## **Final Thought**

I spoke in assembly, yesterday morning, about what Christmas means to different people and how families all have their own traditions and beliefs; I shared how my family start every Christmas morning eating Pork Pie [which I don't even like], because of my grandfather who used to work in Melton Mowbray and was given one every Christmas eve to eat before church on Christmas morning. We discussed that Christmas is a Christian celebration and they believe that, on the very first Christmas, God showed everyone how much He loved the world by giving more than just a gift: Jesus. I am going to take the idea of some gifts being more than just gifts and enjoy the time over the holidays with my children and family. Part of the reason for this is that Christmas is a wonderful time of year, but there is always a lot of pressure from adverts, TV and social media for it to be picture perfect. Life is never quite 'picture perfect' but I hope that in amidst the chaos, cooking and present giving and receiving, that you have time with your loved ones. I look forward to seeing you all back on Thursday, January 4th, 2024. I feel blessed to have had my first Christmas at Selwyn with your utterly fabulous children.

Have a wonderful Christmas and a happy new year.

*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 2023-2024**

#### **Autumn Term 2023**

School Closed for Staff Training	Friday 1st September 2023
School Closed for Staff Training	Monday 4th September 2023
Autumn Term begins	Tuesday 5th September 2023
Autumn Half Term	Monday 23rd to Friday 27th October 2023
Last Day of Autumn Term	Wednesday 20th December 2023

#### **Spring Term 2024**

Spring Term begins	Thursday 4th January 2024
Spring Half Term	Monday 19th to Friday February 2024
Last Day of Spring Term	Thursday 28th March 2024

#### **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 4th June 2024
Last Day of Summer Term	Friday 19th July 2024
School Closed for Staff Training	Monday 22nd July 2024