

# Friday Flyer

13<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

We have had the most joyful week and a half back in school getting to know new young people and welcoming returning ones. We have spent time playing games, getting ourselves ready for learning again and getting used to new buildings, rooms and faces. Not only do we have new young people but we also have new staff. We are welcoming new TAs: Miss Joy, Mrs Bridgeman, Mrs Carter, Mrs Laws, Ms Brown; new teachers: Mr Noone and Mrs Richardson as well as a new tutor Mr Hutchings. The team spent two INSET days training in a variety of ways, including safeguarding, PRICE and looking at curriculum and planning. We also had a visit from our Director of Education Ms Mitchell during the INSET days who spoke about how she could feel the ethos of care and attention from all staff she spoke to; it brought me much happiness to hear how the staff were talking about their values and reasons for working at Selwyn.

## **Communication with school**

If you need to contact your child's class teacher, please do so by emailing them. Their email address is: [firstname.surname@selwynhallschool.co.uk](mailto:firstname.surname@selwynhallschool.co.uk). We aim to respond to all email communication within 3 working days. If you need to contact the school more urgently, please contact us by phone on 01223 626625. The mobile number I have as a work phone is not always with me so the school phone is more reliable.

## **Reporting absences**

If your child is not going to be in school, for illness, appointments etc, please let the school know by emailing the school office by 9am, on: [schooloffice@selwynhallschool.co.uk](mailto:schooloffice@selwynhallschool.co.uk). Any unknown absences have to be chased and we need to account for all children, every day. Thank you for your support in this.

## **School lunches**

All children will be encouraged to have a school lunch. School meals are free for all children at Selwyn Hall School. Ms Carter has sent home the menu but feel free to call with any questions or concerns. 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. 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.

## **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 |



We ask that children wear trainers, tracksuit bottoms / shorts and a t-shirt for PE and that school shoes are black. If you would like to place an order, please speak to the school office: [schooloffice@selwynhallschool.co.uk](mailto:schooloffice@selwynhallschool.co.uk) . Thank you.

### **Okapi Class**

Hello, it is Mr Noone here and I have just started at Selwyn Hall School. It has been an amazing start to welcome the young learners back after the summer holidays and introduce them to the new classroom. I am enjoying getting to know them and I looking forward to the term ahead and all the new learning and experiences. Already we have done get to know me jigsaw pieces, talked through the school rules and discussed names for our class. This week has been full of excitement as we have done it and named our class... I can officially introduce 'THE OKAPI CLASS' (there were many confused faces when I announced it in the staff briefing, as I imagine may be on your faces too). The Okapi is known as the "forest giraffe," and looks like a cross between a deer and a zebra, and is one of the interesting facts among many that we have discovered. All in all, it has been a fabulous first whole week, getting to know the young learners and engaging in building positive relationships with others in the school. We have reintroduced the children back into school life and I am delighted to see how they have reconnected with friends from the last academic year through their interactions at play and lunchtimes. Have a wonderful weekend. Mr Noone.

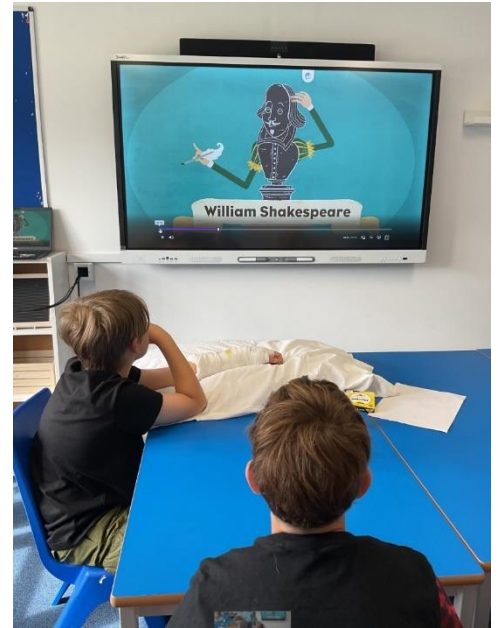


### **Cat Class**

It has been lovely to have the school back buzzing with children this week. They had so much to share with us and it was lovely to know that they trust us to share the good and not so good times they have had in the holidays. We have welcomed new staff and students into our fold and your children's relationship building skills have been working very hard yet again. We had a class discussion and then a vote to decide our class name; the votes were counted, and most of the children chose cat class to be our new name. This week, in a practical maths lesson, we were able to get outside and explore the forest school area in more detail. Having done some research into the trees on site I was able to tell the children how to work out the age of living trees. The children learnt about how to respect the forest and its creatures and showed so much interest and understanding about how we need to work together to help make forest school sessions exciting. Forest school is a child led process and I look forward to the children guiding me so I can plan exciting activities for our sessions. I was explaining the child centred approach to the new TAs in cat class this week, they all agree that it makes perfect sense and that learning takes many forms. We are at Selwyn to equip young people into our future adults. We have so much fun making it relevant and purposeful and, as a team that is growing, we look forward to seeing our Selwyn children growing and blooming. "FYI" (as one of my little learners says) we discovered that our largest tree, a sycamore is 148 years old. Not only an amazing fact but as another little learner said, "Even older than you Mrs Angell". Have a lovely weekend. Mrs Angell

### **Figge Class**

It has been so lovely to welcome back all of the children and to introduce them to new staff, new classrooms and new experiences. It has already been great to have seen the children using perseverance and resilience in starting the new school year and to see old friendships flourish and new friendships start to form. I am looking forward to the term ahead forming new relationships and creating a new class team. It has been our first full week back at Selwyn this week and what a busy first week it has been. Mrs Pine had asked the classes to think of a class name as an identity and after much debate and many suggestions, we have finally decided on a class name; the children wanted to choose someone who had achieved a great feat and we decided on a woman who had swum the Atlantic....so we are now known as 'Figge class'. I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the children this week and building positive relationships and learning about how best they like to work. We have completed lots of 'getting to know me' activities, as well as learning about the great 'William Shakespeare' as part of the English curriculum – with portraits drawn, fact files completed and a hilarious session where children and adults were allowed to use Shakespeare insults at each other. Yesterday afternoon, a 'mammoth' game of Monopoly – as part of their maths lesson- was completed and the children were so engaged learning about loans, mortgages, rent and making deals...Mrs Lienau was made bankrupt but was impressed by the children's negotiations. Have a lovely weekend; sunshine has been promised. Miss Chandler



### **Marco Polo Class**

Welcome back everyone! It has been amazing to see all the children back after the summer holidays. We have spent the first couple of days regaining familiarity with the school, peers and staff through activities like Uno, sharing our incredible summer activities and lots of outdoor time. We have also been working on making the classroom our own. I am so excited for the rest of this school year and the growth I'm sure they will all make. What an amazing first (full) week back! If you haven't already heard, we have now got a class name... drum roll please... MARCO POLO! We have made a great start to our Shakespeare topic in English and have been learning The Tempest story. Now that we have a solid understanding of the characters and plot, we will start to explore some extracts from Shakespeare's scripts. We have solidified knowledge of place value - including decimals - in maths and practised counting to 10 in French. As we settle into our new class, we have done some teamwork activities like taking it in turn to draw parts of monsters, which has been extremely entertaining and having plenty of games outside. I hope everyone enjoys their weekend. Miss Borgeson

### **Armstrong Class**

We have just enjoyed our first week back at Selwyn Hall and have chosen to name our room Armstrong, after Neil Armstrong. We have chosen images of the stars and planets to decorate the door. Knowing the importance of working well together, we have devised a set of house rules for running the class which the students have chosen for themselves. During the week, we have spent time getting to know each other as we are all new this year. Friendships have been forged and the students are able to cooperate and take turns. Social skills are being developed and we are learning each other's strengths. We have mastered the interactive whiteboard and used it extensively in lessons. Maths has been popular and we have learnt that a quintillion has 18 zeros. The students have wonderful imaginations and story-building has been a large part of our week. We will turn to writing when we are ready. We enjoyed watermelon – but our pineapple is not yet ripe enough to eat. A new card game is being developed including trading and dinosaurs and Uno has proved a popular choice of game. We are listening to Gangsta Granny – by request. Once outside, the

students have enjoyed joining in with games played by all the children. Overall, a really successful week! Mrs Richardson

### **Final Thought**

In assembly, this morning, we talked about enjoying rollercoasters, as many of us had been on some over the summer. We talked about which bits we liked: some liked the beginning and anticipation, some liked being up high, some liked the loop-the-loops and some enjoyed all the parts. We also discussed the bit we didn't enjoy: for some it was the end of the ride and for others it was bits when they may have felt a little green. We concluded that each part of a journey has parts we enjoy, parts which feel rough but that each part makes up the whole journey. We likened this to the year ahead of us. This is the start of another wonderful journey, which we are excited to take with you and your families. If you ever have any thoughts, questions or ideas for us, please don't hesitate to get in touch. We feel privileged to be working with your children.

Have a wonderful weekend.  
Yours faithfully.

## **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                   |