

Friday Flyer

Friday 13th December 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week, there has been a keen focus on learning still with a subtle Christmas twist to some of the subject areas. We have had staff coming in dressed in green for The Grinch and wearing Christmas headwear or socks. Next week, there will be a bit more sparkle. With one more week to go until the Christmas holidays, children are starting to get tired and we are slightly slowing the pace to ensure that we focus on their wellbeing as well as the curriculum. This next week will be true to our motto here at Selwyn that our curriculum tells us what to teach, not how to teach it and that will be adapted as the needs of our young people change as we approach the end of term.

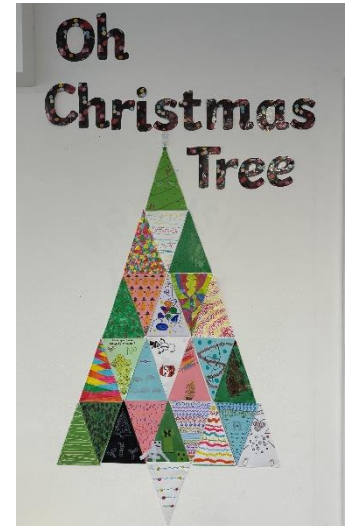
Cat Class

Misty mornings have provided a certain spookiness to our site this week and going out at morning play has seemed rather ethereal. However, it hasn't stopped Cat class – all coatless, some jumperless running out and playing games together, carrying on the fun that they have been having in the classroom. Throwing themselves onto the dewy grass, rolling over a molehill or two, basically having fun! I look for them and think, oh there they are, having the best time, as they should do at age 9 and 10. At some of the playtimes, they have even joined in whole school games, and this warms our souls as you might think that being in a different building, they would feel remote from the other children. In class they're not showing any signs of wanting to slow down for the holidays and we have kept them entertained with our rendition of Christmas songs and making Christmas crafts. They have even decorated one of our classroom windows to provide Christmas cheer to the people who live in the neighbouring bungalows. Such a kind gesture coming from the huge hearts of your children. Have a great weekend. Mrs Angell.

Marco Polo Class

This week in Marco Polo class, we've been getting into the festive spirit while continuing our amazing learning journey. In English, the children have been writing their own Christmas stories, full of creativity and festive cheer. In Maths, we worked on finding missing angles inside shapes, showcasing great problem-solving skills. Geography focused on the human impact on ecosystems, with the children creating thoughtful posters on how we can help the environment. In History, we examined the impact of the Treaty of Versailles after WWI, sparking fantastic discussions about its effectiveness and what could have been done to prevent WWII.

We've also been preparing for Christmas by decorating the classroom with paper chains, snowflakes, and paper-mâché baubles—it's looking wonderfully festive! The children have had so much fun guessing the staff dress-up themes each day. In PE, we enjoyed an energetic game of dodgeball, and in Life Skills, we baked delicious cheese straw biscuits. It's been a week filled with learning, creativity, and holiday excitement—well done, Marco Polo class. Have a great weekend. Miss Borgeson.



Cat class

Using puppets to help with our English learning



Playing go fish to help with our memory and gamesmanship



Armstrong Class

Armstrong Class has had a wonderfully creative week. We made paper, as they did during the Golden Age of Islam, and wrote a persuasive poster about the House of Wisdom. We also made cheese biscuits which hopefully were shared with you! We read an excerpt from *The Magic Finger* and added extra descriptive writing of our own. Roald Dahl would be proud! In Maths, we have been learning about nets of 3D shapes and even tried making one of our own. Meanwhile in Science, we tried to separate mixtures by filtration and evaporation – who knew that water and salt could be separated once dissolved! Have a lovely weekend. Ms Clifford.



Okapi Class

This week in Okapi class has been full of creativity, collaboration, and celebration. Elfie the elf has been up to all sorts of mischief, and made a new friend, Elfred. Their antics have captured the children's imaginations and become a fantastic tool for sparking creative writing. The children have loved creating stories about the elves' adventures and sharing them with each other. It has also been lovely to see new friendships forming and positive relationships growing. During class games and activities, the children have shown kindness and respect, practising taking turns and encouraging each other. Their teamwork and laughter have created a joyful atmosphere in the classroom. Our creativity shone brightly this week as we made beautiful Christmas trees out of colourful buttons, carefully arranging patterns and designs. In Design and Technology, we focused on learning the running stitch, which we used to create gingerbread man cushions and fun sock puppets! In PSHE, we explored individuality and celebrated our personal qualities. The children reflected on what makes them special, shared their unique talents and interests, and learned to appreciate the qualities that make their friends one of a kind. I hope you all have a great weekend! Mr Noone.

Figge Class

This week, marked the start of the festive period for Figge class as they decorated the classroom to look more wintery; the children used window chalks to make snowy themes and also etched fabulous baubles for the windows – it is certainly beginning to look a lot like Christmas!

I have been very impressed in the children's maturity this week and their ability to talk through things with trusted adults; whether this be a problem they have encountered, their feelings and emotions which they are dealing with or in explaining their thinking in learning. It truly is a pleasure to be their teacher every day and work alongside them as learners, navigating their way through education.

The class have worked hard in maths this week and have learnt to identify polygons and quadrilaterals, as well as use protractors and rules to accurately draw shapes; in science, we had a fabulous afternoon of a double lesson, where we set an experiment to find out the best thermal insulators and also investigated reversible and irreversible changes to solids. In PE, we used many tactics to explore the simple game of 'hide and seek' and came up with various rules and adaptations – it was great to see them work with all of



the children in the rest of Selwyn Hall to continue to play versions of this game at play and lunchtimes; in French, we learnt the names of colours and then labelled things around the classroom by reading and saying the colours written and then completed games with these. It certainly has been a busy week.

The class were excited to learn about the staff secret Santa, so took it upon themselves to organise their own version of this; it was lovely to see them so excited to pick out each other's names and then to bring in the gifts for their chosen person; although it wasn't much of a secret after children told each other and all adults who they had, they did keep their gifts a secret and it was so sweet to see their faces filled with joy at giving their presents, as well as receiving them. They were thankful, grateful and joyful...and I feel that sums up the real meaning of Christmas. Happy weekend all. Miss Chandler

Final Thought

Yesterday, we had termly monitoring from one of our local authorities. As always, the young people of Selwyn Hall shone like the stars they are. When asked about what they would change about Selwyn if they could, their response was that they would like more equipment outside. I couldn't agree more and my drive for the new year will be for more climbing, and swinging, equipment for our field. The members of the local authority spent time here over morning play and lunchtime, looked in books and had full tour of the school. I was delighted that they could see all the positive things we had in place and reminded me, once again, of how proud I am of all our community.

Have a great weekend.

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

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

Summer Term 2025

Summer Term begins

Tuesday 22nd April 2025

Bank Holiday

Monday 5th May 2025

Summer Half Term

Monday 26th May to Friday 30th May 2025

School Closed for Staff Training

Monday 2nd June 2025

End of Summer Term

Wednesday 23rd July 2025