

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Learning is in full swing, with a huge focus, this week, on reading. It has been wonderful to talk to children about their preferences to reading and to find out what genres of books they like reading; we now have an extensive Amazon wishlist of books! Children have been assessed on their reading levels, where possible, and everyone has a new book to focus on in school, as well as all classes enjoying a class story after lunch each day. We have had more training being delivered on phonics and have completed a whole staff book look into PSHE; it was great to see books full of such a variety of lessons and outcomes, photos of children engrossed in learning and to hear staff commenting so positively about their young learners approach to this subject. What a busy week it has been for everyone!

## Cat Class

When I look through the class iPad to find photos for the flyer, I always try to group the photos into a theme; this week it is happiness. The joy that the photos show me warms the heart. The class were cooking pizzas using basic ingredients that, as it says you might have at home; we are trying to set our children on the right path for being self-sufficient adults. I must say, the eating photos had the broadest smiles though! More happiness was found in the faces in the photos of sign language lessons with Miss Joy; mostly done with the children in various blanket/cushion-built dens under the tables. Photos show that Miss Joy can fit in very small spaces! In maths, we have been focussing on telling the time and some of the children have even been looking at 24-hour clock which is a tricky concept, so the happiness on those photos was plain to see. I always tell anyone that asks that happiness is key to learning. If the children are not happy and relaxed, then they are not in the right emotional place to learn. It is good to know that we have created the perfect atmosphere for our children to relax and learn. I hope you also find your own happiness this weekend. Mrs Angell and Cat class team.

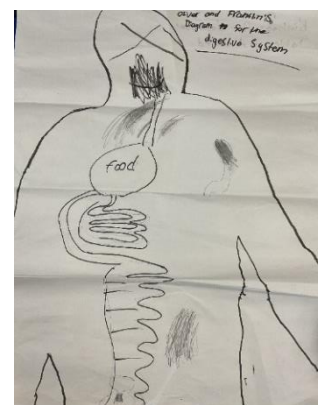


## Marco Polo Class

This week in Marco Polo class has been full of creativity, hard work, and fun!

In English, we explored more songs, focusing on structure, rhythm, and rhyme. The children wrapped up the week by writing their own songs, with a young person shining in his song writing. In maths, we continued converting units, tackling word and multi-step problems. One young person impressed everyone with her organised workings in her book, while another demonstrated incredible perseverance in solving tricky problems.

PE was a hit with a lively game of dodgeball, and in art, the children practiced fabric weaving. Geography lessons focused on deforestation, where the class wrote persuasive letters to stop it and one young person stood out with his use of emotive language in his letter. In history, we looked at changes in religion during Tudor rule, exploring how each monarch influenced religious practices. Life Skills saw us making tasty pizza toasties, and in DT, the children designed shadow puppets inspired by characters from a story we wrote together. One young person did an excellent job reflecting character traits in his puppet design. In music, the children identified artists and musical instruments, with a participating brilliantly throughout the lesson. To celebrate such a fantastic week of learning, we wrapped it all up with a trip to the park. Well done to all the children for their effort and enthusiasm this week—what a brilliant start to the term! Miss Borgeson



## Armstrong Class

Armstrong Class have had a good week. We made pizzas in our cookery lesson and they were delicious so we wrote a class poem about them in Literacy (below). We tried weaving in our art lesson which was really satisfying and we found out about the Anglo-

Saxons in history. We weren't sure we would have liked to have lived like they did! We also wondered how so much is known about them, but it seems many artefacts and diaries have been found. Before starting the circulatory system in science, we checked we could remember details about the digestive system, so we explained that with a big poster of a human body. It turns out, we could remember lots which was excellent!

Pizza tastes really good,  
I like it as much as a beaver likes wood.  
Delicious, delicious Hawaiian pizza,  
It is as scrumptious as a margarita.  
Pizza cheese is very creamy,  
It also tastes quite dreamy.  
I've never really liked the crust,  
It has to be banned – it must!  
Have a great weekend. Mrs Clifford



### **Okapi Class**

This week in Okapi class has been filled with exciting learning! In our time topic, we've been reading a variety of clock faces and exploring the concept of duration. In English, we've delved into poems, including Robert Frost's *The Road Not Taken* and Lewis Carroll's *Jabberwocky*. The class has been making predictions based on the titles and discussing how poets use specific words and phrases to create vivid images, sounds, and emotions. In science, we've started learning about the different food groups, why they are important, and how our bodies process nutrients. It's been a busy and engaging week! Have a great weekend! Mr Noone.

### **Figge Class**

The children in my class know that I love Coldplay and this week in class has reminded me of the opening lyrics to their latest song '*We've been through low, been through sunshine, been through snow, All the colours of the weather*' because this sums up the week in Figge class. It's been a week of much learning, some tricky times to navigate and yet also full of so many glimmers. My biggest glimmer this week was achieving the children reading individual books as well as listening to and enjoying a class novel – which has greatly sparked their imagination of games to play at Selwyn. The children and situations in the novel sound so similar to us here at school so it has been great for the children to see comparisons and enjoy being read to. This week also saw us learning how to draw people in art, using mannequin figurines to set as poses. The children focused and studied the proportions of the body and their art produced was stunning! Another art lesson focused on the artist 'Poonac' and the children loved creating art in the style of this 'graffiti' artist – take a look at their art!

Our history work has seen us begin to learning about 'The Anglo Saxons' and this was a great learning opportunity, not only for history but for PSHE as it touched on how they, as a community, migrated across the North sea to England in small boats, containing whole families and all of their belongings; it appeared they were displaced due to their lands being flooded. This led to a discussion about refugees and how desperate people feel at times and why people have to sometimes flee their homes and countries...and the fact that this displacement has been happening for centuries. We also loved learning about rivers as part of our geography work and the children learnt the names of the different parts of the river and how they start at the source and where they meet the sea.

All in all, it has been an amazing week, with so many opportunities for growth and learning in all aspects of not only the curriculum, but in personal growth. It is always a pleasure to be part of their journey with them. Happy weekend. Miss Chandler

### **Otzi Class**

We've had a lovely week in Otzi class. We finally settled on a class name. 'Otzi' is a man who died in mysterious circumstances 5,000 years ago and was preserved in ice until 1991. He was found with an ancient joke book which I have been using all week with limited success. We have learnt so much about the period from his diet and clothing, but so far not managed to solve the 'cold case'. We have been exploring dinosaur and early human evolution and discussing how species alter to suit their environments.

As I am new to the school too, we have been taking some time to wander around the school grounds and chat with the chickens.

Our classroom is starting to take shape with a display about 'Dino Sue', one of the most complete Tyrannosaurus Rex skeletons ever found and we discovered that although they had very tough skin, T Rex faces were very sensitive and were used to sense textures. We are excited for exploring a bit more of Viking and Anglo-Saxon history next week. Have a lovely weekend, Mr Nightingale.

## **Final Thought**

This week, we have had some more local authority monitoring and training around therapeutic interventions in schools. It has been wonderful to hear from other headteachers and SENDCos and to share best practise. We also discussed our growing concerns with the number of our young people on social media and in WhatsApp groups. I sent out an email to parents before Christmas about the positives and negatives of social media and Whatsapp in particular. It is an increasing problem, in school, that young people are having fallings out, being removed from Whatsapp groups and that these challenges they are experiencing are coming into school; children are having a hard time distancing themselves from these outside school difficulties and are then finding it hard to move onto learning and being settled in school. Please could we ask that you keep an eye on what your children are doing online and ensure that their online presence continues to show respect to everyone. Thank you.

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**

#### **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

#### **Autumn Term 2025**

School Closed for Staff Training

Monday 1st September 2025

School Closed for Staff Training

Tuesday 2nd September 2025

Autumn Term begins

Wednesday 3rd September 2025

Autumn Half Term

Monday 27th Oct to Friday 31st Oct 2025

End of Autumn Term

Friday 19th December 2025