

Friday Flyer

Friday 14th March 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

What an incredible week we have had at Selwyn! We welcomed back Mrs Beard for 3 days, who came in her role as Senior Quality Assurance Lead for Education. Mrs Beard carried out quality assurance across the school and we looked at a myriad of amazing lessons. We saw phonics being taught, whole class story time, play times, English lessons, maths lesson and Cat class showed us the most brilliant human punctuation using inverted commas. We also spent time looking through the books across the school with the teachers and I was, again, in awe of the learning the children have been completing. From Macbeth to cooking a chicken stir fry to weekly STEM lessons, the children have been given a broad and rich curriculum tailored to their individual needs, and they have risen to it all. During her visit, Mrs Beard met with many of our young people and listened to what they enjoyed about Selwyn, what they thought could be improved and what their aspirations for their futures were. They were inspirational.

Helping and Supporting Others

Marco Polo class are having a cake stall next Thursday 20th March.

As a way of supporting and helping others, they have chosen the children's Make a Wish Foundation charity as their beneficiary.

They were planning today and will be baking for it on Thursday morning, with the sale in the afternoon.

Prices will be 20p for cookies and biscuits, 50p for cake.

If you are able to, please bring some coins in on the day. Thank you. Mrs Carter



Cat Class

This week, the Cat Class flyer is all about learning without books. Having had a book scrutiny this week from the Polaris QA lead, it may seem strange for me not to mention books. Instead, I wanted to share in words and pictures some of the learning we have done that didn't involve writing in books. A typical morning in cat class starts with our phonics cards and, with the help of an animated frog that gets up to all kinds of mischief, we practice phonic sounds. They are such important building blocks for developing a multitude of literacy skills, and for the fact fans, the first book that referred to phonics teaching was published in 1783. We then have a maths lesson – this week measuring objects in the classroom in mm, cm and m, and as the Polaris QA lead and Mrs Pine happened to be in class for this, the boys had to measure them! The drum kit has now been set up in building 3 in our activities room, it has been enjoyed by the class, and it is our aim to use it as part of our music lessons. In our science lessons, we have been using a practical electronics kit that made bulbs and buzzers work and even a propeller whizzed around our heads for a while. This introduced the children to the idea of circuit making and caused a great deal of fun and some children even asked to use it as part of their free choice activity time. In art, we are looking at the work of William Morris and so the children dodged the hail and went foraging outside for objects found in nature to recreate art inspired by William Morris: pinecones, feathers, daisies



and leaves of all shapes and sizes and lots of goeey PVA were then used for their large pieces of art. In our PE, inclement weather put paid to the planned pickle ball lesson, so instead we had an in-class yoga session with a Harry Potter theme; the stretches were very beneficial for us all and the children picked up and refined some very good yogic practices. Namaste. Mrs Angell.

Marco Polo Class

Another fantastic week in Marco Polo class has been filled with creativity, exploration, and hands-on learning! In English, we delved into contemporary writing: exploring themes, foreshadowing, symbolism, and the importance of social issues in storytelling. In maths, we continued working with algebra while also incorporating decimals and negative numbers into our problem-solving.

Geography took us to the extremes as we learned about survival in Polar Regions, discussing the challenges and adaptations needed to endure such harsh environments. In art, we began planning our own multi-media collages, considering different materials and techniques.

A big highlight this week was exploring the new music room, where we got to test out the drums and guitars, which was an exciting experience for everyone! In life skills, we practiced cooking stir fry and learned about self-reflection, discussing how we can evaluate our own progress and growth.

In science, we conducted an experiment to demonstrate how lungs work, as well as performing our own hearing tests to understand how we perceive sound. Computing saw us taking our first steps into using spreadsheets, learning how they help us organize and analyse data.

We're rounding off the week by celebrating all our brilliant learning with a trip to the park—provided the rain holds off! Well done to all the children for their hard work and enthusiasm this week! 🌸 Miss Borgeson.

Okapi Class

This week in Okapi class, the young people have been immersed in a range of engaging learning activities. In maths, the focus was on measurement and the young people actively measured various objects around them and smaller objects in the classroom. They were challenged with problem-solving questions related to these measurements, which helped them strengthen their ability to apply mathematical concepts in real-life situations. In English, the class delved into the story of "The Enormous Turnip" and as part of the exploration, students were inspired by a Swede (a root vegetable similar to a turnip) and used it to engage their senses. They discussed the different sensory experiences involved in handling and observing the vegetable, which deepened their understanding of the story's themes. In addition to this, the class used their creativity to create alternative endings to the story, turning the enormous turnip into various other things; these imaginative endings sparked lively discussions and allowed the students to explore the concept of storytelling and narrative structure in a fun and engaging way. In PSHE, the focus shifted to understanding the difference between needs and wants and the learners learned about the basic human needs—such as food, water, and shelter—and how these differ from wants, which are things people desire but aren't essential for survival. This lesson helped students gain a deeper understanding of the importance of prioritising needs over wants, offering valuable insight into how we make decisions in everyday life. Overall, it has been a week full of hands-on learning, creative exploration, and critical thinking, with the young people actively engaging in problem-solving, storytelling, and thoughtful discussions about the world around them.

Figge Class

This week has seen Figge class look to the future as we investigated and spoke about careers; a fabulous Monday morning PSHE lesson saw us learning about transferable skills and thinking about how these skills can be useful in multiple careers. A great discussion then followed about what they see themselves doing in the future, which lead to the children researching potential careers and really thinking ahead. It was such a wonderful discussion from all and they showed real maturity. A valuable lesson was learnt this week as a young person commented on the fact that they didn't



want to read one morning because they felt they were rubbish at it- I immediately commented on all the positives from their reading; their great fluency, their expression with character voices and how much I enjoyed listening to them. Their response was 'but I'm not as good as I should be'. This comment immediately made me share even more positives to build their self-esteem, but it really did make me ponder...

It is human nature which causes us to focus on the negatives, even when we've had so many positives and it is a trap we often all fall into. I have been working on this within my own practice- celebrating the positives, rather than dwelling on the negatives and I have ensured that all adults in Figge have been reminding our young people of their positives, rather than dwelling on what they can't do. Our visitor in school this week was a great boost in this respect, as children shared their writing and other learning with her and received nothing but full praise for their learning. It was lovely for the children's work to be so well received and, as a teacher, to be able to celebrate how far the children have come since September as we looked back. Wishing you a wonderful weekend. Miss Chandler



Otzi Class

What number in a roll will allow you to kill a monk and steal his treasure or escape a charging boar? That's the kind of decisions we have been making in creating a board game based around competing Anglo Saxon villages this week. Many chose to create and defend their own villages modelled on research, although we also have a pupil in charge of the dangerous animals that roam the board and even an Anglo Saxon god who periodically sends trials and blessings on villages. As our game has got more complex we are learning more about the practicalities of the Anglo Saxon world but also about the challenges of creating a fun and practical board game. Things are also about to change as there are rumours of a Viking long boat seen on the board's river! We have also been exploring Venn diagrams of various sizes and varieties. Riddles continue to be a feature of our class and we still regularly set a 'whole day' puzzle and have spent time in English making more stylised and descriptive classical riddles. Outside of the class, we stopped by the new music room on our trip to get library books and had another play with the drums and other instruments. Have a lovely weekend. Mr Nightingale.

Final Thought

We have recently opened our third building, the Alexander Crummel building, and in it we already have a beautiful library and an activities room. We have been donated an awesome drum kit, have put all our musical instruments in there and the pool table is up and running for reward time. We are slowly decorating and sorting the rest of the rooms and are excited for the next steps of our Selwyn growth.

In the future, the activities room is planned to become a science room, which is being developed by Miss Joy. This week, our young people have been enjoying science week and taken part in lots of fun and interesting investigations and experiments. Each subject is important here, as young people find their passions and interests but it is always powerful to highlight on one so that children get a real sense of immersing themselves. I hope we have some budding scientists now at Selwyn 😊

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