

Friday Flyer

Friday 21st March 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week is Neurodiversity week, and we have been celebrating it here at Selwyn and across the whole of the Polaris community. We have decorated our classroom doors and we have been talking, in classes, about how we celebrate our differences. One of our members of staff also wrote a poem to share how she feels about this week and Selwyn Hall.

Selwyn Superpowers

*In Selwyn classrooms there is magic to behold,
where neurodiverse students have superpowers untold.*

*With unique perspectives and ways to see,
they light up our worlds with creativity.*

*Staff of Selwyn, the guides on their quest,
creating safe spaces where all feel their best.
Breaking down barriers and building confidence,
empowering their students with resilience and strength.*

*ADHD, Autism, trauma and more,
not always challenges but strengths to explore.*

*Visual thinkers, inventors, deep feelers too,
changing the world with their own points of view.*

*In this community of diversity we all belong,
celebrating differences and helping others along.*

*With every pupil light we shine bold and far,
to create a world of acceptance and love.*

*So lets lift up each other and our own unique gifts,
our tapestry of colours and patterns swiftly drift.*

*In Selwyn Classrooms we pave the way,
for an inclusive tomorrow and a brighter today.*



Cat Class

What a cat class week it's been! As you can see from our photos, we had a visit from a nurse, who came in and showed our young people how to restart hearts, by using both CPR and AED machines. After a lesson on kitchen safety, making a bolognese sauce was on offer with Mrs Carter. They are really enjoying cooking lessons, and the life skills involved, such as budgeting and kitchen safety that are so important for all young people to learn. My favourite lesson of the week must be one about fronted adverbials. It was a new concept for the young people in Cat class. With determined focus, Cat class worked enthusiastically. In weather news, the warmth has been fantastic for staff and student morale. The children and adults have had fun playing and learning outside, although all of us couldn't wait to come inside for our first Selwyn Hall charity cake sale on Thursday. It is such a pleasure for me to be approaching a second Selwyn summer, to revisit rounders and other summery pastimes and fun with your young people. As the sun sets on the week, I wish you a lovely weekend. Mrs Angell

Marco Polo Class

What a fantastic and productive week we've had in Marco Polo class!

In Maths, we recapped how to write algebraic expressions and tackled multiplying and dividing by decimal numbers with great success. English focused on different types of unreliable narrators, exploring their purposes in storytelling, and we also practiced writing cliffhangers to build suspense.

History was hands-on and strategic as we studied the Spanish Armada's tactics and applied our knowledge by creating and playing our own board games based on the strategies used. In Life Skills, we held a fundraising bake sale for Make-A-Wish, and we're so grateful for all your support—thank you.

In PE, the children applied everything they've learned to play some incredibly successful games of Capture the Flag, showing fantastic teamwork and strategy. DT was all about planning, as we designed our own desk/drawer organizers, which we will begin making next week.

Geography took us to high-altitude locations, where we explored the effects of oxygen deprivation and wrote diary entries imagining we were explorers scaling Mount Everest.

To celebrate such an incredible week of learning and teamwork, we ended with a well-earned movie and snack reward. A huge well done to everyone! Have a lovely weekend. Miss Borgeson.

Marco Polo Cake Sale in aid of Make a Wish Foundation

Yesterday the children worked very hard and very carefully, following the recipes and making the various cakes, cookies and shortbreads they had chosen. We made everything that had been planned and it all looked wonderful. In the afternoon the children placed the tasty platters on the counter and opened the sale.

The students expertly handled the tongs and paper bags as the rest of the school, students and staff came to the counter to purchase the wonderful treats. There were many compliments as to the look and taste of all the cakes and cookies.

I am very proud of all the children and very pleased to say that they raised £68.10 to send to the Make a Wish Foundation. Mrs Carter

A WEEK IN CAT CLASS



LEARNING VITAL SKILLS



WATCHING CHANGES HAPPEN



LEADING BY EXAMPLE



INVENTING AND CREATING



Okapi Class

This week in Okapi class has been a fabulous one, with the arrival of spring and two days of sunny weather, which brought great joy as the young people played outside. We have been exploring "if you were an engineer what would you do?", focusing on problem-solving and thinking critically about existing products and how they could be improved. They have been tapping into their creativity, imagining new solutions to everyday challenges. In science this week, the young people participated in an investigation focused on transpiration (uptake of water in a plant). They explored how food colouring demonstrates the movement of water through a plant, causing the petals to change colour as part of the process. The young people made predictions about the outcome and will observe the results in the coming days to see if their predictions were correct. Additionally, the class had a special visitor who taught them valuable first aid skills, including how to perform CPR. It was a wonderful week filled with hands-on learning, creativity, and practical skills that the young people will carry with them. Have a great weekend. Mr Noone.

Figge Class

People always say 'begin each day with a smile' and that is exactly what I get every morning teaching in Figge class; from the moment our young people step through the doors, there is always a tale to tell, a story to share or some world event that needs unpicking. It is within the first 20 minutes of each day where the day is set, the mood is felt and the troubles are eased. This week, we started most days with a PSHE focus, however, these lessons have turned into very productive and much needed chats on various topics. We had a great Wednesday session discussing insecurities and why you should never change to suit someone else. Tuesday was spent deliberating thoughts we should keep to ourselves and the phrase 'if you can't say anything nice, don't say anything at all'.

It is sometimes easy to overlook the small wins, but this week I have seen the young people step up in supporting each other; I have seen them mature in their approach with others, kindness has been seen in abundance and focus in learning has been wonderful to see.

The young people have thoroughly loved our work on learning about the justice system this week; we have watched a mock trial, have posed as a witness, and written a news report using formal language.

The children really got into the trial case and even set up the Figge courtroom. They put Miss Joy on trial for a crime and a young person for burglary - it was great to see what they had learnt from the lessons and what they included in their drama.

The class had a lovely reward trip to the park this afternoon in the glorious sunshine and played co-operatively and there were smiles-a-plenty! Happy Weekend. Miss Chandler

Otzi Class

Some of us got to spend some time pillaging Lindisfarne Monastery this week. The raid was the final task of a game we played which started at the Viking villages before the attacking ships set sail and taught us a lot about Viking culture. We got to know our Thalls from are Karls and jarls! We have such a lot of discussions in Otzi that we decided to focus on developing more formal debating skills this week. We have begun looking at the language, rules and structure of debates and started practicing some of these. Aside from the academic benefits, it has also proved a really good way of reminding us how best to structure arguments and listen to others (something that we have not always been good at as discussions become heated!). The sunshine unleashed a side to our Otzi pupils we don't normally see – they were running, playing tag, rolling around on the grass and playing balancing games on tyres in the forest area! Hope the sun stays for the weekend! Have a great weekend. Mr Nightingale.



Final Thought

Another week and another fabulous visitor at Selwyn Hall School. This week, a nurse from Addenbrookes came to support our young people with some emergency first aid. She worked with all classes to learn about how to help someone in need of help in a variety of scenarios. The children were fantastic and asked some brilliant questions, as always. Juliette, the nurse, was so impressed with everyone's enthusiasm, interest and politeness. She is eager to come back and continue the children's journey with their life skills.

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