

Friday Flyer

Friday 28th March 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

How wonderful it was to see so many of you at the parent coffee morning, yesterday. It was brilliant to talk to some of you and to see you all chatting and getting to know each other. Thank you so much for your questions and suggestions in the comment boxes. The theme most discussed was about communication of things like visitors and changes to staff in classes. We have listened and are adding some information to each week's Friday Flyer. You will see that from today there is a new section giving information about what is coming up in the next few weeks. We will try to give as much information as possible. Class teachers are also going to try and communicate any specific changes to their class to all parents. Please know that, at times, changes have to be made without notice, and staffing may change on a day-to-day basis based on staffing absence. An example of this is when there are illness outbreaks and staffing has to be spread out throughout the school. We talk to the children about these being our 'whoops' moments and address them in the morning with them. Again, a huge thank you for coming, yesterday, and for being so supportive. It is through these discussions with you that we can work together to ensure that you feel part of our community and help shape its future.

In exciting news, at Selwyn, our leadership team is growing even more. I am thrilled to let you know that Miss Borgeson has been appointed as the new Behaviour and Attitudes Leader. She has been our Behaviour Specialist since September, so I'm delighted that she has now joined the Senior Leadership Team in this role. Well done, Miss Borgeson.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY	
Friday 4 th April	Last day of term – school ends at 3:30pm
Monday 21 st April	Easter Monday – school closed
Tuesday 22 nd April	Child return to school after Easter break
Tuesday 22 nd April	HPV vaccination for Year 8 students

Cat Class

Alliteration this week: cats crafting cheerfully. We were lucky enough to have a huge bag of fleecy fabric donated and the children designed plushies. The keen cutters that are our TAs set about helping cut and stick together fabulous creations; the children then stuffed them with toy stuffing. We had Peashooter and Fireshooter (characters from a computer game) a Yorkshire terrier, and Greg Heffley all brought to life, in fleece. In maths, we managed to fill in some gaps in our learning, by exploring symmetry, parallel and perpendicular lines. The children worked with great care and focus; one young person said to me "This is such fun, it doesn't even seem like learning." Thank you, you know who you are, that was my highlight of the week and one of the reasons I am at Selwyn. Have a lovely weekend and although we lose an hour's sleep when the clocks go forward, we will all benefit from the lighter evenings. Mrs Angell



Marco Polo Class

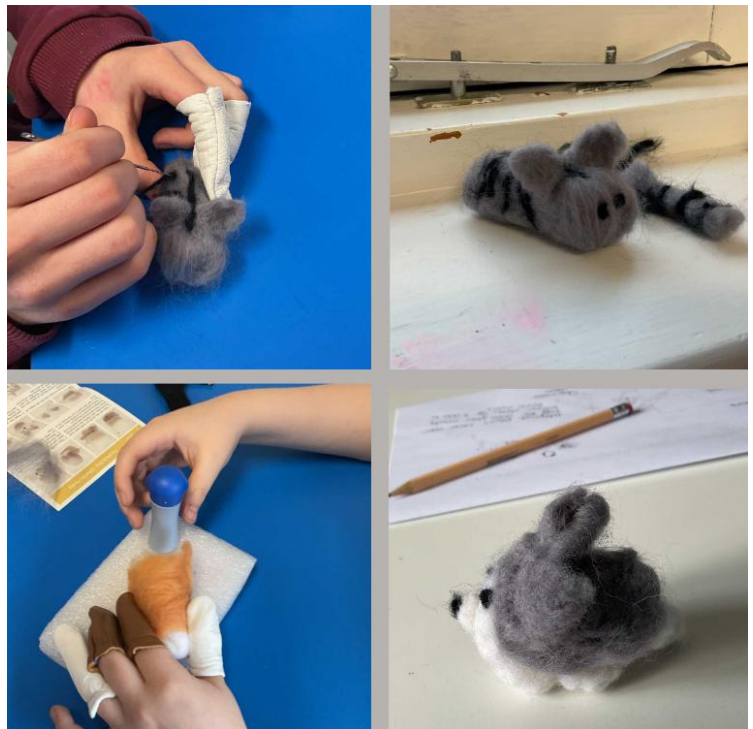
What an incredible week of learning in Marco Polo class. We are so proud of everyone's hard work and enthusiasm. In maths, we continued our algebra journey. We were so impressed with everyone's hard work and resilience and progress has been amazing. In English, we explored character journeys in contemporary fiction, creating our own characters and diving into their emotional journeys. We looked at their internal struggles, the choices they make, and how to write natural and believable dialogue. Science was packed with discovery as we learned about ultrasound, echolocation, and transpiration in plants. We even experimented with coloured water and watched it change the colour of a flower. In geography, we explored deep sea environments, discussing why so much of the ocean remains unexplored (spoiler alert: the pressure!) and created some incredible drawings of the mysterious ecosystems that lie beneath the waves. In history, the class had a blast planning their own Horrible Histories-style episode all about the Spanish Armada—full of humour and historical facts. Life Skills focused on the story of *The Boy Who Cried Wolf*, where we explored the risks and dangers of not being honest. In DT, we began building prototypes for our desk and drawer organisers—exciting things are taking shape. To celebrate all the amazing work this week, we finished with a well-deserved trip to mini golf. A huge well done to everyone for another brilliant week. Have a great weekend. Miss Borgeson.

Okapi Class

This week in Okapi class, we have had a variety of engaging activities across different subjects. In science, we focused on chemical reactions, particularly predicting the outcomes of an investigation involving an erupting volcano. The young people were able to observe the reactions in real-time, fostering their curiosity. In cookery, we explored the step-by-step process of making a sandwich. The young people practised following instructions and understanding the sequence involved in food preparation, helping them improve their practical skills. We also nurtured creativity through storytelling. Some of our young people were encouraged to come up with their own stories, which was done through playful interaction. This not only sparked their imagination but also helped improve their communication and storytelling skills. In maths, the class was introduced to the concept of perimeter. This included learning how to measure the perimeter of different shapes, giving them a practical understanding of measurement. A highlight of the week was seeing the young people continue to develop strong peer relationships. It's been wonderful to witness the respectful and polite manner in which they interact with each other and with staff members. Their behaviour has reflected well not only in Okapi class but also with students and staff from other classes. Have a great weekend. Mr Noone.

Figue Class

The week has been filled with learning in all sorts of ways - we have completed 'estate agent' style writing for a fantasy home; our understanding of deserts was challenged as we discovered that Antarctica was the largest desert in the world! We also explored our 'big questions' in RE and thought about how different religious groups would answer these and in art, we looked at the work of Gustav Klimt. In PSHE, we learnt about risks and then thought about what things in life are deemed as higher or lower risk; this led to a session exploring the risks of gambling and the children were so mature in their approach to these lessons. My glimmer of the week was teaching the children about the artist 'Molly Williams' - someone who at first, I knew nothing about. They learnt how she creates art from textiles and in particular felt. They enjoyed looking at her art and then we had a go at felt needling. The children took to this like ducks to water and their creations were fabulous...and far better than what us adults could manage. The children were focused, engaged, excited and highly motivated to complete their artworks and showed great skills. I think you'll agree, they were stunning! Happy weekend all. Miss Chandler



Otzi Class

This week we have been learning about a member of staff's native Hungary, as well as going on an exploration of Japanese culture inspired by our interest in the Godzilla movies and manga. We have put our debating skills to the test again on some hot topics including arguing that our own favourite fast-food is the best. The sunshine allowed us to take our maths lesson on estimating and weighing outside and, yesterday, we had a pupil-led presentation on the topic of the Giant Japanese Salamander. Although it looks like it might give Godzilla a run for its money, it is relatively harmless to humans. Following the presentation, we explored current ways the reclusive creature is being conserved and studied and thought about the ethics involved. As I write this on Friday morning, I have fingers firmly crossed in hope that the weather will allow us to have a small fire in the forest school area this afternoon and toast marshmallows as a lovely end to a busy week. Have a lovely weekend. Mr Nightingale.

Final Thought

As we approach the Easter holidays, I am aware that this time of change can be very challenging for some of our young people. We try and keep structure and routine as normal to ensure that there aren't any big changes. We continue to support the children with understanding that, although they aren't at school, we are still thinking of them and looking forward to seeing them on their return. If you have any specific ideas about how we can improve these times of transition, please don't hesitate to let us know. We always welcome new ideas from you, who know your young people the best.

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