

Friday Flyer

Friday 7th March 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have started parent consultations, this week, so class teachers will be getting in touch over the next few weeks to discuss your children's learning progress, their Understanding Me Support Plan and their Individual Learning Plan. All staff are working to ensure that not only are your children experiencing a broad, balanced and rich curriculum but that they are working towards their EHCP targets and learning life skills for a positive, independent future.

This week, we continued with our visitors and trips with Figge class visiting the Museum of Zoology in Cambridge and an engineer coming in to speak with all classes about her job and how to get involved. It has been a truly inspirational week 😊

Cat Class

World Book Day again! Cat class theme was Roald Dahl books. The TAs and I are currently reading Charlie and the Chocolate Factory to the children. Our after-lunch reading time is a protected time at Selwyn Hall. The hustle and bustle that is normal in our building falls silent as the children listen to the class stories; the cats might well be drawing or colouring while listening, and they often ask us to carry on with an extra chapter. We love that we're able to share these times together. On Thursday, we came together with many schools around the country by being part of the World Book Day BBC live lesson, we even managed to get a hello on the BBC webpage. In a world that is rapidly becoming digitalised, nothing beats a book and as I frequently say to cat class, it doesn't have to be a fiction book that you're reading: comics, recipe books, even instruction manuals, any opportunity to read is valid.



Marco Polo Class

In English, we explored grammar through contemporary short stories, focusing on sentence types and how to write dialogue effectively. Maths saw us tackling algebra equations, learning how to write our own and solve for missing numbers, including X, Y, and other variables. A special highlight in DT was our visit from an engineer, who gave us fascinating insights into what engineers do and the amazing things they create. PE was all about teamwork and strategy as we played Capture the Flag, practicing running in pairs so teammates could support each other in securing victory. In history, we explored the causes of the Spanish Armada, discussing key factors such as Queen Elizabeth rejecting Philip's proposal and the religious conflict between Catholics and Protestants. To round off the week, we celebrated World Book Day. Staff wore accessories related to different book series or authors, and the children got creative by designing their own book covers and writing comic strips based on a book they've been reading in school. We finished the day with a well-earned reward trip to the park. A huge well done to everyone for another brilliant week!



Okapi Class

Okapi Class has been both fun and educational this week. The young people dived into the story 'The Emperor's New Clothes' in English, exploring its themes of perception, pride, and honesty. They enjoyed the opportunity to discuss the deeper meanings of the tale and even got creative in their interpretation of the story. We were also fortunate to

have a software engineer visit, and the young people were excited to ask insightful questions as they tackled a real-world coding challenge together. The engineer shared valuable insights into the process of problem-solving and the impact of technology, sparking the curiosity of the group. In addition, we teamed up with the Cat class to investigate the fascinating topic of how our lungs work. The children built a lung model, which brought the lesson to life in a hands-on way. They loved the interactive nature of the activity and showed a lot of enthusiasm in learning how the respiratory system functions. For World Book Day, we ended the week by getting inspired by Julia Donaldson, the beloved author of children's books. Known for her engaging stories, memorable characters, and rhythmic writing style, Donaldson has captivated young readers around the world especially from Okapi class. From "The Gruffalo" to "Room on the Broom," her tales are filled with adventure, humour, and heart. As it's the beginning of March, we've been greeted by beautiful sunny weather, which has given us the chance to enjoy more outdoor learning. The bright sunshine has inspired us to look forward to even more activities outdoors in the weeks ahead, providing a refreshing environment for exploration and growth. Have a great weekend! Mr Noone.

Figge Class

This week has seen Figge class get hands on in many different ways; in DT, they have become designers and have thought about what would make a good trainer; in science, they investigated our lungs and investigated air resistance and in geography, they had to work out the correct time in the UK based on text messages sent from different places in different time zones around the world. Wednesday saw Figge class meet a visiting software engineer from AVEVA and they listened as she told them all about her programming work; it certainly sparked an interest in many and they enjoyed giving commands to the online robot to guide it through the mazes. On Thursday, the class visited the museum of Zoology and I couldn't have been prouder of the class - their enthusiasm, their respect and their positive attitude to the whole trip. From the moment they left the school, to the moment they returned, they showed excellent behaviour and represented the school impeccably; I felt honoured to be their teacher. The tour began with a meet and greet from our guide and she told us all about the hugest whale skeleton I have ever seen! We all learnt so many new facts - did you know that in regard to evolution, whales once had legs, and this is known from the left-over hip bones that we see in their skeletons? The class enjoyed having a good look around and asked our guide lots of questions about creatures that sparked their interest and we then had a discovery session in the learning room to teach us about the theory of inheritance and natural selection in such an interesting way, which allowed adults and children to fully understand this process. This then led to the children finding similarities and differences of different animal skulls and they were able to handle cat, dog, fox, badger and horse skulls, which were fascinating! The visit ended with a tour of the lower museum with so many different and unusual animals to see and explore! What a wonderful day it was; you should be very proud of your children. Wishing you all a wonderful sunny weekend. Miss Chandler



Otzi Class

Each day has started with a logical puzzle or riddle written on the board in class, which we try to figure out as the morning progresses. As you can probably guess, the children are usually a lot quicker at getting the answer than the adults. The puzzles have inspired us to research riddles and try to make our own. If you ask your child, they will hopefully be able to give you some great examples. One of their favourites was: 'The poor have me, the rich want me, and if you eat me you will die.' I won't spoil the fun by giving you the answer! Our theme in science is mini rockets: this week has been about seeing how we can maximise the propulsion from the classic mentos/coke bottle reaction. We have changed different variables each day and have so far got the liquid to reach around three metres. As part of World Book Day, went out to the field to choose wands and had a go at creating Latin spells. A software engineer popped in to see us and gave us a fascinating talk about their job and introduce us to programming concepts. Have a great weekend. Mr Nightingale

Final Thought

Today is Staff Appreciation Day and I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to all the team here at Selwyn Hall School. Every person has joined Selwyn for their own, personal reasons but they all care so much for the young people here and want to improve the learning, social, emotional and mental health. I feel very lucky to have such a great team here and look forward to those joining us in the weeks ahead.

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. Thankyou.

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