

22nd November 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

It has become apparent that, last year, the weather was not as cold as it is at the moment. Today is the first day we have had ice at Selwyn and we have had to wait for the tennis court to unfreeze before we can go on it. This cold weather has taken children by surprise but they are enjoying their time outside just as much and, like the adults, are grateful it hasn't been raining. Outside sessions have increased with Mrs Angell leading with Forest School on Tuesday afternoons. We have seen bush planting taking shape and, next week, we are hoping to welcome our newest additions to Selwyn Hall School: four fluffy hens. Mr Wollaston and his support apprentice have been building the chicken coop and fencing off an area for them to be. I look forward to sharing their arrival with you, next week.



Okapi Class

This week in Okapi class as a part of Road Safety Week, we explored how to cross the road safely using the Green Cross Code: Stop, Look, and Listen. We got hands-on by creating and role-playing different types of crossings, including zebra crossings and pelican crossings. They even made some fantastic road safety signs to remind everyone about staying safe near roads. Another highlight was starting our journey into learning French. The class were fully engaged as they discovered the difference between saying a formal bonjour and a more casual salut. Très bien Okapi class! We also had a blast with some Just Dance sessions. The energy was great - there were some dance superstars in the room! Have you been practicing your moves at home? It's been an active, creative, and multilingual week in Okapi class. Well done, everyone. I hope you all have a great weekend. Mr Noone.

Cat Class

Although this week has been our first proper chilly one, it hasn't stopped us enjoying the outdoor space in forest school area. The children have worked very hard planting bulbs, creating a shelter, pinning down a ground sheet with twigs and helping design where they want the covering. They have super vision and imagination which they also showed while enjoying a new resource – Makedo. It is a cardboard box construction kit and although I am not affiliated with it, I'm highly recommending it for gift giving if Father Christmas is reading this! It is a STEAM resource and the science, technology, engineering, arts and maths skills that the children used were a great beginning to solving real world problems and using correct techniques for sawing, measuring and joining cardboard pieces together with their plastic 'scrus' and plastic saws. At Selwyn Hall our curriculum has been designed to fit in with real world problem solving and I love that other teachers who join us are embracing this, realising that having a sense of purpose in their learning can really help engage the children and then we get the joy of seeing them thrive. Have a great weekend. Mrs Angell



Figge Class

This week brought much joy as Figge class took a class trip to Cambridge clip and climb on Tuesday; the day started with much excitement and anticipation of catching the train and being in the city and out into the big wide world and for some, being out on their first ever school trip. The children travelled impeccably on the train and after a short trek to the industrial park, entered Clip and Climb ready to take on the challenges of the afternoon. Once the children were harnessed up, it was time for the safety briefing and onto the actual climbing; they took on the Tetris

wall, the ice pick slope, the stairway to heaven... and even the vertical drop slide. Children competed in races, enjoyed each other's company, spurred each other on and gave advice and most importantly, never gave up! For some the trip bought confidence and resilience, for others it was about being out without parents and for some it was to conquer fears, and all the children completed their own challenges in bucketfuls! It was so wonderful to see the children's personalities shine out of class and to share a special outing with them; it was great to see how the children communicated with each other and how they bonded even more whilst having much fun and celebrating wins and personal achievements. This week may have seen temperatures drop outside but inside, learning has soared; children have enjoyed watching clips from Oliver Twist and this week, wrote and acted out a monologue for Fagin; they created job descriptions for other characters based on their personalities and looked at how actors can change their characters, using dialogue, facial expressions and tone of voice in a particular scene. This all resulted in us singing along to 'gotta pick a pocket or two!'. Our geography learning saw the children learning about the formation of mountains; they researched mountain ranges across the world, asked great questions about mountains and shared their knowledge. One young learner commented 'I like this work, it's interesting' and that bought me joy as it made me reflect on how many of our children have their own mountains to climb each day – whether this be with learning, with their emotions or with simply coming to school each day; Figge class are certainly traversing and rising up their own mountains to challenges each and every day.
Have a wonderful weekend. Miss Chandler

Marco Polo Class

This week has been packed with exciting activities and fantastic learning in Marco Polo class. In Maths, we worked on calculating area, while in English, we compared The Secrets of Elsinore High to Hamlet and focused on creating vivid setting descriptions. In History, we explored life in the World War I trenches, gaining insight into the experiences of soldiers. Life Skills saw us baking delicious muffins, and in Geography, we designed our own desert animals with unique adaptations for surviving in such a challenging environment. PE had us dancing creatively using just our arms, and in DT, we made beautiful Christmas tree decorations out of salt dough. It's been an amazing week with excellent effort and creativity from everyone—well done, Marco Polo class. Have a lovely weekend. Miss Borgeson.

Armstrong Class

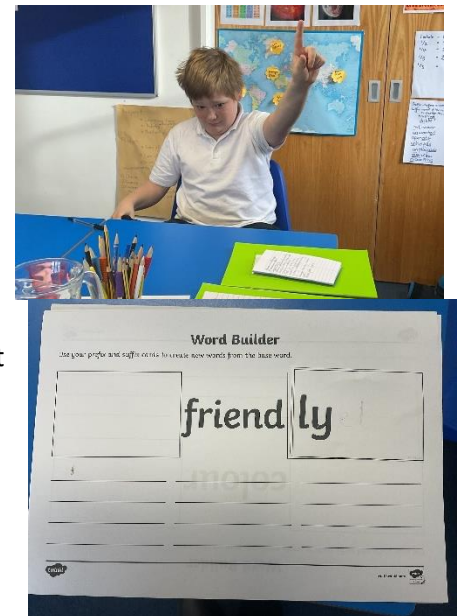
In Armstrong Class we have really enjoyed learning Japanese. So far, we have learned numbers up to 10, the days of the week and some key words used in greetings. To help us, we have action reminders which are proving very useful! In English, we have been thinking about extending our vocabulary by using words with prefixes and suffixes. We played a great activity to make sure we had a long list of these words at our fingertips. They are now on a poster on the wall, so we can use them and refer to them when we need to. In cookery classes this week, we made chocolate chip cookies, which were delicious. I wonder what percentage of cookies will be eaten immediately? (Maths comes in handy all the time!) Have a great weekend. Ms Armstrong.

Final Thoughts

Next week, we are introducing a points system to reward positive behaviour. It will be based around our three school rules of: respect, protect and reflect. Each child will have their own personal targets that they need to work towards and can achieve three points per session. This will build up and there will be a reward system in place which will be linked to the number of points achieved. We are looking forward to introducing this and a letter will be sent home to parents with more information shortly.

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

Autumn Term 2024

School Closed for Staff Training	Tuesday 3rd September 2024
School Closed for Staff Training	Wednesday 4th September 2024
Autumn Term begins	Thursday 5th September 2024
Autumn Half Term	Monday 28th Oct to Friday 1st Nov 2024
School Closed for Staff Training	Monday 18th November 2024
End of Autumn Term	Friday 20th December 2024

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