

Friday Flyer

Selwyn Hall
school

Friday 31st January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

At the beginning of this week, two members of staff went to a conference titled "Achieving Potential: Changing the Perspective". It had speakers talking about sensory and motor development through a trauma-Informed lens, situational mutism, school avoidance and educational trauma. The staff members came back to school, on Tuesday, full of information which they will be passing on to everyone here at Selwyn. They had met new people, seen previous colleagues and gathered a vast amount of knowledge which will hugely support the young people at Selwyn. I am so grateful to the passion and expertise that the staff here show for trying new things, gaining more insight and thinking of new ways to engage your children in the world around them. Here are this week's class highlights.

Cat Class

Watching Question Time this week, it made me think about how much of what we watch in a programme such as this I teach in class. I am unashamedly a stickler for good manners, table manners, Ps and Qs, all manners! A quote from one of my favourite films is "Manners maketh man" and I am often heard quoting that to the class. One needs good manners for a good discussion, good lesson and a good debate in a TV studio. Cat class have recently become the latest of Selwyn Hall's full classes, the 'waiting patiently to take your turn' in a lesson, one of our English Curriculum's most repeated core skills has certainly begun to be necessary for us. As you can see from the photos this week, it was a proud Cat class moment when the children wrote new quests for the Anglo-Saxon superhero Beowulf. We watched an age-appropriate version of the original story on our big screen and then discussed how the story was told through the generations of Anglo-Saxons and was as famous then as our current classics such as The Gruffalo and such like. The enthused cats were firing imaginative ideas to their scribes, and then they made their own PicCollages to illustrate the stories. It was a great example of an English/History/computing crossover, all while using good manners to their TAs, of course! Have a great weekend. Mrs Angell



Marco Polo Class

We've had another fantastic week in Marco Polo class, packed with exciting learning experiences! In English, we explored figurative language, working on similes, metaphors, and personification, as well as different sentence types. We also compared themes in poetry, leading to some brilliant discussions. In Maths, we tackled ratios and scale factors, with the children making excellent progress in solving word problems. PSHE and Life Skills were particularly exciting this week. We learned about Chinese New Year animals, had a visit from a police officer (including a chance to see their police car!), and cooked delicious savoury pinwheels. In History, we studied the Tudor Poor Laws, with the children writing incredible diary entries imagining life in Tudor times. Geography involved using a Venn diagram to analyse the social, economic, and environmental impacts of climate change—an important and thought-provoking task. PE saw us continuing to practice our aim and agility through dodgeball, with lots of teamwork and energy on display.

A huge well done to all the children for their hard work and enthusiasm this week. Have a lovely weekend Marco Polo class. Miss Borgeson.

Armstrong Class

We have had a great week in Armstrong Class with some very impressive learning. In English we have been looking at grammar facts through work on animals, and have enjoyed doing research to find out more about them; our favourite was the lion tamarin which is a species we hadn't heard of before.

On Wednesday, we celebrated Chinese New Year and learnt about the festival and how it is celebrated; we tried our hand at snake origami and, in DT, made some Pokemon themed biscuits which were delicious. In maths, we have been learning about different units of measurement, and in science we have learnt more about the circulatory system. Have a great weekend Armstrong Class. Ms Clifford.



Okapi Class

This week in Okapi class has been packed with exciting activities and learning experiences. We kicked off the week by writing fabulous acrostic poems on a variety of themes. The students really enjoyed expressing themselves creatively, and it was wonderful to see their imaginations come to life through their poems. In science, we delved into the fascinating topic of the skeleton system. We learned about the different bones in our body, how they protect our organs, and the important role they play in movement. The students asked insightful questions, and it sparked some great discussions. We also explored different jobs in the community and discussed why each one is important. One of the highlights was a visit from a local police officer. The young people were thrilled to meet someone from the force and had plenty of questions to ask about their job. It was a fantastic opportunity to connect with a real-world role model. In celebration of Chinese New Year, we focused on the Year of the Snake. The class had fun researching their zodiac signs and creating beautiful lanterns based on the animals they are associated with. It was a great way to learn about this cultural celebration while also being creative! Finally, we made great progress BSL, learning the names of basic colours: red, blue, green, yellow, and orange. The children practiced signing them with enthusiasm and were excited to expand their BSL vocabulary.

Figge Class

This week has been packed full of all sorts of learning and the children have certainly raised the stakes in class; they have been totally immersed in learning, focussed and daily reading has continued with aplomb!

This week saw us study the poem 'The Dragon who ate the classroom' and the children joined in with performance poetry, as well as became illustrators, and the week finished with the children writing a news report of a dragon (or other scary creatures) in the school...watch out Selwyn, if a dragon came here, they would cause much chaos! The class enjoyed linking this poem to Chinese New Year, and the year of the snake, which we celebrated on Wednesday; they learnt about the culture and the traditions of the festival, as well as working out their own birth year animal...and the descriptions were surprisingly accurate to everyone's characters in class! The class made a huge Chinese dragon, read riddles cards, tried their hand at Chinese writing and sketched fabulous dragons' eyes! It was a fun day!

Earlier in the week, we all enjoyed the visit from Karen, a police officer and listened carefully to her; the children were thoughtful in their responses and questions and made me hugely proud to be their class teacher. The class were also engaged when Miss Joy delivered a science lesson with a difference...they are learning about the circulatory system so what better way to explore than by dissecting a pig's heart to see, first hand, the inner workings! They all enjoyed locating the valves, the ventricles and looking at the structure of a real heart- learning off the page!



It is always great to be part of the children's learning journey through their school life and to experience highs, lows and wins with them all. Happy weekend. Miss Chandler

Otzi Class

We've been learning about the Anglo-Saxon story Beowulf this week. So far, the hero has defeated Grendel (the monster that has been raiding the king's mead hall) but it looks like there is a new foe on the horizon. We've been designing traps to catch the Grendel and also imagining what kind of monster it would take to defeat the mighty Beowulf. We've also been making and checking estimations in maths: estimations about the height of buses, the length of dinosaurs and even the path of stomp rockets that we fired into the sky above the field. Have a lovely weekend. Mr Nightingale.

Final Thought

As mentioned in many of the class paragraphs, it was brilliant to have Karen here, our PCSO. She came in bursting with enthusiasm and looking forward to meeting the children. She talked about a variety of things, including car safety, personal safety, her job and the children had the best questions to ask her. One young person asked if male police officers were paid more than female and another question was about what you needed to do to become a police officer. The children should be very proud of themselves for how well they listened, took on board what she said and how they have reflected on things since she was here. Karen has said she will be a regular visitor here at Selwyn as she thought the young people were brilliant and wants to build some long term connections. It was also fun looking in her police car!!



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