

Friday Flyer

Friday 4th April 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well, the sun has certainly shone on Selwyn this week, figuratively and literally. We have been basking in the sunshine on the field and enjoying the warm weather. We have ensured, that we have kept to our routines and not introduced too many changes as it is the last week of term, as many of our young people find that transition from term time to holidays (and vice versa) hugely overwhelming. As we move into the summer term, please could I ask that children bring in sun hats and sun cream, which we will encourage them to use and put on. We do also completely understand that for some of our young people, hats and creams can be a sensory issue; please speak to class teachers about any concerns you may have. Enjoy reading about our class reflections from this most wonderful of terms.



Cat

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY	
Monday 21st April	Easter Monday – school closed
Tuesday 22nd April	Students return to school
Tuesday 22nd April	HPV vaccination for Year 8 students
Friday 16th May	Parent Coffee Morning 9-10am
Monday 26th – Friday 30th May	Half Term
Monday 2nd June	INSET Day – school closed for students
Tuesday 3rd June	Students return to school
Friday 27th June	Sports Day and parent picnic – times TBC

Class

Spring term is usually a dark and dismal term in schools with short days and wet playtimes. As you know, at Selwyn we try to do things differently, and we embrace the unusual; wet playtimes do not bother us, and darkness just encourages us staff to purchase more LED fairy lights. The young people in building 1 have been joined by a few new students, and we have enjoyed watching new friendships being formed. We may have a smaller pool of pals to choose from, but we teach our young people that diversity is a good thing; our young people are accepting of difference and happily have had a great time getting to know each other and working out each other's personalities. As the warmer weather increased, we have been thinking about our young people's water consumption and my half term reading included a recent study, not only about the benefits that drinking water has on the cognition of children but also their mood and behaviour, the hydrated children were reported to be happier and had less incidents of bad behaviour. We have been focussing this half term on the hydration of our young people, with the TAs ensuring young people's water bottles are always topped up from our water coolers at lunchtime. The last part of this term, with its visitors from various interesting professions as well as visitors from Polaris, proved very insightful. I saw some superb Selwyn ambassadors, leading visitors around all three buildings and chatting animatedly about our surroundings. As these last weeks have gone on, for the first time in Cat class I have been able to give out new exercise books. This gives me such joy; as I explained to one parent recently, I am a teacher, and I love to teach, and I happily have children who are so emotionally ready for the learning process they are filling up books of evidence. We have been pulling apart the English language at levels I never thought possible; discussing fronted adverbials, prefixes and homophones, the children laughing at my acting skills as I illustrate various words - groan and grown spring to mind. To have a class full of laughter has got us through the winter and I think that after Easter we will be refreshed and ready to bound into summer (with our full water bottles!) Happy holidays. Mrs Angell



Marco Polo Class

What a fantastic way to wrap up the term in Marco Polo class! In English, we got creative by converting traditional fantasy stories into contemporary settings, thinking about how magical elements could fit into the modern world. In maths, we proudly finished our algebra module—we are so impressed with the perseverance and dedication shown by all the children. There were definitely some budding mathematicians shining this week. Geography saw the children researching and presenting on environments we haven't explored this term, with lots of fascinating findings on coral reefs and pond ecosystems. In history, we explored the mysterious past of Easter Island and used our artistic flair to create some amazing drawings of the island's iconic statues. In Life Skills, the children enjoyed cooking Easter nests and toasties, showing great teamwork in the kitchen. Our art lesson was filled with colour and creativity, as the children completed their vibrant collages. PE featured a fun twist on Capture the Flag—this time, the flag was a ball that could be passed between teammates, putting their teamwork and strategy to the test. We wrapped up the week with a well-deserved Fun Friday to celebrate all the brilliant learning and effort this term. Wishing all our families a joyful and restful Easter break—you've earned it, Marco Polo class. Miss Borgeson.

Otzi Class

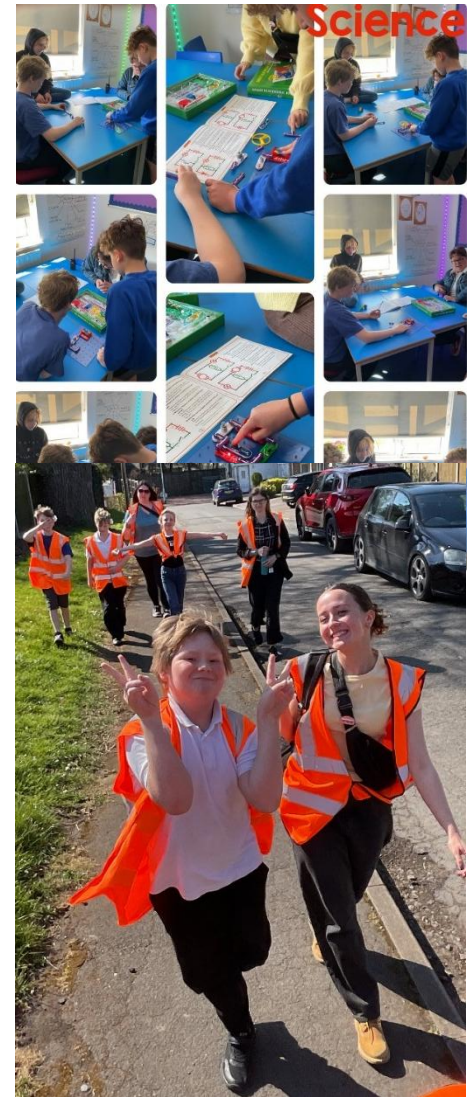
It was the sun that melted Otzi the Iceman out of his alpine ice-tomb, and in similar vein, it was the sun that has encouraged Otzi class out of our chairs and onto the football field this week. It's been amazing to see how much energy and talent the class bring to the many matches we have had, although the staff are glad that we have the two weeks holiday for our bodies to recover. We have also been lucky enough to welcome a new pupil into the class this week! It is like he has been in the class for months already and we have greatly enjoyed getting to know them. In English, we have looked at two Ted Hughes poems about animals. The poem 'Hawk Roosting' allowed us to spend time thinking about how differently apex predators might see the world and how Hughes represents this in words. We each chose an apex predator and had a go at trying to represent how they might see the world in poems. We also began thinking about individual pupil projects. Our initial aim is to create booklets or presentations for younger pupils in the school about topics that we are interested in. Last week ended with Otzi class's first fire in the forest school area. Although only three of our pupils were part of the marshmallow-melting-and-hot-chocolate-drinking extravaganza, we are hoping to make it regular thing. Have a lovely Easter holiday. Mr Nightingale.

Figge Class

What a glorious spring week to end the spring term on; the weather has been gorgeous; the class has been buzzing with learning and we had our final park trip of this half term which was full of fun. This week has seen the class paint huge canvases, learn about formal writing strategies and complete problem-solving questions to show their maths knowledge; they have also raised some 'big' questions about life in RE and they learnt about how to be safe with money in PSHE. All in all, a busy and productive week! As this term comes to a close, it always makes me reflect on what has been achieved; for some children it can be something like achieving a personal target; for others it can be attempting a new skill. I can honestly say that ALL of the young people in Figge class have shown such perseverance, resilience and maturity this term and they have all achieved huge steps towards their own personal targets. Navigating life's ups and downs can be a tricky business and there always seems a world of learning in everything that we do and sometimes, when in the moment, it can be hard to see the differences made. My glimmers this term have been a young person who has recognised, when dysregulated, where to go to as a safe place; for another young person, it was them learning to be respectful with their language and modifying this without the constant need to be reminded; for another young person, this has been taking part in reading every day and improving their skills week on week....what an achievement for all! Alongside this, we have seen improvements academically in all subjects, the joy and enthusiasm for subjects taught and to have the pleasure of seeing these young people grow and blossom, just like the trees in spring. Wishing you all a happy Easter holidays. Miss Chandler.

Okapi Class

As we reach the end of the spring term, it feels as though February to now has been a whirlwind of growth, learning, and new experiences. Okapi class has certainly come a long way, and we've seen so much progress in the past six weeks. There's been a real sense of development, whether it's in building relationships with trusted adults or engaging in class play. Each member of Okapi class has found a way to shine, whether through personal growth or through the progress they've made in other areas. While group activities can sometimes present challenges, Okapi class has consistently shown resilience and determination. We've worked through these moments with guided positivity, and I'm so proud of the way everyone perseveres. It's those small steps that make the biggest impact and shine brightest, like diamonds—each student has made their own unique contribution to the classroom, and it's truly inspiring to see. As we reflect on the last six weeks, one of the most exciting areas of growth has been in the creative realm. Whether through Design and Technology, where we explored the role of an engineer with fantastic design creations, or in the artistic side of the classroom, where students drew characters from their favourite stories or created beautiful Easter frames, the creativity of Okapi class has flourished. This term has also been enriched by visits from a range of professionals, which has given the young people incredible insights into the professions of the future. The dental hygienist provided valuable knowledge about oral health and the importance of self-care; the visit from Network Rail opened up conversations around careers in transportation and engineering; the fire services shared life-saving skills and highlighted the importance of teamwork in high-pressure situations; and the software engineer sparked curiosity about technology and the growing field of software development. These visits have not only expanded the students' understanding of the skills needed for different careers but have also inspired them to dream big about their futures. This term has really shown how far the class has come in terms of both individual confidence and group dynamics. The development of relationships, engagement in class activities, and the confidence gained in the classroom and beyond have been highlights of the term. I am incredibly proud of the Okapi class and look forward to seeing how the young people continue to grow in the summer term. As we head into the Easter break, I want to wish everyone a wonderful rest. Take the time to recharge, relax, and come back ready to continue the journey of learning and growth. You all deserve it! Mr Noone.



Final Thought

Our spring term at Selwyn is drawing to a close and we have a longer than normal break of 2 weeks and a day. I hope it is a chance for you to all have a rest and some family time over the coming days and weeks. We will miss you all and look forward to seeing you bright eyed and bushy tailed on Tuesday 22nd April.

Have an 'eggcellent' Easter!

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