

# Friday Flyer

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Even though it has felt, at times, that we have plummeted back to winter this week, we have had such a positive week with oodles of learning and fun. Yesterday, we had one of our local authorities come in for their monitoring visit and it was wonderful to show them the progress that has been made since their last visit. We were able to discuss the plans for Key Stage 4 and the options which will be available to our young people. They did class drop-in sessions, book looks and lots of site specific deep dives and it was a thoroughly positive visit. During the visit, we spoke of how we are trying to connect our community and how well the last coffee morning had been for parents and carers. I look forward to seeing many of you again next Friday from 9am-10.00am. We are excited that we will have some more of our staff there: our 2 ELSAs (Mrs Lienau and Mrs Purcell) and one of our TAs (Mrs Riddell). We are hopeful that this increased engagement will help you get to know our team and staff. This week has also seen us celebrating VE day, in classes; it was quite emotional, yesterday, when I was in my meeting and Figge class came and marched to my doors to read their VE day speeches to me and the visitors from the LA. The LA were so impressed by the vocabulary used, structure of writing, confidence in reading out loud and by the enthusiasm of the children. They were utterly brilliant, as always.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY	
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> May	Parent Coffee Morning 9-10am
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> May	Half Term
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	INSET Day – school closed for students
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	Students return to school after half term
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> June	Sports Day and parent picnic – times TBC

## Cat Class

Variety sums up cat class this week, the class have been joining in a real mixed bag of learning, this week; one of my favourite lessons was the lesson on Thursday on VE Day. We watched the BBC Bitesize short clip about VE Day, it focussed on the main 'players' in the decision making of the time, Winston Churchill and Adolf Hitler. We talked about how many years it has been since the war started; one young person said they thought they knew someone who was in their 90s, so therefore had been born before the war began. Some fabulous mental arithmetic seen there I thought. One young person wondered whether Churchill and Hitler were Hindus or Buddhists and were reincarnated as animals - fabulous cross curricular understanding there, tying in our R.E. work from earlier in the week. Another young person was able to discuss very eloquently and in superb detail the finer points of the ending of the European conflict but the continued troubles in Japan. This simple, short but very important piece of teaching ended up having many different facets and just goes to show what a



mixed bag of interests and skills the children at Selwyn have. As we went in from playtime, we were lucky enough to see another class, who all (staff included!) were living their best lives, some dressed as service personnel, role playing marching and reciting VE Day speeches, some that I was given the privilege of hearing after school. Our children are engaging in all sorts of different learning, at their own pace and if they have a special interest then we can capture that and roll with it. This week in class, we have: translated history learning into French so it can be completed in English and French, I have been a 'box lady', opening and shutting boxes that young people were playing in together, I have been educated in the film Wall-E, not to mention using boom whackers for music lessons, but more about them will follow. It all really makes for an exciting classroom experience. Have a good weekend. Mrs Angell

### **Marco Polo Class**

I hope everyone had a lovely and restful Bank Holiday weekend—it's been another fantastic and focused week back in class. In English, we began learning how to debate, focusing on writing constructive arguments supported with clear facts and reasoning. The children have really started to think critically and express their opinions confidently and respectfully. Maths was all about division, exploring different methods including short division and using factor pairs to break down larger numbers—great problem-solving skills on display. In history, we delved into the Great Depression, discussing why it happened and imagining what life would have been like for everyday people during those difficult times. In life skills, we got hands-on in the kitchen and cooked delicious burgers, showing excellent teamwork and cooking skills. Computing was creative as the children learned how to animate sprites to create short stories or animations, combining coding with storytelling. In BSL, we pushed our skills even further, learning numbers up to 99 and colours. The children have retained the alphabet brilliantly, and I was very impressed with their engagement and memory. DT was all about hands-on experimentation, where we practiced different clay techniques (coil, pinch and slab) to help us decide which method we will use to make our final containers. In geography, we explored life in the Amazon Rainforest, learning about how tribes, animals, and plants coexist and depend on each other in this incredible environment. A huge well done to all of Marco Polo class for their fantastic effort this week. Have a great weekend. Miss Borgeson.

### **Okapi Class**

This week in Okapi Class, we were excited to welcome a new young person to our class. It has been heartening to see how warmly the rest of the class have included them, showing kindness, patience, and respect. Staff have been especially proud of how the young people have taken turns, shared resources, and used polite and encouraging language during both learning and play. Our learning has had an environmental focus this week, particularly on small habitats and the creatures that live in them. In design and technology, one young person took the initiative to design and construct a bug hotel using natural and recycled materials. They then evaluated their creation, suggesting improvements and making thoughtful changes to enhance its structure and usefulness—demonstrating both creativity and critical thinking. It's been a week full of collaboration, care for nature, and curiosity about the world around us. We hope you enjoy the weekend! Mr Noone.



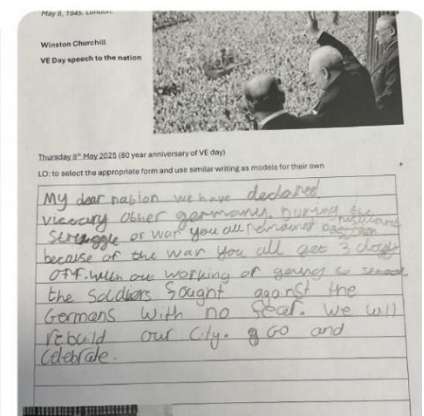
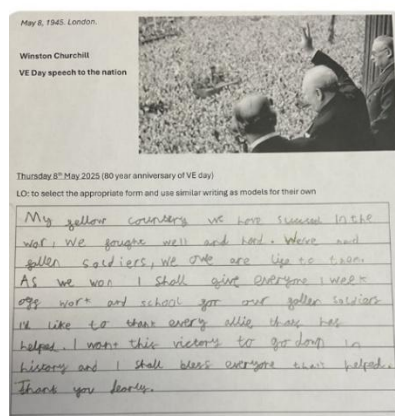
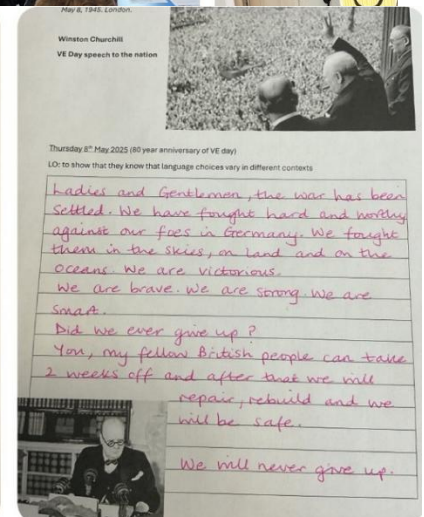
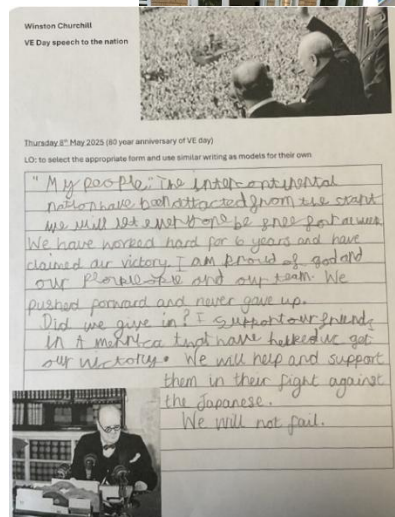
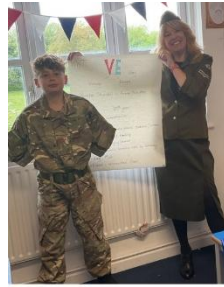
### **Otzi Class**

Where did the sunshine go? Well, we saved a bit here in Otzi class. After our great cinema trip, we spent some time in English thinking about our own post-credit scene that would improve the movie. The VE Day celebrations have informed a large part of our focus this week. To understand a little more about its meaning, we looked at life in Nazi Germany and researched what life might have been like for everyone if Hitler had managed to win the war in Europe and occupy Britain (spoiler alert: no Youtube, free speech or freedom, although possibly Pokemon might still be around). Have a lovely weekend. Mr Nightingale.



## Figge Class

This week began with a whole morning learning about VE Day and why we, as a nation, were celebrating its significance; it was lovely to see the interest from the children, for them to share their knowledge, ask questions and be truly immersed in events of WW2. From this learning, the children imagined themselves as a child during the war and wrote emotive pieces about their thoughts, feelings, sights and sounds...they were hugely heart wrenching. On Thursday 8th, we held a VE party themed day and the children immersed themselves fully into this; the day started with 'Corporal Chandler' in uniform greeting them and we then decorated the classroom with handmade Union Jack bunting. First we sang the National Anthem, then stood for 'Land of Hope and Glory'; we then listened to Winston Churchill's famous VE day speech to the nation and wrote our own versions as if we were Prime Minister at the time - these were wonderful and full of such inspiring phrases (see below) and cadet Scraggs marched the whole class around to Mrs Pine's room, where we stood in formation and read out our speeches. We then played some 1940's games, made trifle from scratch and cooked spam fritters....and most of the children enjoyed them. It is always great to teach the younger generations about significant world events in the past and to show them how these have impacted how we live today; the children have enjoyed listening to the many recorded interviews of evacuees, school children and those who hid in the shelters and this has really helped to bring the past to life. This week, we had two treats; the first was their reward from last week's amazing behaviour charts and Figge class enjoyed an afternoon of footgolf and crazy golf and this week's reward featured the children creating a fire at forest school and cooking s'mores on it, as well as making hot chocolate; it was a real treat and the children loved it. Have a good weekend. Miss Chandler and Miss Joy



## Final Thought

As I mentioned at the beginning, we have been celebrating 80 days since VE day in school, this week. I also watched the concert last night and listened to all the letters being read from during the war, heard the personal stories shared and watched the film footage from the VE day parties. I listened to the King as he spoke of how we should never forget how war changes virtually everyone's lives. It was a hugely emotional concert and made me think of my own family members who had been impacted. All of my grandparents were involved in some way: one worked at Bletchley Park, one was farming and two were involved in the military, spending time in places like Egypt and Ahnem. All of them were impacted and all of them had very different stories to tell but each was important. To be saying goodbye to members of that generation whose lives were so heavily influenced by whatever their role was is hugely sad and makes me agree that we should never forget what happened and how much was given by people of that generation. My aunt played the bagpipes in St Paul's Cathedral, yesterday, as the Lamp Light of Peace was lit to

represent the end of the war. I hope that everyone who took part in the celebrations, yesterday, remembers the reasons for always looking backwards in order to shape the way forward. My hope is that it will always be with the hope of peace, in all its forms.

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

#### 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

#### Spring Term 2026

School Closed for Staff Training

Monday 5th January 2026

Spring Term begins

Tuesday 6th January 2026

Spring Half Term

Monday 16th Feb to Friday 20th Feb 2026

End of Spring Term

Friday 27th March 2026