

Friday Flyer

Friday 16th May 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

This morning was wonderful at Selwyn; we had the parent coffee morning and then a visit from some ladies from the local craft club in Foxton. It was a joy to welcome some parents to school for coffee and biscuits (apologies for the lack of cake!). They met with our 2 ELSAs in school, Mrs Purcell and Mrs Lienau, and one of our TAs who is leading on family liaison with school. We took a trip to see the ELSA room and then came back via the chicks. Again, it was wonderful to chat with families as well as get feedback on things we can improve at Selwyn (left-handed guitar coming up). We were then visited by Linda and Margaret, who lead Foxton Craft club. I met them at the Foxton Parish Council meeting a few weeks ago and they have invited us to be part of their poppy making task for Remembrance weekend. They came and met with some staff and children to show us all the different ways we can make some poppies. Everyone had exciting ideas of how we are going to make the poppies, and we can't wait to see them all displayed opposite the memorial, in November.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY	
Monday 26th – Friday 30th May	Half Term
Monday 2nd June	INSET Day – school closed for students
Tuesday 3rd June	Students return to school after half term
Friday 27th June	Sports Day and parent picnic – times TBC

Marco Polo Class

It's been another fantastic and engaging week in Marco Polo class, packed with hands-on learning, thoughtful discussion, and excellent teamwork. In English, we focused on writing instructions, starting with a fun activity where the children gave verbal explanations to fold origami. They did brilliantly, using clear and precise language—well done! In maths, we tackled long division, and WOW—what a week! The perseverance shown was outstanding, and everyone has made amazing progress in understanding the steps involved. History led us into a powerful topic: the Civil Rights Movement in America. We explored some incredibly brave stories of Black Americans, who fought to end segregation and claim their rights—this sparked thoughtful and respectful class discussions. In PE, we worked on our long jump and triple jump skills, with a focus on technique and control. Science introduced us to the world of bacteria—including how not all bacteria are bad! We explored immunity, how bacteria spreads, and even ran an

experiment using slices of bread touched with dirty vs. clean hands to observe mould growth over time. In computing, the children started making a ghost-catching game on Scratch, applying their coding knowledge in a fun and creative way. DT took a creative twist as we designed posters for our upcoming parent coffee morning—some really eye-catching and thoughtful designs were made. In geography, we explored the serious issue of deforestation in the Amazon Rainforest, discussing why it happens and the devastating effects it has on ecosystems, wildlife, and communities. Finally, in Life Skills, we learned how to find direction without a compass; we took our learning outside and had a go at identifying North, South, East, and West out on the field—great use of observation and critical thinking. A huge well done to all of Marco Polo class for their fantastic effort and energy this week! Have a great weekend. Miss Borgeson.

Cat Class

I had the pleasure of seeing all the children in Cat class and most of Okapi enjoying a talk this week on British Sugar. We were told that of their 1,500 employees, many of them are in fact neurodiverse and they have a very strong diversity and inclusion policy. One of the quotes on their website video was “When people feel valued, they feel a sense of purpose.” At Selwyn, behind the scenes, we have 1 hours’ worth of staff meetings every day, 30 minutes in the morning and again in the afternoon, and we then have another 1.5 hours after school on Tuesdays. We spend that time getting to know our staff and showing how valued they are. We are so proud of all our staff, and how they all are working together to support your children to have a brighter future. Staff at Selwyn embrace our young people’s neurodiversity and, having such variety of minds throughout the various classes, makes working here so appealing. Our staff choose to work here; they are all skilled enough to work anywhere but right now we value them here with us. They, like British Sugar workers, take their sense of purpose and work so hard; having fun with the young people, supporting the teaching and learning, sometimes answering phones in the office, sometimes serving lunches, a real mixed bag. After the talk, I heard children wondering how old they would have to be to work at British Sugar because they could, even though they have autism, or ADHD, or just because they like sugar! I find it so refreshing that large companies can see the benefits of having an interesting mix of minds on their staff that they can value, just as we value our staff. Cats have enjoyed playing a new instrument in music recently in the form of boom whackers - plastic tubes of varying length that make a note as you hit them on a carpet. The children play them together and follow the notes that are needed as they appear on the Smartboard; we have created mini orchestras. It has warmed staff hearts seeing the control and concentration that the children have shown while playing. There was much spontaneous applause from cat class adults, which left us a bit dewy eyed to be honest! Have a good weekend. Mrs Angell



Okapi Class

We have had a positive week of learning in Okapi Class. In English, we have been diving into debate texts — exploring their structure and learning how to build balanced arguments. The young people have tackled some big questions, including: Should *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* be considered a valuable book for young readers? Should we invest more in space exploration? Should children be encouraged to play football? Should farming remain a priority, or should we shift to high-tech food solutions? and is it okay for children to eat at McDonald's or is home-cooked food always the better option? These discussions sparked lots of curiosity and respectful, thoughtful debate. What do you think about these topics? They are great conversation starters at home too. We were also very



lucky to welcome a visitor from British Sugar, who shared fascinating insights into the world of sugar production. The young people were full of questions and really enjoyed learning about how sugar is made and used in everyday life. In geography, we have been creating fact files on countries from around the world — exploring maps, comparing cultures, and investigating key features. A brilliant way to grow our global awareness! And finally, our current favourite game is Tower Collapse (similar to Jenga) — lots of fun and fantastic for building focus and teamwork. Wishing you all a wonderful weekend! Mr Noone.

Figge Class

This week has been a week of growth; the chicks have grown hugely and are now fluttering around the vivarium and, in class, we have seen much growth also. Figge Class have been working hard on looking at features of a magazine and have been busy planning for their own magazines; looking at features, interviews and page layouts. In art, they looked at the work of Andy Warhol and had a go at creating Warhol style doughnuts! This week, we were thrilled to welcome a visitor into school, a parent of one of our young people, who came to give a talk and workshop to all the classes about her work for British sugar; she spoke about how the sugar beet was harvested, the process of turning this into sugar and the different types of industries that purchase the sugar...she also spoke about how the company have zero waste! The children were engaged, asked many questions and showed a real interest. Have a lovely weekend. Miss Chandler

Otzi Class

We spend a lot of time discussing the evolution of dinosaurs in Otzi and this week, the pupils have very kindly been finishing off time-line wall displays of the different periods of early life. It's great to have something to refer to when the inevitable discussions about dinosaurs take place, especially for the adults in class! Meteors often marked the end of particular periods of life in our timeline, and we were able to find a game that simulated the impact and effect of different meteors on Earth to explore their immense power. No space rock, however, can match the explosive intensity of the wackiest moments from Eurovision; exploring the history of the competition through videos, the pupils were fascinated by the sheer diversity of costumes, languages and musical styles and many ended up dancing. We've also found time to create graph-paper art this week: creating bold geometric designs with a ruler and pencil. There has also been cooking, discussions about environmentalism and even a talk by a visitor about the UK sugar industry. Have a lovely weekend, fingers crossed for Eurovision! Mr Nightingale.

Hamilton Class

This week a new class has started and the 'Hamilton' class, which has been named after our staff and pupil's favourite Formula One driver Lewis Hamilton, have enjoyed getting used to the school setting, staff and other pupils. We have been enjoying the warm and sunny weather while playing football outside and developing our social skills in the games/music room when playing pool. We look forward to longer sessions next week to further develop all of these skills and will start to complete some academic tasks in maths, science and English, as well as completing an art task to illustrate our class role model - Lewis Hamilton. Have a lovely weekend! Miss Rixson

15.05.25

Career talk-
how sugar is
made



Final Thought

As GCSE season has hit the Pine household in full force, this week, as well as a number of other staff member's houses, we have been looking at our KS4 offer at Selwyn. I have been working with some of our other Polaris schools to ensure that we can offer exactly what our young people need to progress into adulthood. It was good to discuss this with our KS4 teacher, Miss Rixson, and the parents, this morning, during the coffee morning. It was great to hear how young people had enjoyed things at previous schools which we could build on here. This runs well alongside the visitors that we have been having in school. Yesterday, Mrs Stevens, came into school to give a careers talk to our young people on British Sugar. It is from these visits and exposure to different options that our young people will carve out their futures and we are excited to work alongside them during their school years. In the words of Pope John Paul II, 'The future starts today, not tomorrow.'

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