

Friday Flyer

Selwyn Hall
school

Friday 5th December 2025

Dear Parents,

What a wonderful week it has been in school, filled with energy, excitement and a real sense of togetherness. One of the absolute highlights was the in-school pantomime by the fantastic Bedazzle company, who performed a brilliant and heartfelt rendition of *A Christmas Carol*. Every performer was a talented adult with neurodivergences or special educational need, and the impact on our children was profound. It was a powerful and uplifting moment for them to see people who reflect their own experiences taking centre stage with such confidence, skill and joy. For most of our children, a pantomime was a new experience, but they joined in with the theatrics and a school/theatre dance off was held at the end with plenty of smiles. Staff described it as incredibly moving, and the sense of pride and possibility it inspired across the school was truly special.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 17th December	Christmas Lunch
Friday 19th December	Last day of term. School ends at 3:30pm
Monday 5th January	INSET Day
Tuesday 6th January	Children return to school after Christmas break

Butterfly Class

What a wonderful week of learning in Butterfly class. We have been working on a very important section of our maths curriculum – days of the week. We have watched many clips of different songs to help to remember the order. The children have made me so proud in how they are embracing this learning. Now that we are in December, we have excitedly begun our Christmas crafts. There has begun to be a real shift in mindset from “I can’t do that” to “I am learning to do this.” Things that butterfly class have achieved this week are somewhat simple tasks that some might take for granted, removing backing from double sided sticky tape, using a glue stick without getting it on your hands, writing letters neatly on a line. It is thanks to our staff helping to create a culture where children are given the opportunity to become independent learners that they will shift their mindset and realise that they are a lot more capable than they think. One of my pictures this week is of a growth mindset poster like the one in our classroom. Have a great weekend. Mrs Angell



Frenchie Class

This week in Frenchie Class we explored a fantastic range of learning. In Maths, we focused on fractions, learning about improper and mixed number fractions. In English, we continued our work on *The Tempest*, exploring Shakespeare's love sonnets and thinking about how key characters could be represented if we were performing the play ourselves. In Art, we created comic-inspired pop art using onomatopoeia bubbles to make our work bold and exciting. In Science, we investigated reversible and irreversible changes and explored the habitats around our school grounds through some hands-on bug hunting. To finish the week, we enjoyed a very exciting pantomime of *The Night Before Christmas* — the children absolutely loved it and thought it was a fabulous performance!

Mandela Class

Mandela Class has had a exciting week — culminating in our first trip out to the local park, where we had a fantastic time in spite of a little rain. It was wonderful to see everyone keeping safe, having fun and bonding with classmates. Football is also sneaking in as a way to spend free time and meet people from other classes. My favourite thing this week is students growing curiosity, initiative and ownership (whether in crafting or using Google Lens), plus flexibility towards learning and activities. Our work highlight was students combining memory and research skills to produce some great answers to the history questions we ourselves posed at the start of our unit. Students showed a balanced understanding particularly of how evacuees felt during WWII. Have a lovely weekend. Miss Goldup.



Cayuga Class

We have been getting into the festive spirit this week with a very special visitor all the way from the North Pole! Elfie has been up to all sorts of mischief in the classroom, and it has been lovely to see the young people interact, laugh, and join in the fun. In English, we have continued our work on plays. This week, the young people have been busy developing their characters for our Greek Myth Mix-Up performance. Which Greek god character would you choose to play and why? Our Cayuga class had a fantastic time at the pantomime *A Christmas Carol*. It was wonderful to see such great engagement and excitement throughout the performance. To finish off the week, we enjoyed our very first trip to the park, which was exciting for everyone! Have a great weekend Cayuga Class. Mr Noone.



Kelly Class

We have had an exciting and inspiring week, beginning with a visit from BMX rider Mike Mullen, who not only demonstrated impressive tricks, but also taught valuable lessons about patience and resilience when facing challenges. We also enjoyed a wonderful visit from a travelling pantomime performing *A Christmas Carol*, where the class were so respectful and thoroughly engaged with the show. In maths, we have been learning how to calculate the areas of triangles and parallelograms, a topic they have approached with enthusiasm and understanding. Meanwhile, in English, the children have begun exploring media and film, learning how meaning is created through setting, characters, and the opening of a film, helping them get ready to explore films in a fun and engaging way. We look forward to our Santa Dash later today and a wonderful week ahead. Have a great weekend. Kelly Class - Mrs Revell, Mrs Willis, Miss Nightingale and Mr Todd

Hamilton Class



A great week for Hamilton class with lots of focus and progress being made in English, maths and science. We have started to complete ASDAN modules and collecting evidence for our qualifications, as well as our online skills plan for Functional Skills English and maths. The festive period is also drawing near and we are looking forward to completing some creative, festive activities and having some decorations in the classroom.



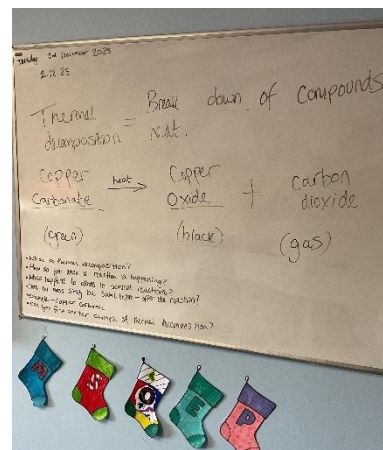
Darwin Class

Darwin class has worked incredibly hard this week, showing curiosity and real commitment to their learning. In

English, pupils have been delving into persuasive techniques, exploring how writers use emotive language, rhetorical questions and carefully chosen evidence to influence their audiences. Their analysis has shown real depth, with students not only identifying these techniques but also explaining the impact they have on readers. It has been impressive to see learners approaching texts with such thoughtful, critical insight.

In cookery, the class showed excellent focus and practical skill while preparing delicious beef teriyaki wraps. They measured, marinated and cooked with care, learning how flavour, balance and timing influence the final dish. The young people worked safely and sensibly, collaborating to tidy their stations and support one another. The pride on their faces when they tasted their creations was a highlight of the session. Physical Education has also been a success, with pupils developing their badminton techniques and improving their teamwork. Whether practising controlled rallies, perfecting serves or competing in friendly matches, students encouraged each other and demonstrated positive sportsmanship. Their growing cooperation and communication were clear as they worked together in pairs and small groups to refine their skills.

Science lessons this week introduced the class to the fascinating topic of combustion. Students investigated how fuels burn, the conditions required for combustion to occur, and why fire safety is so important. Through guided discussion, they built a solid understanding of chemical reactions, showing curiosity and confidence in asking questions and explaining their ideas. To end the week on a high, Darwin class thoroughly enjoyed the lively pantomime on Christmas Carol performed by our visiting theatre group. The energy, music and humour had everyone laughing and joining in, and the pupils' enthusiasm was infectious. It was a wonderful, shared experience that brought the class together and rounded off a week full of learning and enjoyment. Have a great weekend. Miss Joy.



Otzi Class

Another busy week in Otzi! We have continued exploring fractions in maths, which many pupils are still hoping will eventually lead to a practical lesson involving divided a pizza. In English we reviewed similes and metaphors, and pupils began writing phrases for their poems comparing themselves to animals. In science we have been looking at the difference between hard and strong materials, so please don't be alarmed by your children walking around tapping or scratching things! Not all the French and English troops were evacuated at Dunkirk and in our history lesson we looked at the plight of those left behind. We were also treated to a pantomime on Thursday by a fantastic troop of players from Saffron Walden. Many pupils enjoyed the performance so much they took part in the dancing at the end. We've had a few rainy breaktimes, so thank you so much for sending your children in with coats and waterproof shoes as they have needed it! Have a lovely weekend. Mr Nightingale.

Dahl Class

Dahl class have been busy working on Science, Maths and English this week furthering each subject.

In Cooking, we made Carrot cake muffins, some of them were surprised how much they liked the taste of them, especially the icing. In PE, the students we are learning to play badminton. Some did find getting the shuttlecock up the right way to hit it a challenge, however with teamwork and perseverance they became a lot more confident.

In History, we made our own Mayan Temples out of cardboard. They are looking great and the class have worked really hard on their designs. Next is to paint and decorate them. With the festive season creeping up on us we will be doing more Christmas activities, we are also going to decorate the classroom.

Have a restful weekend Dahl Class, ready for more learning and fun next week. Miss Anderson.

Final Thought

As we enter the final two weeks before the Christmas holidays, we know this can be an especially challenging time for many of our young people. The excitement of the season, the changes in routine, and the natural tiredness that comes at the end of a long term can all have an impact on their social, emotional and mental health. Please be assured that we continue to support them with patience, structure and understanding, helping them to navigate these weeks as positively as possible. We are truly grateful to our families for their ongoing communication, honesty and partnership; your insight into how your children are feeling helps us respond in the most supportive way. Together, we can help them finish the term feeling safe, understood and ready for a well-earned rest.

Wishing you a lovely weekend.

Yours faithfully

Rebecca Pine
Headteacher