

Friday Flyer

Selwyn Hall
school

Friday 16th January 2026

Dear Parents,

As a school, we have reached an important milestone in now supporting 50 children, and this moment has given us time to reflect on how far we have come together. In November last year, Ofsted visited at the request of the Department for Education to inspect to consider a planned material change to increase our capacity to 80 children — a step that has always been part of our longer-term vision. The visit was a hugely positive experience, and we were incredibly proud of how our children and staff demonstrated, with honesty and confidence, the care, commitment and brilliance that define our school every day. The report will be published on the Ofsted website shortly and will, of course, be shared with parents.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY	
Monday 16th – Friday 20th February	Half Term
Thursday 12th February	Parent Coffee Morning at 9:15am
Monday 23rd February	Half Term – school closed for all students
Tuesday 24th February	Students return to school
Wednesday 25th March	Parent Coffee Morning at 9:15am
Friday 27th March	Last day of term. School ends at 3:30pm
Monday 13th April	Student return to school after Easter Break

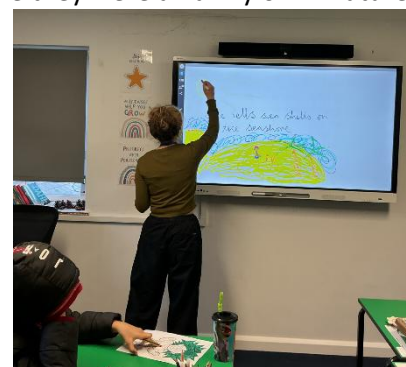
Spring is in the Air - Fergie was excited to see some of the first signs of Spring in school today.

Otzi Class

Dust off your Orcs and supercharge your Demogorgons because we have gone full-metal Dungeons & Dragons here in Otzi! For the past two weeks we have been building towards holding our own D&D game with creatures chosen by the pupils. We have covered many curriculum subjects in our preparation including English (creating our back-stories), Maths (calculating HP and designing maps to scale). Mr Johnson is proving to be a superb dungeon master, helping the pupils (and us adults) get to grips with the mysteries of the D&D world. Hopefully, the D&D game will provide pupils the chance to develop their social skills, strategic thinking and turn-taking as they play alongside each other to overcome obstacles. Aside from preparing for our pretend battles, we have also begun studying the English civil war: in particular, the absolutist view of monarchy and the struggles for parliamentary independence that preceded it. We are getting stuck into solving compound unit problems (such as speed, unit pricing and density) in maths, which the pupils are racing through like they were an army of miniature orcs. Have a lovely weekend!

Mandela Class

Mandela class has had a lovely week of learning. We're growing in confidence and including more subjects. My highlights of this week are around English: yesterday the class made up alliterations around their own names (and my golden hair), and I'm currently listening to the 'we do' part of illustrating tongue twisters. Students are so fun and creative!



Kelly Class

This week in music we explored the different moods that songs can evoke. Music has a unique ability to make us feel various emotions—sometimes happy, other times sad, and even a mix of both! The children learnt that the tempo plays a huge role in how we experience the music. The power of the music really shows how it can influence our feelings and even change our mood, depending on what we listen to. Maths continued with place value, focusing on decimals. We learned how to position decimal numbers on a number line and understand their relationship with whole numbers. For example, we practiced identifying where 0.5 lies between 0 and 1, and how smaller decimals fit in between. We continued learning about the English Civil War during History and delved into its causes. We explored how power, money, and religion played key roles in sparking the conflict between the monarchy and Parliament. We discussed how the king's decisions about money and taxes caused widespread unrest and how the monarchy's control over religion led to further tension. Art saw us develop our observational drawing skills. The focus was on accurately drawing objects, paying close attention to shapes, proportions, and details. We also explored how to add tone and shading to give our drawings more depth and form. In Cooking we learned how to make macaroni cheese from scratch. The process involved boiling the pasta, preparing a creamy cheese sauce, and combining the two into a delicious dish. We also discussed measurements, cooking temperatures, and the science behind ingredients like butter and flour, which help thicken sauces. This activity helped reinforce the importance of following instructions carefully. In Geography we focused on the Middle East and practiced labelling the countries on a map. We studied the function of the skeleton in Science and how it helps the body move and stay strong. We learned that the skeleton provides structure, protects vital organs, and allows us to move. We also looked at how muscles work with bones to create movement, like how the muscles in our legs help us walk. This understanding of the skeletal system helped us appreciate the complexity and importance of our bodies. Have a lovely weekend.



Cayuga Class

This week, learners have shown great engagement across a wide range of learning activities. The young people particularly enjoyed exploring tongue twisters as a form of poetry and had lots of fun creating their own. In D&T, we began exploring design principles in preparation for our upcoming woodwork projects in the coming weeks. The young people also started learning French, focusing on café-based scenarios, which they approached with enthusiasm and curiosity. It was especially lovely to see everyone enjoying a class game of tag, running around with big smiles on their faces and making the most of time together outdoors. Have a great weekend. Mr Noone.



Butterfly Class

This week Butterfly class have been exploring their emotions and thinking of times when they have felt the same way that Riley did in the Inside Out films. Anger scored highly, that was to be expected, but when we started to unpick the situations, we all agreed that sometimes the feeling we think is anger could be anxiety or fear. It was a bit of an eye opener for the butterflies, and we now have pictures of the characters in the classroom so we can keep revisiting the exercise and become more familiar with our true feelings. I think the most fun of the week may have been making our bird food cakes – gloves were donned and the cutting of lard and mixing began. Spoons were offered, but those with sensory needs enjoyed the sensation of using hands to help



combine the ingredients. Our nut free lardy bird feeders once they cooled were hung up by the class in the trees in the orchard as well as by the swing. Lucky birds, they will not starve at Selwyn! Have a lovely weekend Mrs Angell.

Hamilton Class



This week's learning focused on developing communication skills, physical stamina, and self-awareness through a mix of creative and practical activities:

English (Entertaining Travelogues): Students explored the art of travel writing, learning how to blend factual descriptions with engaging and humorous narratives. The focus was to entertain their reader through language and structure.

PE (Circuit Training): The whole class participated in high-intensity circuit training to improve cardiovascular fitness and muscular endurance. The session was very successful and staff members joined in to create a sense of shared motivation.

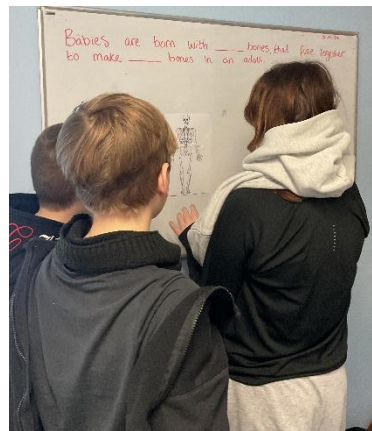
PSHE (Self-Development): Students engaged in reflective exercises to identify their personal strengths and core skills. They used these insights to set independent targets, focusing on what they need to do to progress and achieve their own long-term goals.

I look forward to next week for further progress and I hope you all have a restful weekend! Miss Rixson

Darwin Class

Despite the dark mornings and evenings, and cold winter weather, Darwin class has had a positive week overall. January can be a challenging month for many, but this week both students and staff have pulled together, showing resilience and determination even when things felt difficult. The effort and teamwork on display have been encouraging, and it has been great to see young people continuing to try their best.

In science, learning was brought to life with an exciting game of pin the body part on the skeleton. The students approached the activity with enthusiasm and creativity, coming up with original and memorable ideas to help



them remember some of the more challenging body part names. This hands-on approach supported both engagement and understanding, making the lesson enjoyable as well as educational.

Cookery has also been a big highlight this week, taking place both during lessons and golden time. Students demonstrated growing independence when following recipes, confidently making choices and adding their own spices and flavours. Macaroni and cheese was a huge hit, and it was lovely to see the pride students took in their work, as well as their willingness to experiment and think for themselves.



During Maths, the young people discussed the difference between imperial and metric units, comparing measurements such as miles and kilometres and pounds and kilograms. Many of them were surprised to learn that imperial units are still used today in some situations, even though the metric system is more widely taught and used. Finally, staff continue to recognise the importance of break times and movement breaks for the young people. This week, it has been lovely to see Darwin students laughing together while playing games such as *Splat*, enjoying a well-earned pause from their lessons. These moments of fun and connection help them to relax, recharge, and return to learning with renewed focus. Have a great weekend. Miss Joy

Dahl Class

We have had another great week in school.

In English, we continued reading *Once* and have been exploring the themes and characters with enthusiasm.

In Science, we are learning about the heart, discovering how it works and why it is so important for keeping us healthy.

In Maths, we have been looking back at imperial measures and comparing them with metric measurements, developing our understanding of both systems.

Our Art lessons have focused on still life, with the class carefully observing and sketching objects to improve detail and composition.

In PE, we have been practising how to serve in badminton, showing great concentration and improving their technique.

In History, we explored the question of why the English Civil War began, encouraging pupils to think about different causes and viewpoints.

During PSHE, we have been discussing right and wrong, considering how deeds are not always black and white and how choices can be complex.

Well done to everyone for their hard work and enthusiasm throughout the week. Miss Anderson is looking forward to another amazing week next week.

Frenchie Class

As the wet and cold weather continues, Frenchie class has been busy learning in the warmth. This week has seen us begin two new learning journeys in English and History. We have started reading *The Firework-Maker's Daughter*, an exciting story about a girl who sets off on a quest to discover her true self as a master firework-maker. The tale promises adventure and excitement and even includes a talking elephant, which is an added bonus.

The class has been listening to the first few chapters of the story and applying their understanding to how it fits within traditional storytelling. In History, the children were introduced to the topic of the Black Plague and how its devastating effects spread across Europe. We discussed how learning about and understanding the disease has helped us apply our knowledge to managing illnesses in the present day. One pupil produced a fantastic drawing of a plague doctor.

In Geography, we worked on developing our understanding of rivers and applied our skills through map reading. The class has also demonstrated excellent computing skills, progressing beyond using Scratch and developing sequences on a programme called Micro:bit. We ended the week with some fantastic artwork in Art and thoughtful discussion in Music.

Have a restful weekend. We look forward to some great learning next week.

All the team in Frenchie Class.

Final Thought

As we begin to settle into the new term, we hope everyone is starting to feel back in the swing of things and enjoying the subtle signs that the days are slowly becoming lighter. In school, we continue to follow our Healthy Schools approach to food and nutrition. Children are offered breakfast options each morning, along with a range of healthy snacks throughout the day, including fruit, corn-based snacks and other nutritious choices. School dinners are available every day for all young people, and it has been a pleasure to see cookery lessons starting up again with such enthusiasm. Staff have been delighted to see young people showing curiosity and confidence as they begin to try new foods and develop important life skills.

Wishing you a lovely weekend.

Yours faithfully

Rebecca Pine
Headteacher