



Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2025

Dear Parents,

As we break up for the Christmas holidays, I want to reflect on what has certainly been a *mixed* final week of term. Our pupils have enjoyed some wonderful experiences, including trips to Cambridge, time at the park, and festive treats in school, which have brought lots of smiles and positive moments. At the same time, we have faced some challenges, with significant staff absence leading to difficult decisions. I would like to thank families for their understanding and support during this period. As we approach Christmas, we are reminded that its message is often about looking forward to something – hope, light, and anticipation. While many people feel excited at this time of year, we also recognise that it can bring uncertainty or mixed emotions for others. Whatever the holidays bring for you, I sincerely hope that everyone can rest, spend some time with loved ones, and find something to look forward to as we head into the new year.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY	
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January	Children return to school after Christmas break – <b><u>please provide a packed lunch for your child.</u></b>

### Daily Mile

Well, we started our Daily Mile journey in September and over the weeks we have travelled across Europe, as a school. Every week, our classes have had challenges to complete as they do their mile, daily. From I Spy, to making collages and finding ghosts and reindeer. We have landed in Zhlobin in Belarus for Christmas. A charming small town where they eat such dishes as Solyanka - A sour and spicy soup made with meat, pickled cucumbers, onions, and carrots which is a staple in most Belarusian households as well as Kvas - a sweet and tangy fermented drink made from rye bread, sugar, and water. I wonder what delights we will find in 2026, as we continue our journey across the world.

### Hamilton Class



We made it! What an amazing term we have had, with lots of focus and consistent hard work right until the final week of term. Our reward is a fun Christmas quiz, games and pizza! All Hamilton staff are very proud of how well the pupils have adapted to changes, listened to staff when focus was needed whilst also remaining positive and motivated to do well in their lessons. Most recently, we completed at least four ASDAN tasks and worked solidly for two lessons to make sure the work was completed. This is testament to our young people and their morals



and values with regards to their education and them knowing how important their learning journey is here at Selwyn Hall School. Thank you to all parents for your support and consistent communication over this term, I hope you have an amazing Christmas and a prosperous New Year. We look forward to welcoming the class back in January 2026!

### Butterfly Class

The youngsters in Butterfly class have come on in leaps and bounds, this term. We have ended the term with a wonderful singsong of Christmas carols that warmed our hearts as the lyrics and tunes could be clearly heard around the building. It has been great fun yet again helping youngsters understand the need for learning and schools in their lives, to help them see how



independent learning will equip them for success in adulthood. We have relied on our Tuff tray a great deal this term; making words using Alphabetti spaghetti was surely a highlight! One of our photos this week shows how butterfly class were able to help Father Christmas out this week with sorting some Numicon shapes. Our reward trip this term was to go to Audley end miniature railway and Santa trail. To say that our youngsters were spellbound is an understatement, I think you can see this in our photo collage from the trip. Butterfly class carried on their fabulous behaviour throughout the day at Audley End and some even fell asleep on the minibus home. There has even been a plan formulated for next term's trip – to Shepreth Wildlife Park; I think this is a great idea – having a reward to aim for. We look forward to returning in January and carrying on the splendid learning environment, as ever mixing up bucketfuls of fun into our day. Have a peaceful holiday, however you celebrate.

### Otzi Class

One of our tasks this week was for each pupil to choose a country around the world and research if it had any unique or unusual Christmas traditions. There were many lovely examples, although Australia's surfing Santas were probably the most amusing. Otzi class has such a distinct culture of its own that it is tempting to think that it could develop its own Christmas traditions given time – maybe DinoClaus and His Old Trafford Elves. For the staff in Otzi, Christmas is naturally a time when we look back and remember all the fun and learning that took place over the months since September. As parents, you should feel very proud. More so than in any previous term, our pupils have been asked to show resilience and 'bounce-back-ability' to requests made for their attention and engagement in our academic work. For many of our pupils this means overcoming negative experiences they have had in previous schools, and they have all shown great courage (and a fantastic sense of humour) in doing so. In turn, all the staff in Otzi have been consistently amazed by the abilities, talents and confidence that have emerged as our pupils engage more with subject-based learning. There is no question this year, the whole of Otzi is on surfing Santa's good list! Have a wonderful Christmas and New Year!

### Frenchie Class

This last week of term we have been a bit Christmassy in Frenchie class. We have continued with our fantastic fractions in maths, and our amazing acting of The Tempest in English. We are particularly proud of our students showcasing their acting abilities. Apart from that, we have been doing Christmas activities. The students painted window stickers - some followed designs and some tried freehand! They also made salt dough decorations. What a wonderful time of the year!





### Cayuga Class

As we come to the end of the autumn term, we reflect on what is often one of the most challenging times in the school year- not only for our young people, but for everyone in the wider school community. Cayuga Class have gone from strength to strength, since September. Over the course of the term, we have welcomed new young people into our class right up until a few weeks ago. During this time, there has been lots of learning, growth, and social development. It has been a true joy to teach alongside the dedicated Cayuga team and to watch our young people be themselves. We finished the term on a high by going on a class trip. There was great excitement as we travelled by train into Cambridge to watch Zootropolis 2 at the cinema. The trip was a fantastic success, with smiles all round- from young people to adults. We are incredibly proud of everything Cayuga Class has achieved this term and look forward to what the next term will bring. Wishing everyone a restful Christmas break and see you in the new year!



### Darwin Class

Darwin had another busy and positive time across a range of subjects this week. In English, the students focused on editing and improving their persuasive writing about recycling and looking after the environment. They carefully reread their work, checking for clearer arguments, stronger vocabulary, and better sentence structure. The young people showed a growing understanding of how to persuade others to care for the world around them and took pride in refining their ideas. In maths, Darwin worked on finding the areas of various shapes. They explored how shapes can be broken down and measured, using their problem-solving skills to calculate area accurately. Students showed good perseverance, especially when working with more challenging shapes, and developed confidence in applying their mathematical knowledge. During their cookery lesson, they enjoyed decorating a chocolate log. This activity allowed them to be creative and work collaboratively while following instructions carefully. Everyone had fun adding decorative touches, and it was a lovely way to celebrate their hard work. Throughout this term, Darwin class has shown great commitment to their learning and to one another. They have worked hard across all areas of the curriculum, demonstrating excellent teamwork and collaboration both academically and in the way they support their peers. Whether working in pairs, small groups, or as a whole class, the students consistently showed respect, kindness, and a willingness to help each other succeed. They also displayed remarkable resilience when navigating changes and challenges. When faced with new routines, unfamiliar learning, or unexpected obstacles, they approached each situation with maturity and determination. Their perseverance shone through when learning felt challenging, as they continued to try their best, ask questions, and keep going even when things were difficult. What has been especially pleasing to see is the positivity the young people bring to their learning each day. They approach tasks with enthusiasm, celebrate progress, and take pride in their achievements. This positive attitude has helped create a supportive and encouraging learning environment for everyone. All staff in Darwin class are incredibly proud of the young people and wish them a relaxing and fun break. We hope they are as excited as we are about what 2026 brings and look forward to seeing them continue to grow, learn, and thrive.

### Kelly Class

On Friday afternoon, the children ended the week with an enjoyable hot chocolate and movie afternoon. In history, we began exploring the ancient Mayan civilisation. In maths, we moved on to calculating the volume of cuboids, which the children found less challenging than previous volume work and completed with ease. In cooking, we made biscuits with sweets in, and the children enjoyed creating their own biscuit designs. They have really enjoyed these lessons and taken great responsibility when joining in. This week's activities also included painting stones and decorating pillowcases to create their own Christmas stockings. We also had a free-choice afternoon, during which one young person chose to make a PowerPoint about Henry VIII, producing an excellent and very detailed information pack that they



thoroughly enjoyed creating. On Thursday, the children were rewarded with a trip to either bowling or Clip 'n Climb, where they were respectful, followed all instructions, and demonstrated fantastic teamwork by supporting and encouraging one another, making it a brilliant end to the term. We would like to wish all our parents and young people a restful and enjoyable break and look forward to welcoming everyone back in January

### **Mandela Class**

This week has flown by! Mandela students have kept up with their maths challenges and started looking at Europe in a geography focus. The week is getting more festive with a Christmas film and baking Christmas biscuits, plus the arrival of our pottery from last week. Students are celebrating huge milestones in settling into the school and class – the list of things we love is growing; friendships are blossoming; class routines are increasing; everyone is making progress!

We hope everyone has a wonderful holiday and we can't wait to start back in January. Merry Christmas from Mandela Class



### **Dahl Class**

This week has been full of exciting learning activities. In English, pupils enjoyed watching and exploring WALL-E. They discussed the story, characters and themes, and shared their own ideas through speaking and simple written work. In maths, children focused on angles and the sum of angles. They practised identifying different angles and learned how angles add up, using practical examples and diagrams to support their understanding. As part of our festive activities, pupils took part in cooking, where they made and decorated Yule logs. They followed instructions carefully and enjoyed being creative with their designs. The festive fun continued with craft activities and colouring, giving pupils the chance to express their creativity while developing fine motor skills. In history, students have been learning about the Mayan civilisation. As part of this topic, they designed and created their own Mayan temple models. Pupils explored the features of Mayan temples, including steps, platforms, and symbols, and used a range of materials to bring their ideas to life. It has been a busy and enjoyable week, and the children have shown great enthusiasm in all areas of learning. I hope that all members of Dahl class have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year!

### **Final Thought**

As we begin a new year, both in the calendar and as we return to school, it feels like a natural moment to pause and look ahead. The start of January often brings a sense of renewed routines and the opportunity to reset after the busy festive period. Coming back together as a school community gives us the chance to re-establish familiar structures, welcome back our pupils, and gently build momentum for the term ahead. While this can feel exciting, it can also feel daunting for some and we will be supporting our young people as they settle back into learning. We look forward to working closely with families as we move into this next chapter of the year, focusing on consistency, care and positive steps forward together. Wishing you all a merry Christmas and look forward to seeing you all in the new year.

Wishing you a lovely Christmas break.

*Yours faithfully*

Rebecca Pine  
Headteacher