Selwyn Hall school

Friday Flyer

Friday 6th November 2026

Dear Parents

It has been wonderful to welcome everyone back after the half term break and to see the school bustling with energy once again. While we have enjoyed a positive start to the new half term, many of us are still adjusting to the darker afternoons now the clocks have gone back! This week, families will receive a letter outlining some exciting upcoming careers days, where pupils will explore a range of different jobs, careers and future opportunities at an age-appropriate level. These experiences form an important part of our work around Preparing for Adulthood, helping children to develop their understanding of the wider world and the many possibilities available to them in the future. Already this week, children have shown great curiosity and enthusiasm as they have encountered builders, tarmac contractors and rugby players around the school site, as well as train drivers, zookeepers and shopkeepers through their learning activities. A particular highlight was the fantastic visit from the rugby players, who inspired our pupils through a range of fun and engaging activities. It has been wonderful to see so many children choosing to take part, demonstrating impressive determination and teamwork, while others have shown a keen interest in exploring opportunities to become involved in the sport over the longer term.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY	
Tuesday 10th November	Parent Consultations with class teachers
Friday 20th November	HPV Vaccination for Year 8 pupils
Friday 20th November	MenACWY/DTP Vaccination for Year 9 Pupils
Friday 18th December	Last day of term

Cambridge City Rugby Club

All students were given the opportunity to take part in rugby skills led by two 1st team players. Many enjoyed engaging in the sport with students from other classes as they learned to run with, and throw a rugby ball. Some of the students will be given the opportunity to continue this sport with Cambridge City this term, with others being given another go in the summer term. Both Tom and Nile had the groups laughing and smiling as they encountered skills many had not tried before.



Penguin Class



This week has marked the start of several new units of learning for Penguin class, our team building PE lessons have now become dance lessons and we explored the movements that are needed to create an interpretive dance piece on the theme of fireworks. This led into our PSHE lesson on firework safety, which led into our history lesson, all about the Gunpowder plot, this led into a London life lesson and talking about London's large Remembrance Parade on Sunday. We explored what Remembrance is and why it is important to keep conversations around the theme alive. Have a great weekend

Capybara Class



It has been lovely to welcome the young people back after the half-term break! We have enjoyed seeing everyone reconnect, asking one another about their holidays and building on friendships through games and spending time outdoors. We have also taken time to appreciate the beautiful autumnal colours around school, creating artwork inspired by nature's forms, including leaves, twigs and stones. In English, we have started exploring our new text, The Butterfly Lion by Michael Morpurgo. We have begun reading the opening chapters, getting to know the characters, making comparisons between Wiltshire and Africa, and exploring the emotions and experiences of those within the story. In maths, we have started our new learning around fractions, while in geography we have been discovering countries across the seven continents and putting our knowledge to the test with a fantastic game of GeoGuessr! In science, we have launched our chemistry topic, exploring the different states of matter. We were also delighted to welcome the Cambridge Rugby team into school for a trial session with the young people. There was so much joy and laughter throughout, and it was wonderful to see everyone engaging so enthusiastically. Alongside this, we have continued our conversations around careers, particularly as some of our young people watched the tarmacking of our MUGA take place. There was great curiosity about the machinery being used, sparking some lovely conversations about the different equipment, skills and roles involved in this type of work. Overall, it has been such a positive first week back, full of reconnections, new learning and opportunities to explore. What a lovely way to begin our new term! Have a great weekend.

Robtop Class





What a lovely first week back after the half-term break! It has been wonderful to welcome the children back and see them settle into their routines with plenty of enthusiasm and energy. In English, we began exploring modern fiction, starting with *The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien. The children were particularly excited about this, especially those who were already familiar with the film adaptations. We had some fantastic discussions about the main characters, exploring the heroes and villains of the story and identifying the protagonists and antagonists. In Maths, we have been revisiting rounding whole numbers, helping the children strengthen their understanding of place value and build confidence with their number skills. In Science, we explored different materials, including metals, plastics, and wood, and investigated their properties, such as conductivity, rigidity, transparency, and magnetism. This half-term, we are focusing on dance in PE! Although some of the children were not particularly keen on the idea at first, they soon warmed up to it and joined in enthusiastically. Our first session was led by one of our talented teaching assistants, who has a background in dance, making it an especially enjoyable experience. In Music, we learnt about singing in parts and had a great time singing *Happy* by Pharrell Williams. We also began exploring the Five Pillars of Islam in RE, learning about their importance to Muslims. Breaktimes have been just as lively! Many of the children have enjoyed playing football with pupils from other classes, sometimes even taking on the adults! There has been plenty of laughter, teamwork and, judging by the muddy clothes, some very enthusiastic football being played! Others have enjoyed spending time chatting and catching up with their friends. To top off an already lovely week, we are heading to **Shepreth Wildlife Park** for a fun-filled day of exploring and learning about animals. What a wonderful way to finish our first week back! It has been a fantastic start to the half-term, and we are looking forward to all the exciting learning and experiences ahead.

Da Vinci Class

Da Vinci class have made a fantastic start to the new half term, exploring a range of exciting new topics across the curriculum. In History, pupils have begun learning about *Crime and Punishment in Medieval England*, while in Science they have been investigating *Ionic Bonds* in Chemistry. In Careers, the class has been studying *Employee Rights*, and in Maths they have been learning how to *translate shapes*. In Art, pupils have been developing their creativity through *collage work*. The class have shown an excellent attitude to learning and a genuine enthusiasm for their new topics. It has been wonderful to see pupils focused and engaged in lessons, demonstrating determination, resilience, and a desire to achieve their very best. On Thursday, the class also enjoyed taking part in rugby demonstrations delivered by visitors from Cambridge Rugby Club. The pupils participated enthusiastically and represented the school well throughout the session.

Benz class

This week, Benz students have enjoyed a wide range of experiences. From watching tarmaccing work up close and taking part in rugby sessions with professional players, to beginning their study of Shakespeare, there has been plenty to engage their curiosity and enthusiasm. As well as exploring *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, students have begun thinking about the many careers linked to theatre and performance, including writing, acting, directing and the many behind-the-scenes roles that bring a production to life. We are gradually learning that understanding *A Midsummer Night's Dream* sometimes means embracing a little confusion and chaos as we get to know its colourful cast of characters!
In science, students have started investigating materials, thinking about their properties and why different materials are chosen for different purposes. It has been great to see them applying their observation and discussion skills as they explore the world around them. We've also been playing with materials as we start looking at sculpture in art. Everyone gave making, colouring and playing with salt dough a go!

Shakespeare class

We were excited to be back in class after the break. In English, we began writing our own creative stories, using our imaginations to create different characters and exciting plots. We also used the laptops to edit and print our stories. This half term, we will be studying *Noughts & Crosses* by Malorie Blackman and have already started discussing the important themes within the novel. In Maths, we learned about common factors, multiples, and square numbers. In Science, we explored different materials and their properties, including how metals are used because of their ability to conduct electricity and heat. In PE, we learned how to line dance, and it was wonderful to see Mrs Pine and Mrs Taylor-O'Farrell joining in and giving it a good go! Why not try line dancing yourself? We think you'll enjoy it!







Fossey class

In Fossey class, we have been studying 'An inspector calls' in English; angles and letter notations in Maths and doing topic tests in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. In History we have been studying the Battle of Britain and in PSD we have been looking at healthy life-style. In RE we have been studying the ethics of modern medicine development and the class enjoyed the visit by the Cambridge Rugby players. Finally, the class has been learning to make chicken Burritos in cookery.

Hudson Class

Hudson Class enjoyed a great first week back at school. Maths was an absolute breeze! Yes, believe it or not! Our students enjoyed completing all of their lessons learning how to use negative numbers in context and calculating intervals across zero. In Science our students completed a triage of test for Biology, Chemistry

and Physics which went really well, great job Hudson students! In History we had a fantastic discussion on crime & punishment and how this has changed over time comparing Middle Ages to Modern time. In PSHE, our students were supported to learn how to use an iron, if you have any clothing to iron over the weekend, you know who to ask 😳. We ended the week participating in a brilliant sporting activity presented by Cambridge Rugby Club. Hudson students had a whale of a time!

Bowie class

This week has been another positive and enjoyable one for the class. Students showed great enthusiasm in lessons and demonstrated impressive recall skills in English, confidently remembering key events, quotations and character details from An Inspector Calls without needing to rely on the text, or quickly identifying where to find evidence when needed. In Life Skills, students explored foods from around the world and engaged well with discussions about different cultures and cuisines. We were also delighted to hear all about Kavali's recent trip to the dentist, and he was very proud to show everyone the gaps from his removed teeth along with some photos! On Thursday, the class enthusiastically cheered on Miss MacRae and Miss Pensabene during the rugby event, helping to spur the staff team on to a fantastic victory. To finish the week, students excelled in cookery, creating a delicious three-cheese macaroni cheese and showing excellent practical skills in the kitchen. They are already looking forward to next week's cookery lesson, where they will be making an American-style meatloaf. Overall, the students have worked hard, participated brilliantly and contributed to a positive atmosphere throughout the week.

Final Thought

As we look ahead to the rest of the term, we are excited to be re-energising our Personal Development clubs that take place before home time. Alongside some of our existing favourites, children will have opportunities to take part in exciting new activities including Circuit Training, a Pokémon Club alongside our popular Pangea Club, Cookery Club and many more. We are passionate about ensuring our pupils have access to the same breadth of experiences and opportunities as their peers, helping them to discover new interests, develop confidence and build important life skills. Whilst our curriculum remains at the heart of what we do, we are equally committed to providing enriching experiences beyond the classroom that support personal development, independence and wellbeing. We want every child to have the chance to explore their talents, develop new friendships and find activities that inspire them, ensuring their time with us is filled with memorable and meaningful opportunities.

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend.
Yours faithfully

Rebecca Pine