

Return to School

We are all very excited to be welcoming the children back to school next week. We understand that this has been a difficult time for all, and we thank you for your continued support.

All information about the return to school has been sent out by email and is available to read on our website by [clicking here](#). If you have not received these emails, please contact the school to update your details.



Parent survey – you asked we responded

Overall the survey highlighted a wide range of positive aspects to the school including the staff student relationships, fantastic facilities, and the behaviour of the students. There were also a number of key strengths identified within the specific questions within the survey. This included:

- **My child feels safe at school** (94%)
- **There is a good range of subjects available to my child at school** (97%). This is a key strength within the school and something that we plan to grow further with the implementation of Forest School and wellbeing within the curriculum, whilst maintaining our full breadth elsewhere.

However you raised some areas that we could improve and we have responded:

- **You felt we could keep you better informed about what the children will be learning throughout the year.** As a result Mr Broad will be sending regular updates through the newsletter in relation to the upcoming curriculum areas of study in all years. Our full year curriculum plan is also available on the website and will be updated regularly.
- **You felt we could be more aspirational for some of our students.** This is only slightly below the national average in response to this question, however this is an area we pride ourselves on and therefore Mr Ellett is working on a new behaviour and relationship policy which he will be consulting with parents on in the summer term. Myself and Mr Broad have also begun a programme of meetings with the Heads of Faculty to meet with each area, dive into their curriculum and ensure that it is challenging and appropriate for all children.
- **You felt we could further improve our communication.** Home school communication is paramount for an effective educational experience for young people. Once again this response is very close to the national average response, however we want our communication to meet the needs of everybody within our community. Therefore you will have noticed that we have increased the information in our newsletter and over the coming months we will be substantially increasing the information that is made available to you through the SIMS APP. We will also be review the contact we make in person, either face to face or over the phone to ensure that this is more regular and more effective.



I believe it is key that Selwood responds to the views and needs of its community as part of our continued school improvement. Therefore parental surveys will regularly be undertaken throughout the year in order to inform our planning and key actions. Thank you all so much for your responses so far.

If you have yet to complete the survey, please do so by clicking the link below.

<https://forms.gle/jzMzWwmbsxMVHGMv6>

Dan Jeffries, Head Teacher

“Let your light shine before others” Matthew 5 v 19

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Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility - Selwood Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of our children and we expect all members of staff, volunteers and visitors to share this commitment.

Diary dates...

March

- 08 Year 5 & 6 pupils return to School. Years 7 pupils attend for COVID testing
- 09 Year 5, 6 & 7 pupils attend school. Year 8 pupils attend for COVID testing
- 10 All pupils return to school
- 15 & 16 Year 7 virtual Parents evenings - please look out for an email.

April

- 26 & 27 Year 5 virtual Parents evenings
- 28 Year 8 HPV vaccinations



Google Classroom:

Google Classroom has proven itself to be a fantastic way to provide online learning for our young people whilst they have been at home. We have been so impressed with the way pupils have engaged with this content, with so many examples of exceptional commitment and effort to keep up-to-date with learning, despite the challenges we have all faced. Our teachers have also seen how useful this resource has become and for this reason we will continue to use this even though we look forward to welcoming pupils back to school from Monday 8 March. Teachers will continue to use Google Classroom to assign homework and to provide resources for pupils who may need to be away from school, meaning that pupils and parents will have another way to keep track of homework as it is set each week, in addition to the traditional link book which we will continue to ask pupils to use to record homework. In some cases, this may offer the opportunity to complete the homework online (e.g. revision quizzes, worksheets and online activities), though we know that some children may need a paper copy and of course, this will be provided. Please let your child's teacher know if this is the case.

Understanding gaps in learning:

Despite all of the hard work of teachers and pupils, it is inevitable that there will be some gaps in learning and we will work hard to adapt our approach accordingly. From Monday 15 March, teachers will begin to assess pupils for their knowledge and understanding of work that has been covered during the lockdown. This will involve helping pupils to complete short quizzes, tests and other assessments in their lessons, within a calm and supportive environment and will help us tailor our curriculum to best support children as they settle back into a normal school routine. These are not formal assessments and will only be used internally and will not require any revision or preparation in advance.

Headphones

As we can't freely provide headphones to children when using computers due to the challenge of sanitisation, we recommend pupils having a pair of their own headphones. This is very helpful to them when in the IT suite or when using iPads. These can be the cheaper 'ear-buds' and can be kept safely in their school bag. These need to be wired ear buds and not wireless.

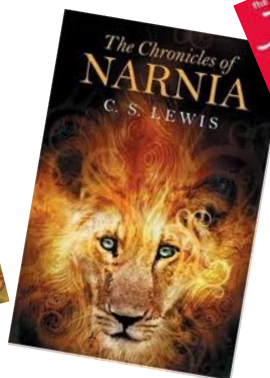
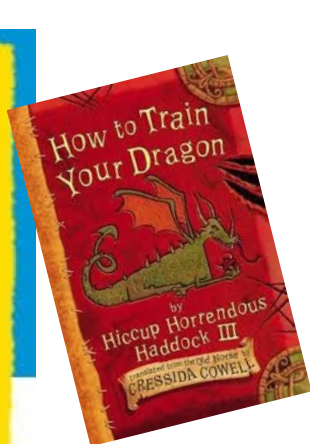
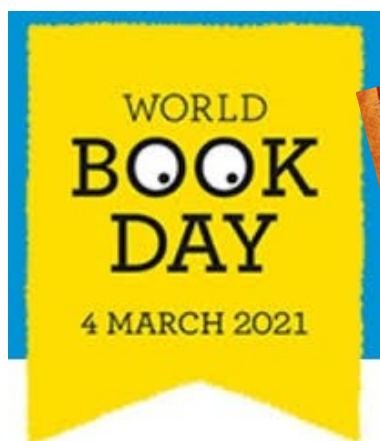


Please be aware that due to the current situation windows in classrooms will be kept open during the winter months for ventilation. Pupils are advised to wear layers underneath their school uniform.



Road Safety - Reminder

Please can we ask that parents and carers do not use the school car park or drop children off directly in front of the school. We are very fortunate to have use of the Football Club car park for pick up/drop off. You may wish to then walk your child to the school gate. ***Please do not park on the zig-zags or double yellow lines outside of the school.*** This is in place for the safety of your children.



Selwood Academy celebrated World Book Day in style, at home and in school. Pupils working from home sent in pictures of themselves in their finery! The celebrities of the book world assembled - An army of characters from Harry Potter, Diary of a Wimpy Kid, Roald Dahl, Horrible histories, David Walliams to name a few all made an appearance. Popular non-fiction football books were also a popular theme.

Not to be left out, staff also made a huge effort, led from the front by Thor, AKA our Head Teacher Dan Jeffries! King Arthur with Genevieve and Merlin were discovered in the gardens, a beautiful princess was found at a lathe, Darth Vader was protecting the corridors and a naughty pig was found hiding in the PE shed! Witches, Demon Dentist, Fantastic Mr Fox, Maria Von Trap, Louise (from Me before you) Where's Wally? Flamingo and even an Oliver Twist asking for more!

Staff also recorded a reading from a of chapter from Harry Potter and the Philosophers Stone for pupils to listen to on the day. [Click here](#) to watch.

Everyone had a really fabulous day celebrating the joy of books and reading. More pictures will be placed on the website next week.

Accelerated Reader News!

Well done to everyone who is doing their Accelerated Reader Quizzes, I have lots of certificates waiting for you when you come back to school next week.

Every pupil who has quizzed 5 books or more gets put into a draw for a WHS voucher

Congratulations to our winners this month!

Tom C 5R Adam B 6E Thea M 7F David J 8M

Remember to keeeeeeeeeeeep reading!

Best wishes, Mrs Hylands

FREE
ADVERTISING
FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES

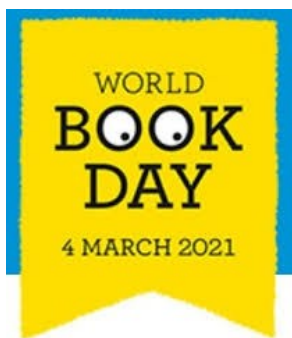
At Selwood we understand how difficult the past year has been for local businesses in the Frome community.

If you run a business in Frome, we would like to offer you a FREE advert in one of our fortnightly newsletters.

With over 600 pupils at Selwood, our newsletter reaches a large audience, some of whom may be interested in your products or services.

If you are interested in taking up this offer, please email

selwoodacademy@educ.somerset.gov.uk



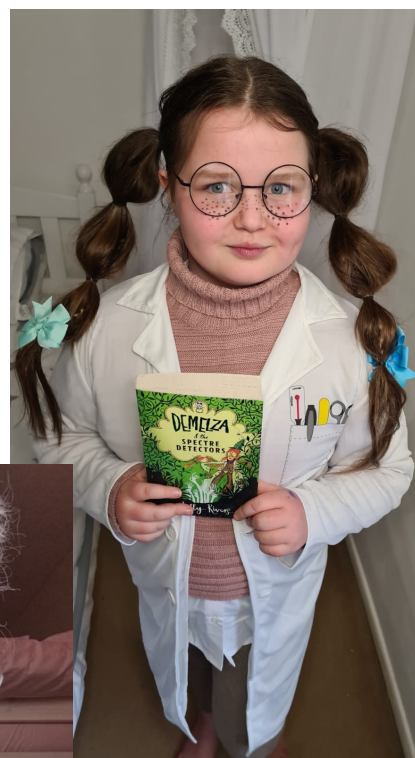
World Book Day Pictures!

The children here were all presented with an Easter Egg for best costume!

More pictures will go on the website next week.



Kavin H, Year 5



Elsie S, Year 5



Lexia H, Year 6



Layla E, Year 7

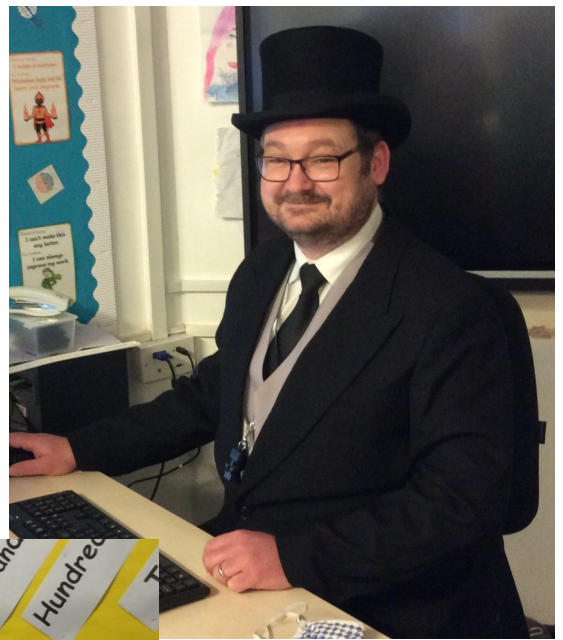


Sidney M, Year 6



Charlie N, Year 6

**And the staff
joined in too...**



Dyslexia Friendly Classrooms

In Selwood we aim for Dyslexia Friendly classrooms which help all children to access the learning environment.

The British Dyslexia Association defines dyslexia as –

“Dyslexia is a learning difficulty that primarily affects the skills involved in accurate and fluent word reading and spelling. Characteristic features of dyslexia are difficulties in phonological awareness, verbal memory and verbal processing speed. Dyslexia occurs across the range of intellectual abilities.”

We have identified several things that help in the classroom –

- * Less or no copying from the whiteboard
- * Help sheets
- * Larger Comic Sans font
- * Coloured paper or coloured overlays on white paper (blue or yellow are most effective)
- * Whiteboards, beige backgrounds
- * More explanation of task
- * Working in pairs or groups
- * Repeating instructions

Research has found that children can help themselves also by doing things such as –

- * Listening to music – music has been found to help a great deal
- * Playing an instrument, which helps brain co-ordination, especially drumming!
- * Eating as properly as they can and getting exercise and enough sleep
- * Eating fish! Medical evidence suggests this helps a lot. If you don't like fish, supplements are absolutely fine too.
- * Having help from someone at home
- * Frequent breaks

Famous people who are dyslexic and have not found this has not enabled them to succeed, include –

- * The actors – Tom Cruise, Will Smith, Keira Knightley and Keanu Reeves
- * The singer Robbie Williams
- * The directors Stephen Spielberg and Walt Disney
- * The chef Jamie Oliver
- * The scientist Albert Einstein
- * The Olympic rower Steve Redgrave
- * The entrepreneur Richard Branson
- * The presenter Holly Willoughby

In terms of Special Education provision, this may occur where the pupil is not making progress with Quality first Teaching and use of Core standards.

If you feel your child may have dyslexic traits, please speak to their Literacy teacher in the first instance.

Lorna Steward
SENCO