



SELWOOD ACADEMY

ANGLICAN/METHODIST FOUNDATION SCHOOL

Newsletter

End of Term

Advance notice from the Trustees

Our last day of term is **Friday December 18** On this day pupils will leave school at the earlier times of

Year 5 and 6 at 1.30pm

Year 7 and 8 at 1.40pm

On this day we will be having our Christmas dinner where pupils will be able to eat a 'Christmas Meal in a Box' which will be delivered to their bubbles. Details of how to order this will follow very shortly. Please check the website. If children wish to wear a Christmas jumper over their uniform, they may. Pupils will leave for the Christmas holiday after this lunchtime celebration. Staff will use the remaining time to mark the Headteacher's retirement appropriately and within the guidance of Covid restrictions.

County transport has been contacted to enable the earlier pick up time.

Advance notice from the Headteacher—New start times

Now that the children are into regular routines for the start and the end of the day, I am intending to bring forward the morning start times in line with the usual school start times pre Covid. The times will remain staggered in line with our Covid risk assessments. From **Monday 7 December** Year 5 and 6 will be admitted through the usual Covid allocated school gate at 8.35am. The school gates will not open prior to this. Years 7 and 8 will be admitted through their usual Covid allocated school gate at 8.45am. Siblings travelling together will arrive at 8.35am through the youngest pupil's allocated gate. Older siblings will be asked to go into school at 8.45am and will wait at the premises in the usual way that has occurred this term. This earlier time will enable all pupils to receive a full hour for lesson one as opposed to the much shorter lesson one time we have currently.

If parents have any difficulties/questions please don't hesitate to contact the school office in the usual way and ask to speak to your child's pastoral team leader. Year 5, Mr Pipe, Year 6, Mrs Hughes, Year 7, Miss Hill, Year 8, Mr Sharp.



Year 7 parents

I wish to extend my sincere thanks to all Year 7 parents who responded so swiftly to the text on Friday 13 November. Your prompt assistance and patience whilst waiting to collect your children was so much appreciated.

The use of the survey proved invaluable and significantly reduced the need for individual contact between school and over 150 pupils and meant that all pupils in this year group were on their way home within 90 minutes of the text. I appreciate there is much to learn from this day, I sincerely hope we do not find ourselves in this situation again but we have learned how to improve our procedures from the events that took place.

Thank you also for your huge efforts in facilitating the online learning programme. Microsoft Teams does create a fair amount of administrative burden for us currently and also for you as parents. We are in the process of moving to Google Classrooms after Christmas which will release some of the connectivity issues we have faced. Mr Broad will be heading up this initiative and I would like to take this opportunity of thanking him and all the teaching staff for the immense additional planning time these lessons created whilst still remaining in school teaching all the other children and contacting families within their tutor groups to ensure well being, safeguarding and learning support was communicated.

"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

Urgent notice to all parents

If you have not yet completed the online survey informing us how your child will go home please can you do so as a matter of priority. This survey proved invaluable with our Year 7 single case notification.

Please click this link or see our website <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/K5GP6TM>

Attached to this newsletter is a letter and number of helpful guidelines from Somerset Public Health and Julian Wooster, Head of Services. The administration time from the letter being prepared at County and reaching schools has been lengthy however it is important that we do share this information.

Instrumental Lessons @ Selwood

We currently have lesson spaces available after Christmas holiday for any pupils wishing to learn:

Piano, Drums, Saxophone, Flute, Clarinet, Guitar and Brass instruments.

We currently have a waiting list open for:

Violin, viola, cello and singing.

For more information including sign up letters, please contact Mrs Hampson via ehampson@educ.somerset.gov.uk



A huge well done to Luca D in Year 7 who has raised over £100 with help from his tutor group, 7F!

He did this before the latest lock down - and the money will be going to the Happy Landings Charity for rescue animals.



Accelerated Reader

Well done to all the pupils who are reading and quizzing - keep going! Certificates are on their way to you via your Tutors.

Remember, you can log on to your Accelerated Reader account, from home via the Selwood website.

Congratulations to the top readers of the month

Ava N (5M) Ava M (5L) Tom C (5R) Albie M (5S)
Emma Q (6R) Amelia G (6M) Adam B (6E) Rian C (6R)

DIARY DATES...

18 December	Term 2 ends, note the early release
4 & 5 January	INSET days
6 January	Term 3 begins, children return to school

As you know we were unable to sell poppies in school this year. However we did receive donations via ParentPay. The total amount raised was £79. Many thanks to all who donated.



The Merlin Theatre, Frome, is delighted that our charming family Christmas show - "Bea and the Winter Winds" - will run from 16 - 19 Dec. Tickets from £7.50 for children (babes in arms, no fee). Join feisty young Bea on an exciting and daring journey of discovery, deceit and adventure as we celebrate the triumph of warmth and family over wicked forces.

Six shows over 4 days, including a 'RELAXED PERFORMANCE' during Sat 19th; changes in sound levels, lighting etc. plus several adjustments to ensure this experience is as inclusive as possible for all.

Strictly limited number of booking-only tickets available at all shows to allow for Covid-aware socially distanced seating (No walk-ups). Full details of times, prices www.merlintheatre.co.uk or contact merlintheatreoffice@gmail.com



YMCA Brunel offer free and confidential support online or over the phone for young people aged 10 -19. Professional youth workers who are experienced in supporting young people. Sessions are available Monday to Friday from 6.30pm - 9pm and can be booked by contacting a youth worker. Click below for more information.

www.mendipymca.org.uk [www.twitter.com/YMCAMendip](https://twitter.com/YMCAMendip) www.facebook.com/mendipymca