


SELWOOD ACADEMY

ANGLICAN/METHODIST FOUNDATION SCHOOL

Newsletter



Parental Feedback

On the Friday 23 September we welcomed 40 set of parents to a Year 5 coffee morning. Year 8 ambassadors led them on tours of the school followed by refreshments with Mr Jeffries and Mr Finlay. Below are some of the positive comments that they said about their children start at Selwood

"There has been excellent communication with the SEND team"

"My son is very happy. Communication with his tutor has been excellent"

"We have been impressed with the communication with teachers"

"We welcome the weekly tutor email and receiving positive feedback from the teachers"

"My son is talking confidently about the school"

"There was a smooth and supportive transition"

"The school has a friendly welcoming feel"

"All the children seemed calm and interested in their lessons".

"We welcome the positive phone calls from teachers...the positive Maths phone call made my daughter feel special"

"Good after school clubs"

We also asked parents on what we could improve on. Below are some the points with either what we have done or what we intend to do:

What you said	What we did or intend to do
Would like a list of planned trips for budgeting purposes	In future we will publish a list of trips at the start of the year with an estimated cost
SIMS Parent App was not working properly	The school faced problems at the start of term with the migration of new emails. This problem has now be rectified
No access to google classroom	Again this was due to the migration of new emails
Would like Welly racks for Forest school	Children can place their wellies in a bag on their peg or in the tray underneath their peg.
Was told Year 5 would be taught in B Block for all lessons	This is a misconception. In the past Year 5 was taught in B block but this has not been the case for several years. The advantages of a middle school is that pupils integrate with other year groups and have lessons in special-ised classrooms such as Science, technology and music.
Would like access to a homework timetable.	This will be developed so that Year 5 have homework specific days and shared with parents.

"Let your light shine before others" Matthew 5 v 19

Head Teacher : Mr Daniel Jeffries BA(Hons) MA NPQH NPQEL

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Registered Company Number: 7814065

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.

We will be holding Coffee mornings for the other years on the following dates:

Year 6 - Friday 14 October, 11.15am

Year 7 - Thursday 3 November, 11.15am

Year 8 - Tuesday 22 November, 11.15am

We look forward to seeing more of our parents and carers then.

In the meantime, we would be grateful if you could complete our parental survey by clicking the link below:

<https://forms.gle/uDhcGjPcf11LhC8k9>

Music Lunch Clubs **Autumn Term** **C6**

MONDAY



**YEAR 5&6
CHOIR**

TUESDAY

**YEAR 7&8
CHOIR**

WEDNESDAY



**HAND BELLS
(YEAR 8)**
GUITAR GROUP

THURSDAY 

MUSIC OPEN HOUSE
**MUSIC
TECHNOLOGY CLUB**



Selwood Academy After School Clubs

Important Information for Parents/Carers:

- All clubs have a maximum number of spaces available that are allocated strictly on a first come, first served basis. If a club is over-subscribed you will be contacted by email. If you don't hear from us you can assume that your child has a place on the club. The form will close once the club is full.
- *Please only sign your child up for a club that they are interested in and will have time to attend every week. If your child no longer wishes to attend a club you must contact us so that the place can be offered to another child.*
- If your child does not attend the club, you will receive a text message from us. It is important that you then contact us so that we can establish that your child's whereabouts.
- *If your child does not attend for two weeks in a row and you do not inform us of the reason why then you will subsequently receive an email and your child's name will be taken off the register for that club.*
- Please be aware that some clubs may have to be cancelled at short notice due to adverse weather conditions and staff availability, etc. If we have to cancel a club for whatever reason we will endeavour to make contact with you to let you know or confirm home-time arrangements if needed.
- *Please take careful note of the times and dates that your child's club is running.*
- All pupils should take their school bag and other belongings with them to the club and must leave the school site as soon as their club has ended.

Please see our website to view the clubs available this term:

<https://selwood.somerset.sch.uk/parents/useful-information/After-school-club>

Budding Chefs!

Congratulations to Oscar (8M) and Alfie (8F) for being "Chef of the week" in their Food, Cooking and Nutrition lessons. Well done boys, Gordon Ramsey would be proud!



Attendance / Lateness

Please see attached with this newsletter a leaflet highlighting the importance of good attendance at school.

If your child will not be attending school, please telephone or email as early as possible to ensure that they have the correct mark in the register.

Your child should be in their tutor room by 8.40am. If they are any later than 8.45am they will need to sign in at reception giving a clear reason for their lateness.

ATTENDANCE LINE: 01373 468615

EMAIL: Attendance.selwood@selwood-academy.co.uk



English:

English Classes Please be aware that we have changed the coding on our English sets this year and the letters and numbers don't represent a 'set' that your child is in. As always all pupils will be encouraged to reach their full potential.

Year 5 are currently looking at non-fiction writing and autobiography. At the end of term, they will produce an autobiographical piece of writing focussing on their time caving later this term.

Grammar focus: Pronouns, possessive pronouns, relative pronouns and conjunctions.

Spelling focus: Endings which sound like /ʃəs/ spelt -cious or -tious

Year 6 are also looking at non-fiction writing but are focussed on magazine writing and the different styles of articles they can create. They are working towards a mid-term assessment on creating a review and their final assessment will be a full magazine article.

Grammar focus: The subjunctive.

Spelling focus: Words containing the letter-string ough

Year 7 Have started a new course called English mastery. This term will be split into three strands: Literary Heritage (reading Oliver Twist this term). Writing mastery. Reading for pleasure.

Copies of the abridged version of Oliver Twist, used in lessons, will be made available in lessons. However, if parents wish to purchase a copy for their child individually, they are welcome to do so. The ISBN for the particular copy is: 1402726651

Year 8 Are looking at non-fiction writing with a focus on how to speak out effectively. They will be studying a range of inspirational speeches, covering a variety of topics, looking at Aristotle's 'art of rhetoric' and then creating their own speech about a topic they care passionately about.



On Wednesday 12 October at 10.45am, at Wesley Methodist Church in Frome, we will be holding our Year 5 Welcome Service. All Year 5 pupils will be walking to Wesley during the school day to attend the service and all Year 5 parents and carers are welcome to meet us there. We have some exciting things planned for the service and the Year 5 team are looking forward to seeing as many parents there as possible.

Upcoming Events and Diary Dates

October

04, 05, 06	Year 5 Mendip Trips,
12	Year 5 Welcome Service
14	Year 6 Coffee Morning. 11.45am
20	Year 6 Harvest Festival, more details to follow
21	End of Term 1, 3.10pm
31	Term 2 begins, 8.40am



The Barber Surgeon. Medieval Medicine.

Will, Lily-Rae and Ruby in Year 7, enjoying a History lesson with Mrs Woodman.

Selwood Pride Club's terminology of the week:


Each newsletter Selwood Pride Club will be exploring and explaining some of the terminology around the LGBT community to help parents and students better understand some of the terms they might hear.

What does LGBT mean?

LGBT is an acronym which stands for Lesbian (Women who love other women). Gay (Men who love other men). Bisexual (People who are attracted to more than one gender). Trans (People whose gender identity doesn't match the sex they were born with).

Year 7 English

In English 7B2, we were asked to create a research page on Victorian Poverty. This links to our current topic of Oliver Twist and the Poor Law. Here are three examples of work which was created by the children. They all worked incredibly hard researching and produced some great reports, posters, and PowerPoint presentations.

<p>THE POVERTY THE DEATH</p>	<p>Lola S</p> <h1>VICTORIAN ENGLAND</h1>	<p>READ All ABOUT IT!!</p> 
<h2>WHAT WAS A WORKHOUSE? Why was there Poverty?</h2>		
<p>The Victorian Workhouse was a place that was intended to provide work and shelter for people who were in poverty and had no where to go. The harsh system of the workhouse became a symbol of the Victorian era, it was known for its terrible conditions, forced child labour, long hours and so much more.</p>	<p>During the Victorian era, the rates of people living in poverty increased drastically. This is due to many factors, including low wages, the growth of cities (and general population growth) and lack of stable employment.</p>	
<h2>What Was the POOR LAW? What Was Victorian London?</h2>		
<p>The Poor Law was an attempt to take all the people and Orphans in some place where they could help the government and keep them off the streets, so there was less violence and destruction.</p>	<p>The Victorian city of London was a city of startling contrasts. With the incredible rise in the population during the 19th century, it went from about 1 million in 1800 to over 6 million a century later. New building and affluent development went hand in hand with horribly overcrowded slums where people lived in the worst conditions imaginable. When thinking about Victorian London you could not forget about</p>	
<h2>Who was the Monarch?</h2>	<p>the horrible conditions of a workhouse</p>	

Disruption to School Transport services in Somerset

We are currently experiencing disruption to school transport services across several routes in the County. This is due to the ongoing shortage of bus and coach drivers in the market. This is not unique to Somerset and is a countrywide issue at present, with many operators struggling to recruit and retain Public Service Vehicle (PSV) drivers. There are also similar shortages of taxi drivers in the county at present.

There are many reasons for this, including: qualified drivers leaving the industry to take up other driver roles such as Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) driving or delivery driving where wage rates are very competitive; a number of qualified drivers retiring or taking early retirement; and the lack of training undertaken during covid which has created a backlog in getting new drivers onto the road.

Our bus, coach and taxi operators are doing all they can to retain and recruit staff, but in the volatile employment market that exists at present, staffing levels can change very quickly, and operators can suddenly find themselves unable to meet their commitments and are being faced with difficult decisions affecting their businesses.

We are working closely with operators and schools to look at how we mitigate the effects of their driver shortages, both in the short term by doubling up on contracts so that two routes are operated with the same vehicle and driver to more longer-term solutions with the aim of returning reliability going forward. This work is continuing on a daily basis with the support and co-operation of our operators to restore services to normal as soon as possible. Rest assured that all options are on the table.

Our staff in Transporting Somerset are working hard to find solutions and to keep both schools and parents up to date on any changes to routes and services, some of which may occur at very short notice. We are aware that some parents have experience issues with communications and we are working to address this. There should be arrangements in all affected schools to ensure pupils are not disadvantaged by the disruptions (for example, due to lateness being recorded).

We apologise for the current disruption and assure you that we are doing all we can to restore reliability and thank you for your patience in these challenging times.

Phil Curd | Strategic Manager | Access & Additional Learning Needs

Inclusion Somerset

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This newsletter and other letters from school are available to read on our website

<https://selwood.somerset.sch.uk/>