

SELWOOD ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

Friday 8th December 2023 | Issue No. 6 2023/24



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We hope you all have a lovely Christmas and look forward to welcoming you back in the New Year!

A reminder that pupils finish at 12.05pm on Friday 15th December.

School transport will be running early to accommodate this.

Our Lost Property cage will be emptied at the end of term and any remaining unnamed items will be donated or disposed of. We have lots of shoes/trainers/boots and coats. Please ask your child to check if they have lost something. Parents and carers are also welcome to come into school by Wednesday 13 December to check the cage, prior to donating to charity.

If you wish to find out more about what your child is learning, please look at their curriculum map on our [curriculum page](#) on the school website.

If you want to know about each subject in more detail, please visit each [subject page](#).

DATES FOR THE DIARY

11th Dec - SEND coffee morning
12th Dec - Carol Service
13th Dec - Year 5 Nativity
14th Dec - Year 5 Nativity
15th Dec - End of Term 2 - 12.05pm finish
2nd Jan - Term 3 starts
9th Jan - Year 5 Harry Potter trip
10th Jan - Year 5 Harry Potter trip

Please complete the link below if you wish to attend our SEND coffee morning
<https://forms.gle/y9wbMxBXwkdzdxQQ8>

RECENT EVENTS



This week we had a number of year 6s chosen for the 2023 Children's parliament. They represented the school and our local area by giving their views on main debate topics like how we can protect our planet.

They were amazing and truly let their light shine in front of hundreds of other children around the UK. Well done!



5L have been working on physical and vocal characterisations. They have been looking at the book 'A Christmas Story' by Brian Wildsmith. Here they are working on the scene where the shepherds are on the hillside.



We held our annual Christmas fair on Friday 1st December, we welcomed lots of the local community to come and find a bargain.

We raised an amazing
£1645.72!

Thank you to everyone who attended and to the staff for volunteering to help and get involved!

REMINDERS



Severe Weather Arrangements

Now that we are coming into the winter months we need to remind you of the procedure for school closures.

- A decision to close the school will be made at 7am.
- We will post a closure message on the front page of the website and our school Facebook page, this will be updated throughout the day.
 - Parents will be contacted by text message

For information regarding school transport please see <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/children-families-and-education/school-life/school-closures/>

- Please listen to BBC Somerset Sounds
- Please do not ring the school for information unless absolutely necessary

It may be necessary to close the school early; please ensure care arrangements are in place. If pupils cannot be sent home safely they will remain in school until they can be collected.

We would like to thank everyone who donated and allowed their child to donate to our poppy appeal.

A big £176.74 was raised!

Thank you!



On Thursday 14th December, year 7 pupils will be having their Christmas PASHE Recycled product market in the hall.

We look forward to seeing what they have produced!



MATHS



Year 5 - We are continuing to work on multiplication and division and have been building up to multiplying 4 by 2-digit numbers

Year 6 - Following on from our recent assessments we have made some adjustments to teaching sets before we move on to look at Fractions.

Year 7 - We are completing our block on multiplication and division where we will be looking at formal methods as well as how to use them to calculate the area of triangles and trapezia.

Year 8 - We are moving into our 4th unit which is based around algebra and algebraic notation.

Parent Challenge Question:

A shop sells red hats, blue hats and green hats.

- The shop has 40% more blue hats than red hats.
- The shop has 25% fewer green hats than blue hats.
- The shop sells $\frac{1}{5}$ of its red hats and 34 green and blue hats in total.
- The shop now has the same number of each colour hat left.

How many hats did the shop have at the start?

SPORTS NEWS



One of our pupils Lucas H, competed in Taunton on Sunday the 3rd December for the South West Trampolining Championships and placed 3rd! Lucas showed great determination and skill throughout the competition, and we are proud of his achievement.



We took 9 year 7 pupils to Oakfield to play in a contact match. The players played really well and were very strong. This was a friendly match to enable them to practice their tackling and rucking skills. We mixed the teams up throughout the hour but we have a very strong year 7 team and I look forward to organising more matches for them in the first term of next year.

The Year 8's have played two matches one against Oakfield and one against John of Gaunt. The players are really developing well and showed a really good spirit in both matches. Although we couldn't get the wins they strived for we did score some very good tries and all enjoyed the experience.

Well done to all involved.

SAFEGUARDING



Our Safeguarding Team



Mrs Batchelor

Designated Safeguarding Lead



Mr Ellett

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads



Mrs Parker



Ms Kirkwood

Safeguarding Trustee

Selwood Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. In line with Safer Recruitment, all our posts require an enhanced criminal background check via the disclosure procedure and are subject to pre-employment checks.

Please contact the school if you need to talk a member of our Safeguarding team

VACANCIES



Current vacancies:

- Teacher of computing
- Maths teacher
- Geography teacher
- Site support

Please follow the link to our [vacancies page](#)



Lunchtime Supervisors required

Term time only Monday – Friday

Working 1 hour 10 mins per day

Grade 16 (£11.59 per hour)

We require reliable and well motivated people to join our existing team of Lunchtime Supervisors to start as soon as possible. Applicants should enjoy working with young people. Duties include supervision both inside and outside the buildings across the whole site. The key role is to maintain a calm atmosphere.

Please contact the school for further details and an application form.

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

Tel: 01373 462798

What Schools Need to Know about THE ONLINE SAFETY ACT

The Online Safety Act was passed into UK law in October 2023, with the aim of establishing major new layers of protection for children when they're online. The government has pledged "a zero-tolerance approach to protecting children from online harm" – and the act certainly includes more powerful legislation which should help to safeguard young people in the digital world. Our guide summarises the key points for schools –

WHAT THE ACT WILL DO

HARMFUL CONTENT

Social media sites must rapidly remove illegal and/or harmful content such as bullying or harassing comments; pornography; and content that supports extremist activity or encourages or depicts violence, suicide, self-harm or eating disorders. If they fail to do so, they can be fined up to 10% of their global revenue while their executives may even face jail time.

ANIMAL CRUELTY

Content featuring cruelty to animals is now prohibited, even if it originates from abroad (where the law may be different). Again, it is the platform's responsibility to remove this.

MORE TRANSPARENCY

Sites must be transparent about the hazards that any children using them could encounter – by publishing risk assessments for their platforms, for instance.

HOSTING MISLEADING ADVERTS

Scams and fraudulent adverts must be blocked or removed, or the hosting companies are liable to be fined.

NON-CONSENSUAL SHARING

It's now easier to convict online abusers or people who share intimate images without consent, while legislation on the criminality of deepfakes has been clarified. The new laws also relate to any individuals who even threaten to share such images. This should help to protect women and girls in particular online.

REPORTING AND FILTERING

Sites should have easy reporting mechanisms for children (or their parents and carers) to flag up problems quickly. They must also provide options to filter out unwanted content.

AGE-RESTRICTED MATERIAL

Sites must prevent children from accessing age-inappropriate material. This includes enforcing age limits and implementing robust age verification.

What this means for you

The act has some specific implications for schools: it's essential that leaders understand the new legislation's scope and limitations. The act is certainly a positive step, but as artificial intelligence and other advances in tech continue to produce new challenges, schools will still need to remain extremely vigilant.

KNOW WHERE TO GET HELP

Look out for the Code of Conduct that Ofcom is creating in response to the Online Safety Act. Note that the new legislation doesn't mean an instant change: many of its elements will only come into force at the end of 2023. An Ofcom consultation on 'protecting people from illegal harms online' will be running until February 2024.

REMEMBER THE ESSENTIALS

Remain mindful of your organisation's own online activities: the legal duty for schools to maintain appropriate software monitoring and filtering, for example, will not change.

WATCH FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

There are some issues on which the legislation remains less clear for now: whether it's possible for Ofcom to scan encrypted private messages (such as on WhatsApp) has yet to be resolved, for instance – making this an area where, for the moment, young people have less legal protection.

UNDERSTAND AND EXPLAIN

Staff should learn how to raise concerns with tech companies whose platforms contain anything upsetting or unpleasant. Students also need to be made aware of the newly strengthened laws relating to cyber-bullying, sexting or posting inappropriate content. Young people do make mistakes online – so the clearer their understanding of the possible consequences, the better.

ENGAGE WITH PARENTS

Schools should also explain to parents and carers the new possibilities that the Online Safety Act affords them in terms of protecting their children. Many parents may have previously felt that there was little they could do about changing online platforms' content; they now have a far greater level of support when complaining about a company or the behaviour of an individual.

Meet Our Expert

Like Barnard is Senior Deputy Headteacher and Director of Safeguarding for the St Benedict's family of schools. He is a regular speaker at conferences and writes in the TES (among other journals) on school leadership, pastoral care and safeguarding. In 2022, he was named Pastoral Leader of the Year at The National Awards for Pastoral Care in Education.



NOS
National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

[@natonlinesafety](https://twitter.com/natonlinesafety)

[/NationalOnlineSafety](https://facebook.com/NationalOnlineSafety)

[@nationalonlinesafety](https://instagram.com/nationalonlinesafety)

[@national_online_safety](https://tiktok.com/@national_online_safety)

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LOCAL EVENTS



**KIDS
XMAS
CAMP**

**FROME
SPORT AND
FITNESS**



COURSE DATES

18TH DEC - 20TH DEC 2023

AGES: 5-13 YEARS

TIMES: 9:00AM - 3:00PM



FREE for
children on
FREE school
meals

Our Multi-Activity Sports and Art Courses offer the opportunity to enjoy a fun packed day full of sports, activities and games.

**BOOK ONLINE AND USE CODE PROVIDED BY
SCHOOL @ PLAYWAZE USING THE QR CODE**

FREE LUNCH PROVIDED





Family Hangout Xmas Party!!

Huge Lightbox Art - Free Arts & Crafts - Badge Making
Xmas Disco Classics - Lucky Dip & Xmas Loon Hunt
Grinch Corner for Naughty Elves - Food from 1pm
Take a break from the madness of Xmas Shopping!



SATURDAY DECEMBER 16TH
BOOK A FREE TICKET
TO GUARANTEE ENTRY
23 BATH ST, FROME. 1PM TIL 7PM

TICKETS
SKIDDLE.COM

