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Selwood Academy

SEN NEWSLETTER

TERM 1 2026-2027

Hello!

1st Newsletter

Welcome back to our first SEN newsletter of the 2026-2027 academic year at Selwood Academy. Hopefully you found some useful information in the last year's editions. Please remember this newsletter is designed to give you some awareness and ideas which may support your child and family. If you do have any feedback or suggestions for our next edition, please let us know by emailing charlie.finlay@selwood.mnsp.org.uk

Selwood's Offer - Learning Plans and Reviews

At Selwood, we are passionately committed to ensuring every single child reaches their full potential across all subjects. To support this, we create personalised learning plans that highlight each child's unique strengths, outline what they are working towards, and detail key targets and strategies tailored to help them succeed.

While these plans are reviewed regularly behind the scenes, your child's tutor will reach out three times a year to review progress together with you. Year 8 parents will be contacted before the upcoming half term, while parents of pupils in Years 5, 6, and 7 will be contacted during November.

Of course, please don't feel you need to wait for these scheduled reviews—if you ever have a query or feel the need to get in touch before then, your child's tutor is always your primary contact and is here to support you.

The Community Inclusion & Activities Team
October Activities Calendar is OUT NOW!

The Community Inclusion & Activities Team have released their October Half Term Holidays Inclusive Activities Calendar, and it's packed with amazing opportunities for children and young people with a disability and/or additional need.

Here's a sneak peek at what's on offer:

- Boulder Rooms
- Magicians
- Arts & Crafts
- Swim Sessions

The full calendar is on the local offer:

<https://shorturl.at/tq3wV>



Contact Info

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Sensory Friendly Halloween

Halloween can be overwhelming for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) due to loud noises, bright lights, and scratchy costumes. Here are a few ways to keep the autumn break fun, gentle, and inclusive:

- **Low-Sensory Pumpkin Decorating:** Skip the messy pumpkin guts and sharp tools—try paints, stickers, googly eyes, or foam shapes instead.
- **Tactile Potion Trays:** Create sensory play bins using cold cooked spaghetti, jelly, or dried orange rice hidden with plastic spiders and scoops.
- **Comfort First:** Ditch itchy costumes for soft character pyjamas, themed hoodies, or a cozy bedsheet cape.
- **At-Home Treat Hunts:** Avoid dark streets and loud doorbells by hiding glowsticks or treats around the house or garden for a low-stress treasure hunt.
- **Quiet Outings:** Look out for relaxed pumpkin patch morning slots or sensory-friendly cinema screenings running over half term.

We wish you all a happy restful half term 😊



Autumn Nature Art Challenge

Turn your autumn walk into a sensory art adventure this half term! As you explore your local park or woods, gather natural treasures from the ground—like crunchy leaves in vibrant reds and golds, fallen twigs, smooth acorns, and pinecones.

Once home, arrange your items to create a natural masterpiece, such as a leaf-canopy tree, a pinecone hedgehog, or a colourful leaf mandala.

Snap a photo of your creation to share with us, and enjoy a fun, low-pressure way to explore textures and fresh air together! Please send your photos to charlie.finlay@selwood.mnsp.org.uk. The most creative will get a prize 😊



Somerset Local Offer

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/children-families-and-education/the-local-/>

This website provides information to families of children and young people (0 to 25) with special educational needs and/or disabilities.

