

DIARY DATES

- 23rd October - INSET DAY
- 26th - 30th Oct - HALF TERM
- 4th Nov - Yr7 Rugby Fixture (Away)
- 5th/6th Nov - Yr7 Living Rainforest Trip
- 6th Nov - Yr7 Coffee Morning 11.15am
- 9th - 13th Nov - Anti Bullying Week
- 11th Nov - Flu Vaccinations
- 12th Nov - Anti Bullying Coffee Morning
- 17th Nov - Yr8 Coffee Morning
- 18th Nov - Paris Parents Info Evening 5-6pm
- 19th Nov - Reading Coffee Morning
- 20th Nov - Break a Rule Day Fundraiser
- 2nd Dec - Yr8 Bath Uni Trip
- 3rd Dec - Pantomime
- 4th Dec - Christmas Fair

UPCOMING PAYMENTS

- 21st Oct - Year 7 Living Rainforest **Balance**
- 23rd Oct - Year 6 Portsmouth Dockyard **Deposit**
- 6th Nov - Ski Trip **Final Balance**
- 6th Nov - Year 8 University of Bath
- 13th Nov - Year 6 Mendip Adventure Camp **Deposit**
- 27th Nov - Year 5 Paris Trip **Payment 1**
- 27th Nov - Year 7 Paris Trip **Payment 1**
- 3rd Dec - Christmas Pantomime
- 18th Dec - School Production **Cast Contribution**

Communication

When emailing the school, please ensure you include your child's **full name and tutor group**. As we are a large school, this information helps us identify your child quickly and direct your enquiry to the right person.

We'd like to wish all our families a well deserved half term break following a busy and successful start to the new academic year. We look forward to welcoming our pupils back on **Monday 2nd November (Week B)**.

Reminder: Friday 23rd October is an INSET day, so the school will be closed to pupils.

Lost Property

We are trialling a new Lost Property box in both the boys' and girls' changing rooms. Any items left in the changing rooms after lessons will be placed in these boxes rather than taken straight to the main Lost Property collection in the hall.

This will give pupils the opportunity to retrace their steps and check the changing rooms first, rather than having to search through the large collection in the hall. The boxes will remain in the changing rooms during the working week, and every Friday any remaining items will be added to the Lost Property collection.

Pupils can check Lost Property at break and lunchtime, while parents/carers can visit on **Fridays, 3:10 - 4:15pm** only. We appreciate that Fridays may not be convenient for all parents, so these visiting times will be reviewed for future terms.

Please ensure all belongings are clearly named so they can be returned to the correct tutor rooms and reunited with their owners.

UPDATE FROM HEAD OF SCHOOL

As we reach the end of Term 1, I would like to take a moment to reflect on what an extraordinary start to the academic year we have had. The time has flown by incredibly fast, and we are so pleased with how brilliantly our new Year 5 cohort has settled into school life. They have adapted quickly and are already a valued part of our school community.

It has been a term packed full of memorable events and experiences, including:

- **Year 5 Welcome Service:** A wonderful opportunity to celebrate our newest pupils as they began their journey with us.
- **Year 5 Caving:** An exciting adventure that challenged pupils and built team spirit right from the start.
- **Theatre Trip to London:** Finishing the term on a high note, 100 of our Year 7 pupils are travelling to London to see the fantastic production of Wicked.
- **Sporting Fixtures:** We have hosted and traveled to several sporting fixtures this term. A huge well done to all the children who have proudly represented the school!

A particularly special highlight was running our first-ever trip to Sicily for Year 7 and Year 8 pupils. The trip was truly incredible, offering rich learning experiences and fantastic memories. I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to our dedicated staff for giving up their time to organise and run the trip, and to our families for supporting it so positively.

Without a doubt, another major highlight of the term was our recent OFSTED inspection. Although I am unable to share the final outcome with you just yet, I want to express how very proud I am of our pupils for how brilliantly they represented the school. I am also deeply grateful to our community for the overwhelming support shown in our parent survey. Thank you for your encouraging feedback and partnership.

Looking ahead, Term 2 promises to be just as busy and exciting! During our very first week back, Year 7 will be heading off on a trip to The Living Rainforest. Beyond that, our jam-packed calendar includes:

- **The local Remembrance Parade**, where representatives from the school will be laying wreaths.
- Our first **Interform** competition of the 2026–2027 academic year.
- A Year 8 trip to **Bath University**.
- PTA fundraising activities and our annual **Christmas Fair**.
- A visiting performance of the **Snow White panto** right here in school this December.
- The **Year 5 Nativity**, festive **Carol Concerts**, and our traditional **Christmas Dinner**.

Thank you once again for your continued support, positivity, and partnership. I hope you all have a restful, enjoyable, and well-deserved October half term, and I look forward to welcoming all of our pupils back for Term 2.

Warmest regards,

Dave Finlay



Allergy Awareness Reminder

At Selwood Academy, we are committed to providing a safe, inclusive and supportive environment for all our pupils. As an allergy aware school, we ask all parents and carers to be mindful of the risks that food allergies can pose to some members of our school community.

We kindly request that no nut products are sent into school in pupil's lunch boxes as we remain a nut-free school. This includes foods containing nuts, such as peanut butter, chocolate spread, and nut-based snacks. Even small amounts of nuts or traces left on hands and surfaces can potentially cause an allergic reaction in someone with a nut allergy. We appreciate that this may require some adjustments to lunch box choices, and we are very grateful for your understanding and cooperation. By working together and following this guidance, we can help keep all our pupils safe, healthy and able to enjoy their time at school.

Thank you for your continued support.



Focus on Languages

Miss Collins joined Selwood Academy as Head of French in 2022. She can speak French, German, Spanish and she is currently learning Greek! She did English literature, French and German for A-Level and completed her work experience in Paris on the Champs Elysées. She studied French, German and politics at the University of Bath. During her time there, she spent a year in Germany, where she worked as an English teacher. She also spent 4 months in Corsica working in a hotel. She has worked for Airbus as a translator and interpreter for the CEO and flew between Bristol, Toulouse and Hamburg. Languages are a great way to expand your horizons!

Join Frome Netball Club!



Frome Netball Club is looking for new players to join their team! Training takes place at Oakfield Academy every Thursday evening from 6:00pm to 7:30pm during term time. Interested in giving netball a try? Email fromenetballclubjuniors@outlook.com to arrange a taster session.

Sustainability at Selwood

Our Student Council has been busy taking positive steps towards making Selwood a more sustainable school!

Pupils have been monitoring classrooms to check that lights, computers and interactive whiteboards are switched off when not in use, while also considering whether rooms are occupied. Reminders have been added around light switches to encourage everyone to save energy.

Our green-fingered pupils have also been brightening up the school grounds, planting seasonal flowers outside the library and at the front of the school. The planters, made during Work Experience Day, have also been given a fresh coat of stain.

Head Girl Amelie O and Deputy Head Girl Ellis H have shared their sustainability work through a presentation. They are now hoping to learn more about our school's solar panels and energy use, before sharing this information with other year groups.

Looking ahead, we are excited to welcome James Godman, creator and director of the Frome International Climate Festival and Climate FM, who will be visiting the Student Council to talk about sustainability and explore the possibility of pupils getting involved in a podcast.

The Council has also been carrying out regular litter picks around the school and helping return named items of clothing to their owners.

Well done to our Student Council for taking action, raising awareness and helping make Selwood a greener place!



Pantomime Comes to Selwood!

We are delighted to welcome M&M Theatrical Productions to Selwood Academy on Thursday 3rd December for two performances of Snow White! This is a fantastic opportunity for all pupils to enjoy a professional pantomime, complete with full sets, sound systems and special effects, right here at school.

The cost is £3.11 per child, payable through ParentPay. If your child is eligible for Free School Meals and you would like to use an activity voucher to cover the cost, please contact the school office.

Unforgettable Sicily: Geography & Adventure on the Island of Fire!

What an extraordinary trip! Our recent geography and science adventure to Sicily was packed with unforgettable experiences, breathtaking volcanic landscapes, authentic Italian food, and memories that will last a lifetime. Here is a look back at our whirlwind 4-day itinerary across the Mediterranean.

Day 1: Arriving in Style & Exploring Taormina

Our adventure kicked off at 11pm at Selwood for a coach journey to Stansted for our early 6:20am with Ryanair. Upon landing in sunny Sicily, our first stop was the charming town of Taormina. We walked to Ristorante Pizzeria Porta Messina, where everyone rolled up their sleeves and crafted their very own fantastic Italian pizzas!

With full stomachs, pupils made their way into town to the awe-inspiring Ancient Theatre of Taormina, taking in spectacular views of the coastline. Afterward, we unloaded our luggage and walked to our hotel to check in, concluding a brilliant first day with a relaxing group meal at our accommodation.

Day 2: Scaling Mount Etna & Volcanic Science

Thursday began with a hearty 8:30am breakfast at the hotel, where we collected our packed lunches before boarding the coach for our visit to Mount Etna Sud.

Our first stop was at the Colata Lavica 1991/93 (Zafferana) lava field. Walking across the volcanic terrain, pupils got a close up look at the dramatic 1992 lava flow, even spotting a house completely submerged by rock!

Before heading higher up the mountain, we stopped by a local honey shop and factory for a fascinating demonstration and tasting of authentic Sicilian honey. Many pots of honey were bought!

By midday, the main event arrived: The group took a thrilling cable car and jeep ride up to Mount Etna's high summit. Crater Rim Walk: Led by expert Alpine guides, we walked around the crater rim and learned firsthand about the intense geological forces and features that shape Europe's most active volcano.

Day 3: Island Hopping & Trekking Vulcano

Friday was our most active day yet! Following an early 5:45am departure with packed breakfasts and lunches, our coach brought us to Milazzo Harbour. From there, we boarded an 8:30am ferry across the azure sea to the island of Vulcano.

Upon arriving at Vulcano harbour, we met our expert Alpine guide for a challenging 5 km guided hike up Gran Cratere. Battling a steep 300-350m elevation gain over sandy and rocky terrain, the pupils showed incredible stamina and teamwork as we reached the top!

After the trek, we spent a well-earned afternoon relaxing near the harbour, exploring the famous Spiaggia di Sabbie Nere (Black Sands Beach) and the geothermal waters of Spiaggia delle Acque Calde (Hot Springs Beach).

From here we boarded the 3:20pm ferry back to Milazzo Harbour.

Day 4: Homeward Bound

On Saturday, it was time to say goodbye to Sicily. We boarded our 1:20pm Ryanair flight landing back at London Stansted Airport at 3:40pm, tired but inspired by everything we had seen and done. The party was not over as 43 pupils sang their hearts out for the next 2 hours until our refreshment stop at Fleet Services. A huge thank you to all the staff, guides, and enthusiastic pupils who made this educational tour such an unforgettable experience!



Raise Funds for Selwood PTA with Easyfundraising

Did you know you can raise money for Selwood PTA at no extra cost to you? Simply sign up to Easyfundraising and shop online as normal. Participating retailers will donate a percentage of your purchase to the PTA.

It's a simple way to support our school while doing your usual online shopping. Every donation makes a difference!

Find out more and sign up here:

[Selwood Academy PTA Easyfundraising](#)



SELWOOD ACADEMY'S — CLOTHING BANK —

RECYCLE YOUR CLOTHES • SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL

Located in the school car park by the 3G pitch gates, Selwood Academy's clothing bank accepts clean, dry donations of clothes, belts and bags, paired shoes and soft toys.

Items are collected and recycled through a textile scheme, with funds raised sent directly to Selwood Academy PTA to help enrich the learning environment for all pupils.

PLEASE DONATE:

- Clothes
- Belts & Bags
- Paired Shoes
- Soft Toys



Follow Selwood PTA on Facebook:
[facebook.com/SelwoodAcademyPTA](https://www.facebook.com/SelwoodAcademyPTA)



PRE-LOVED UNIFORM

— DONATIONS NEEDED —

Thanks to the success of our previous pre-loved uniform sales, our stock is running low and we would love your help to replenish it.

If you have any good-quality uniform items that your child has outgrown, we would be grateful for the donations.

Please ensure all items are clean and drop them off at the school's main reception. Thank you for your support



SAVE THE DATE

CHRISTMAS FAIR

FRIDAY 4TH DECEMBER 2026
5PM TO 7PM



More details to follow!

NEWS FROM PTA



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Wraparound Care

Selwood Academy



What's included?

We combine a healthy, nutritious breakfast meal or after-school snack with fun & exciting activities that include sport, adventure and discovery

Times & Prices

Times & Prices		
Breakfast Club	07:35 - 08:35	£6.20
After School Club	15:10 - 16:10	£6.30
	16:10 - 17:10	£7.00
	15:10 - 17:10	£11.20

How to book

We have an easy to use online booking portal where you can make and amend bookings.

Payment types

We accept card payments, childcare vouchers, tax-free childcare payments and universal credits.



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about DEEPPFAKES

A deepfake is a piece of artificial intelligence (AI) trickery designed to make you believe that a person has said or done something they haven't. AI models are able to use audio, video and photos of a subject to produce misleading mimics. Initially unsophisticated and easy to spot, deepfakes are improving every day. And with the spread of user-friendly AI, it's easier than ever for children to make their own, or be the unsuspecting target of them.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

A BULLYING RISK

AI has got easier to use and more widespread, making it a "gift" to bullies. Children can generate fake audio of peers saying damaging things, or pictures of them doing something embarrassing. More disturbingly, Metro recently highlighted cases where fake sexualised images of teens are spread through social media. Mainstream apps don't allow this usage, but with AI becoming widespread, easy-to-use sites without guardrails keep emerging for darker uses.

FAKE FAMILY SCAMS

With a few seconds of audio — from an Instagram reel or TikTok — scammers can clone a person's voice. They can then use this to scam relatives with phone calls asking for money or assistance. This is a widespread tactic for scammers, with the FBI reporting 22,000 such cases in 2025, defrauding victims out of \$893 million that year alone.

FAKED CELEBRITY ENDORSEMENTS

With the technology getting easier to use and public figures having lots of clips for training, celebrities are a frequent target. According to McAfee, the most deep faked celebrities are Taylor Swift, Scarlett Johansson, Jenna Ortega, Sydney Sweeney and Sabrina Carpenter, and their AI dopelgangers are usually pushing scams. Even YouTuber MrBeast has been deepfaked by scammers on TikTok. It can be used for propaganda too, making politicians appear to do or say things to improve or harm their reputation.

EXTORTION RISK

You might not be the one being tricked by a deepfake — you could also be the star of it. Blackmail videos are as old as film itself, but with deepfake technology you don't have to have done anything wrong to be a target. A deepfake video showing a person in an uncompromising position could make the victim pay up, even when the content never happened.

Advice for Parents & Educators

KEEP PROFILES PRIVATE

To make a convincing deepfake, you need a supply of images, audio or video of the subject. That means that most non-celebrity victims are targeted via social media where there's a ready-made repository of media to train a deepfake from. Most social media companies have privacy settings to prevent unauthorised access. Enable these to keep strangers and bullies away.

USE RESEARCH AND COMMON SENSE

Even perfect deep fakes rely on trust, so think critically. If it's someone you know claiming to need help, then ask them to prove they're who they say they are with an inside joke. For public figures, try Googling the person along with a bit of the contentious speech in quotation marks. Also question why you're seeing the video. If it's a paid promotion, then ask yourself who's paying and why. If someone is sharing the clip, do they dislike the target?

KNOW WHAT TO LOOK FOR

While deepfakes are getting harder to spot, there are still telltale signs to look out for. Deepfake creation can leave blurry edges and flickering textures, especially around hair and teeth. It can also look too sleek, with models often trained on professional video. Make sure the mouth shapes match the spoken words, too. As for audio, listen out for mispronounced phrases and a slightly unusual, robotic rhythm of speech.

TALK TO YOUR CHILDREN

As well as emphasising the need for privacy and to not trust everything they see online, it's important to ensure children realise why deepfakes are problematic in the first place. With deepfake technology getting more accessible and easy to use, children can start using the technology to make deepfakes of schoolmates, teachers or other adults. Ensure they're aware of the serious trouble the technology can cause, and the ethical problems of manipulating someone's image without consent.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of The Guardian, The Telegraph, The i, Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard and The New Statesman.



The National College®

Understanding Neurodiversity: ADHD Awareness Courses

Want to better understand ADHD and how it affects those who have it?

This course offers a clear, supportive introduction to ADHD - its possible causes, common characteristics and the strengths and challenges people may experience. Whether you are learning for yourself, or to support someone else, you'll gain valuable insight in a respectful and confidential online space with plenty of time for discussion and reflection.

Follow the QR code below for details

- Behaviours and characteristics
- Brain differences in ADHD
- ADHD and mental health
- Recognising differences, strengths and misconceptions
- Strategies for supporting yourself and others with ADHD

Starter: Thursday 29th October – 19th November 2026

Developer: Thursday 26th November – 17th December 2026

Online: Enrol for login info

*Eligibility applies



Scan to sign up!



Somerset
Council

Supporting My Child's Wellbeing Through Creativity - Starter

Are you looking for ways to support your child's emotional wellbeing and mental health?

Do they experience anxiety, dysregulation or school refusal and struggle to express what they're feeling?

Processing and releasing emotions and working through difficult experiences can become easier by drawing, painting or sculpting those experiences, rather than trying to express them through words.

This course will teach you how to support your child to explore and express their emotions through creativity.

Suitable for children aged 7 to 12 with an appropriate adult caregiver. Children must be supervised by an adult at all times.

Creative wellbeing activities will include;

- Exploring colour, shape and different art materials and their impact on feelings
- Self exploration through collage
- Mindfulness and wellbeing through clay and acrylic paints
- Using colour to influence and express emotions

Tuesday 3rd Nov to 1st Dec

4pm – 5.30pm

The Key Centre, Frome, BA11 5AJ

*Eligibility applies

Scan to sign up!



**Somerset
Council**



Half-Term Holiday Activities: Taking Time

27–29 October, 10.30am–3.30pm

Have fun exploring the time-themed installations
from Wells Art Contemporary, and join us to
fashion your own creations!

Discover optical illusions, learn about the Cathedral's incredible
Astronomical Clock, and make your own spinning seasons wheel.
Suitable for children and families.

Admission included with entry to Wells Cathedral.
No need to book – simply drop in on the day! More info at:
wellscathedral.org.uk/whats-on

In association with:



Wells Cathedral is a Registered Charity, no. 1207269



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free *Kellogg's*
breakfast
every school
holiday*



Morrisons



*From 16.02.2026 - 22.02.2026, 30.03.2026 - 19.04.2026, 25.05.2026 - 31.05.2026, 29.06.2026 - 06.09.2026, 12.10.2026 - 01.11.2026, 21.12.2026 - 03.01.2027. This offer is redeemable all-day Monday to Sunday. Simply say 'Kellogg's Breakfast' at the till point at any UK Morrisons Café to receive breakfast, which includes, a free portion pack of Cornflakes (24g), Rice Krispies (22g) with milk or milk alternative (25ml). Limit of 1 breakfast per customer per day. Offer is not transferable and cannot be exchanged for cash. A recommended balanced breakfast includes a bowl of cereal, plus milk or milk alternative, a portion of fruit and a glass of water. TM © 2026 Kellanova.