SELWOOD ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

20th Nov 2026 - Issue 6

DIARY DATES

- 24th Nov - Yr7 & 8 Football HOME
- 24th Nov - Interform
- 25th Nov - Interform
- 26th Nov - Frome College Sports Festival
- 27th Nov - Frome Lantern Parade
- 2nd Dec - Yr8 Bath Uni Trip
- 3rd Dec - Pantomime
- 4th Dec - Christmas Fair
- 9th Dec - Yr5 Nativity Dress Rehearsal 2:10pm
- 9th Dec - Yr5 Nativity 5:30pm
- 11th Dec - Yr7 Christmas Market
- 14th Dec - School Choir Christmas Carols
- 16th Dec - School Choir Christmas Carol Rehearsal - St. John's Church
- 16th Dec - School Choir Christmas Carol Service - St. John's Church 7pm
- 17th Dec - Christmas Jumper Day
- 17th Dec - Christmas Lunch
- 18th Dec - Last day of term 12:05pm finish

UPCOMING PAYMENTS

- 27th Nov - Year 5 Paris Trip **Payment1**
- 27th Nov - Year 7 Paris Trip **Payment1**
- 27th Nov - Christmas Lunch Payment
- 3rd Dec - Christmas Pantomime
- 18th Dec - School Production **Cast Contribution**

EARLY FINISH - LAST DAY OF TERM

A reminder for all families, particularly those who are new to Selwood Academy: on the last day of the December and July terms, pupils finish school early.

This year, the last day of term is **Friday 18th December**, when pupils will leave school at **12:05pm**. Please ensure that appropriate after-school arrangements are made for your child.

KEEPING DETAILS UP TO DATE

Please take a few minutes to check the details we hold for your child on Arbor, including parent/carer contact names, telephone numbers, addresses, emergency contacts and any relevant medical conditions or information. In light of new legislation, including Benedict's Law, it is particularly important that we are aware of any known food allergies, non-food allergies or medical conditions affecting your child, so that we can ensure the school remains fully informed and compliant. Should any amendments be needed, these can now be made directly through the Arbor app. Thank you for your help in keeping our records accurate and ensuring we can best support your child.

CAREERS DAY - 24TH JUNE 2027

We are already busy planning our ever-popular Careers Day, taking place on 24th June 2027, and would love for you to be part of it! If you or your company would be interested in getting involved, sharing your career experiences or finding out more, please get in touch with the school. We'd love to hear from you!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Interform - 24th & 25th November

We are busy preparing for our upcoming Interform competitions, and we are looking forward to seeing pupils get involved and show great teamwork.

The competitions will take place on the following dates:

- **Year 5: Wednesday 25th November – Lessons 1 & 2**
- **Year 6: Wednesday 25th November – Lessons 3 & 4**
- **Year 7: Tuesday 24th November – Lessons 3 & 4**
- **Year 8: Tuesday 24th November – Lessons 1 & 2**

Pupils will be organised into teams and will take part in a range of activities, including Netball, Tag Rugby, Gymnastics, Cross Country and Kabaddi.

What should pupils wear?

Pupils should come to school wearing their PE kit on the day of their Interform competition. Warm layers are recommended for outdoor activities, and pupils taking part in gymnastics should bring grippy socks or be prepared to participate barefoot.

Frome Lantern Parade - 27th November

Year 6 and 7 have created seven large Alice in Wonderland-inspired playing-card lanterns for this year's Frome Lantern Parade! Come along on Friday 27th November to see their creations light up the streets ahead of the Christmas lights switch on!

Pantomime - 3rd December

We are looking forward to welcoming M&M Theatrical Productions to Selwood Academy for a special performance of Snow White, held here in school! The cost is £3.11 per pupil, payable via ParentPay. If you haven't already, please remember to make your payment. FSM activity vouchers can be arranged through the school office.

Christmas Fair - 4th December

Join us in school, courtesy of our fantastic PTA, for a festive evening from 5pm–7pm, packed with stalls, activities and Christmas cheer! With pupil-run stalls and plenty on offer, it's a great opportunity to get involved in our school community and get ahead with your Christmas shopping. Don't forget our famous hamper raffle! We would be very grateful for any last-minute donations to help make it a success.

Christmas Lunch - 17th December

Our Christmas Lunch will take place on Thursday 17th December. The cost is £3.50, payable via ParentPay. All orders, dietary requirements and payments must be completed by **Friday 27th November**. Please note, no late orders can be accepted. All pupils, including those entitled to Free School Meals, must complete the **Google order form** by the deadline. Please note, Christmas Lunch will be the only meal available on the day. The menu has been emailed separately. Pupils not ordering will need to bring a packed lunch.

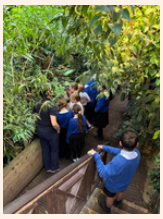
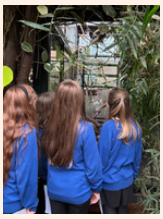
SCHOOL NEWS

Medication in School

To ensure the safety and wellbeing of all our pupils, Selwood Academy has a robust medication policy in place. If your child is prescribed medication, such as antibiotics, please try to arrange administration times at home in the first instance, wherever possible. If your child needs medication during the school day, you will be required to complete a Parental Agreement for setting to administer medicine form, which can be found on our school website **here.** Where possible, please complete this form **before** bringing the medication into school. If you are unable to print the form and need to complete it on arrival, please allow approximately **10-15 minutes** to ensure all details are completed fully and accurately. Once completed, the form must be approved by a senior member of staff before any medication can be accepted and administered.

Yr 7 Living Rainforest Trip

Lucas H, 7M: The Year 7 trip to The Living Rainforest was a very fun and educational trip. Rainforests cover 6% of the Earth's surface. We were told how animals help the jungle's ecosystem thrive. We learnt many facts about the animals we saw including: cockroaches eat dead animals and plants from the floor of the forest and their poo helps to fertilise the vegetation and trees. Snakes don't have eyelids! Turtles have webbed feet. We also saw lots of animals including a Pygmy monkey, the smallest monkey in the world. There was an iguana with a metre long tail which was longer than his body. My favourite animal was Harry the Armadillo. I am hoping to go back with my family one day.




Remembrance Day



On Sunday 9th November a group of children walked from the drill hall to the Memorial Theatre and paid their respects with members of the town. Amelie L and Alfie B laid wreaths on behalf of our school community. During afternoon worship the children have explored the use and suffering of animals and learnt that 'they had no choice' during previous wars and this year they have all written a message on a red poppy and a purple poppy. These were planted by 7F on our front lawn for Armistice Day. Lessons stopped at 10:30 and the school watched an online assembly which incorporated the two minute silence at 11am, the Last Post and the Reveille.

SCHOOL NEWS

Get Creative!

There are two exciting art competitions coming up, giving pupils the opportunity to get creative, showcase their artistic talents and let their imaginations run wild!

Selwood Academy Christmas Card Competition

Pupils are invited to take part in our Christmas Card Competition and show off their artistic talents!

Design guidelines:

- Artwork must be completed on A4 paper.
- The school name must be included in the design.
- Consider incorporating our motto, 'Let Your Light Shine', and our core values of Joy, Hope, Community and Wisdom.
- Use felt tips and coloured pencils. Please do not use glitter or reflective materials.

Deadline: Monday 30th November



Finished designs should be handed to Mrs Mead, with the pupil's name and tutor group clearly written on the back.

Community Advent Art Competition and Exhibition



Local children and young people are invited to take part in the Community Advent Art Competition and Exhibition 2026, organised by Frome Art for Wellbeing. Pupils are encouraged to get creative and choose one of five themes from the Nativity Story:

- God sent the Angel Gabriel to Mary.
- Mary laid her baby in the manger.
- Shepherds watched their flocks by night as angels appeared.
- Three kings/wise men followed a star.
- Jesus is the light of the world.

Artwork can be 2D or 3D, using any medium, including drawing, collage, painting, mixed media, model-making or sculpture. Prizes will be awarded in each age group, with winning entries selected by local artist tutors from Frome Art for Wellbeing.

Closing date: 5pm on Wednesday 25th November 2026.

Entries should be delivered to St John's Parish Church, Bath Street, Frome. Please ensure all work is original and includes the pupil's name, school, key stage and chosen theme (on the back for 2D work or on an attached label for 3D pieces).

All entries will be displayed in St John's Church ahead of the Community Carol Service on Wednesday 2 December, which everyone is warmly invited to attend.

CAREERS NEWS

Careers Matchmaker

Wondering where your skills and talents could take you? Try the Match Your Skills Quiz to discover your strengths, personality traits and interests, and explore careers that could be right for you.



Browse the careers library to find out more about different job opportunities, potential salaries and relevant courses. Take the first step towards discovering your future career!

Career Spotlight: Pilot

What do they do?

Pilots are responsible for flying aircraft safely, transporting passengers and cargo to destinations around the world. They operate a range of aircraft, from commercial passenger planes to private jets and cargo aircraft, ensuring every flight is carefully planned and carried out safely.

Key skills needed:

Pilots need excellent communication, concentration and decision-making skills. They must remain calm under pressure, have strong problem-solving abilities and be confident working as part of a team. Good technical knowledge, attention to detail and the ability to follow safety procedures are also essential.

What do they do day to day?

A typical day involves checking weather conditions, reviewing flight plans and carrying out safety inspections before take-off. Pilots work alongside co-pilots, cabin crew and air traffic controllers to ensure flights run smoothly. During a flight, they monitor aircraft systems, communicate with air traffic control and respond to any changes or unexpected situations.

How do you become one?

To become a pilot, you will need to complete specialist flight training and gain the appropriate pilot licence. This usually involves studying subjects such as maths, physics and aviation, alongside practical flying experience. You can train through an approved flight school or explore airline-sponsored training programmes. Good eyesight, medical fitness and strong academic skills are also important.

Why is this job important?

Pilots play a vital role in connecting people and places across the world. They transport millions of passengers and essential goods safely, support international travel and trade, and help people reach destinations that would otherwise be difficult to access.

NEWS FROM PTA

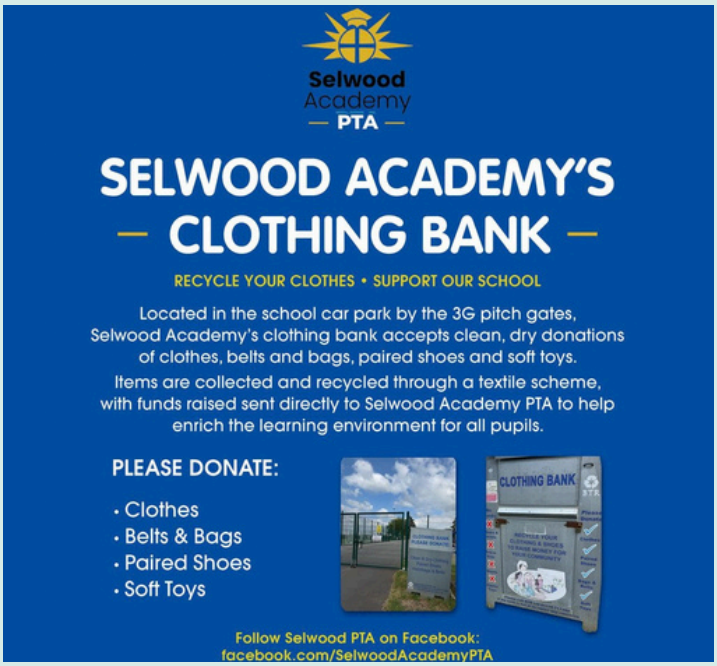
Raise Funds for Selwood PTA with Easyfundraising

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







At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about WHATSAPP

AGE RESTRICTION 13+ In the UK

WhatsApp is a free messaging app owned by Meta, that allows users to send messages, share multimedia, make calls, and participate in group chats. In September 2026, WhatsApp announced new optional parental controls for teenagers, including privacy settings, group notifications, and restrictions on AI content, which parents and educators should be aware of.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

GROUP CHAT PRESSURES

Group chats help young people stay connected, but they can also leave them feeling excluded or overwhelmed. Negative comments can escalate quickly, and frequent notifications can create a sense of needing to be constantly available. WhatsApp's new parental controls notify parents when teenagers join or leave groups, or when a group grows significantly in size.

HARMFUL CONTENT ON CHANNELS

WhatsApp Channels allow users to receive updates from public figures, organisations, and content creators; however, some Channels may expose young people to misinformation, harmful ideologies, or age-inappropriate material. New optional parental controls allow adults to restrict which Channels teenagers access, including limiting them to approved Channels.

SCAMS TARGETING YOUNG USERS

Scammers may use WhatsApp to trick young people into sharing personal information, sending money, or sharing security codes. They may impersonate friends or family members, using convincing stories about emergencies or urgent requests for help. New parental controls can help manage who contacts teenagers; however, they cannot prevent all scams or fraudulent messages.

UNWANTED CONTACT AND LOCATION SHARING

WhatsApp allows users to share their live location, profile information, and Status updates. Without appropriate privacy settings, this information could expose young people to unwanted attention or reveal their whereabouts. New parental controls enable adults to manage certain privacy settings, including who can view account details and add teenagers to groups.

DISAPPEARING AND HIDDEN MESSAGES

WhatsApp features such as disappearing messages and Chat Lock can make conversations harder for adults to identify. Although these tools are designed to protect privacy, they may also make it harder for adults to recognise inappropriate exchanges or harmful behaviour. WhatsApp's new parental controls do not give adults access to teenagers' private messages or calls.

COMMERCIAL AND AI CONTENT

WhatsApp includes advertising in parts of its Updates section and offers Meta AI, an integrated AI assistant. Young people may encounter sponsored content, misleading AI responses, or information which is unsuitable for their age. New parental controls offer a stricter 'Limited Content' setting for Meta AI; however, this cannot guarantee that every response will be accurate or appropriate.

ONLINE

SECRET CODE

Advice for Parents & Educators

EXPLORE NEW PARENTAL CONTROLS

WhatsApp's new optional parental controls are being rolled out gradually, giving families more ways to manage teenagers' privacy and interactions. Teenagers will need parental approval using a parent-set PIN to relax any protected settings. Keep the conversation open and set up the controls together, remembering that parents can adjust or switch them off at any time.

MANAGE CHANNELS AND AI

Explore the new settings for Channels, Status updates, and Meta AI. Parents can restrict Channels to approved selections or prevent teenagers from viewing them. They can also choose Meta AI's stricter 'Limited Content' option, which restricts certain topics. Remind young people that AI can produce inaccurate information and encourage them to question responses rather than accepting them at face value.

MONITOR GROUP ACTIVITY SAFELY

New parental controls notify adults when teenagers join or leave groups, or when a group grows significantly in size. These alerts can help identify potentially concerning interactions without revealing private messages. Encourage young people to discuss unfamiliar groups, uncomfortable conversations, or pressure from other members and that they can leave, mute, or report if they feel uncomfortable or unsafe.

PRIORITISE TRUST AND COMMUNICATION

Parental controls should support conversations about online safety, not replace them. Explain that WhatsApp's new features do not give adults access to private messages or calls, helping teenagers understand that their privacy remains protected. Reassure young people that they can speak openly about upsetting content, unwanted contact, or pressure from other group members.

Meet Our Expert



Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian Government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.

See full reference list on our website

#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 11.11.2026

SAINT

School Aged Immunisation Nursing Team

NHS
Somerset
NHS Foundation Trust

School aged vaccinations

Did you know they will be offered these routine vaccinations at school?

- **FLU**- Reception- Year 11
- **MMR** - Year 8
- **HPV**- Year 8
- **Meningitis ACWY**- Year 9
- **Diptheria, Tetanus, Polio (DTP)**



Did you miss us?

We also have community clinics across somerset for:

- Home Educated Children
- Anxious Children
- Children who missed the session at School

For further information scan the QR code or please speak with a member of the team

0300 323 0032

SomersetSaint@somersetft.nhs.uk

Kindness, Respect, Teamwork
Everyone, Every day