SELWOOD ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

23rd October 2025 - Issue 3

DIARY DATES

November

Fri 7th - Year 7 coffee morning 11:15

Tue 11th - Year 5 School pollination station planting afternoon

Wed 12th - Flu vaccines

Wed 12th - Reading coffee morning 11:15

PAYMENT DEADLINES

- Year 6 Portsmouth Historic Dockyard trip 2026 - **24th Oct (non-refundable deposit)**
- Year 7 Black Country Museum Trip 2026 - **31st Oct (non-refundable deposit)**
- Ski Trip 2026 final balance – **7th Nov**
- Bath Uni final balance - **7th Nov**
- Year 6 Mendip Camp 2026 - **14th Nov (non-refundable deposit)**

IN THIS EDITION

- Reminders
- Head of school update
- School News
- Useful info

REMINDERS

END OF TERM

The last day of term is **Friday 24th October.** We will return to school on **Monday 3rd November on week 1.**

NON UNIFORM DAY REMINDER

Reminder that on **Friday 24th October** is a non-uniform day. We are raising funds for a vital new asset for our school: a 17-seater school minibus. Minimum donation £1

BATTLEFIELDS & SKI TRIP

If your child is attending the Battlfields & Ski trips, please email a copy passports & GHIC to **sadie.widlinski@selwood-academy.co.uk**

PREMIER EDUCATTION

Please follow link to read wrap around care booklet and to book places: https://selwood.somerset.sch.uk/parents/wrap-around-care-wac

REMINDERS

Safe Drop-Off Practices for Pupils

At Selwood Academy, the safety and well-being of our pupils is our highest priority. Recently, we have noticed an increase in unsafe drop-off practises, including parents stopping on the pedestrian crossing, parking on zig-zag lines, and using the bus loop entrance for drop-offs.

We kindly remind all parents and carers to:

- **Avoid stopping or parking on the pedestrian crossing and zig-zag lines - These areas are designated to keep our pupils safe when crossing the road.**
- **Refrain from using the bus loop entrance for dropping off pupils - This area is reserved for buses and authorised vehicles only. Using it for drop-offs and reversing onto the road creates a significant safety risk.**

We understand that morning routines can be busy, but we ask for your patience and respect towards our staff, including the crossing patrol assistant and others on duty, who work hard to keep everyone safe. Any form of abuse towards staff is unacceptable.

Together, we can ensure a safe and positive start to each school day for all our pupils.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

Library books



If you are having a clear out over the autumn break, could you have a look out for any stray books from our Library that may be languishing under a bed or fallen behind a shelf?

We have a considerable about of books overdue at the moment, of course if they are still being read and enjoyed pupils can keep them for longer but if they could let the me know and the book can be renewed, updating our records.

Thank you! Mrs Parker

Headphones for Music



If pupils would like to bring in their own headphones to use in music lessons, they are more than welcome. The headphones will need to have a 3mm jack in order for them to work with the keyboards and computers.

A TREMENDOUS START TO THE YEAR!

I am delighted to share with you all the incredible energy and enthusiasm that has marked the start of the new academic year. It has been fantastic to welcome back all of our pupils, and I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to our entire school community—parents, carers, staff, trustees, and friends—for your continued support.

Year 5 kicked off their year with an exhilarating trip to the Mendip Activity Centre, focusing on caving and essential team-building exercises. They returned muddy, happy, and much closer as a group!

Year 7 pupils embarked on a fascinating visit to the Living Rainforest, connecting with their science and geography curriculum and gaining an appreciation for global ecosystems.

We marked **World Mental Health Day** with a special awareness day. Pupils and staff supported this important cause by wearing something yellow as a thoughtful and poignant gesture that underscored the importance of looking after our own and each other's well-being.

The creativity continued with our **Year 6** Harvest Festival performance, which was a wonderful celebration of the season and a display of their talents.
A selection of pupils from **Years 6, 7, and 8** had the fantastic opportunity to attend the Bath Literary Festival and see the celebrated children's author, Frank Cottrell Boyce.

Our **sports teams** have hit the ground running! We have seen great effort and sportsmanship in the first few fixtures for both rugby and football.

Curtain Up! Rehearsals for Oliver! Are Underway - The sound of music and the buzz of excitement are already filling our halls as rehearsals for this year's ambitious school production of Oliver! Our dedicated cast and crew have been working incredibly hard already to learn lines and songs. We anticipate this show will be a complete sell-out, so please keep an eye on upcoming communications for the official ticket release date

This whirlwind start is a testament to the hard work of our staff and the wonderful engagement of our pupils. We look forward to another productive, exciting term together!

With my very best wishes,
Dave Finlay Head of School

SCHOOL NEWS

Year7 & 8 Rugby

Our Year 7 and 8 rugby teams travelled to Millfield to take on their B teams in what proved to be an exciting and memorable afternoon. Year 8 put in a superb performance, securing a narrow win by just one try. The team showed real determination and resilience, especially after their captain had to come off injured just 16 minutes into the game. With several players taking part in their first-ever contact rugby match, it was brilliant to see how well they rose to the challenge. A deserved victory !





Year 7 also impressed, despite the final score going Millfield's way. Nearly half the team were playing contact rugby for the very first time, but they grew in confidence as the game went on, showing real courage and teamwork.
Both teams represented the school with pride.



Well done to all the players involved!

SCHOOL NEWS

Current Year 6 & 7 Ski Trip 2027



Selwood Academy are pleased to launch our Ski Trip for 2027 to Claviere Resort in Italy **6th Feb 2027-13th Feb 2027**. The trip is open to all our current Year 6 & 7 pupils, please complete the link below if you would like your child to participate in this trip. Please refer to the letter on our website for further details and complete the link below if you would like your child to attend.

Permission Form

Website Letters









SCHOOL NEWS

Maths Update

The mathematics journey continues in our classrooms this week, with students refining their skills and moving into new, exciting topics. Here is the latest update:

Year 5 is continuing with their number concept, focusing on rounding numbers before moving on to explore negative numbers.

Year 6 is well into their 'operations' concept, currently exploring square and cube numbers, prime numbers, and practising dividing numbers, specifically 2-digit division.

Year 7 has completed their block on the value of numbers and is now confident in writing large numbers using powers of 10.

Year 8 is completing their second topic on ratio and is preparing to move on to a new block focusing on multiplying and dividing fractions.

Mr Littlewood

Head of Maths

English Update

In English this term, we have been focusing on the concept of writing styles

Year 5 - Have been studying a range of different extracts from autobiography before writing their own.

Year 6 - Have been reading the novel 'The Last Bear' by Hannah Gold. They have then used the information as a route into exploring letter writing and non-chronological writing. Some of our pupils have even been using this to write to our local MP about their concerns over climate change and litter.

Year 7 - Are looking at a range of poetry and song lyrics, exploring self expression and learning how to write analytical paragraphs.

Year 8 - Will explore the art of rhetoric and learn how to craft and perform their own speeches. We have been analysing speeches from Alexander the Great, Sojourner Truth, Great Thunberg and Moby. They have learned about the terms ethos, pathos and logos and why these are important to persuasive speaking.

Mr O Crook-Wynn (He/Him)

Head of English

SCHOOL NEWS

Year 5 Welcome Service





The Year 5 Welcome Service at St John's Church was a wonderful occasion. The children were absolutely fantastic, performing short pieces that brought the school's vision and core Christian values to life with great pride and talent. Their hard work was evident, and they certainly made everyone proud! The service was made even more special by the attendance of Paul Marvin from the Bath and Wells Diocese, who joined in the celebration of the children and their successful start to Year 5.





Year 5 Adventure Trip

In October, our Year 5 pupils set off on their Outdoor and Adventurous Activity. This took place in Burrington Combe, with the highlight being a thrilling caving expedition into the Goat's Church Caves. The trip focused on team-building challenges and social skills, giving pupils the chance to develop trust, communication, and resilience. For many, the caving was a brand new experience and a little nerve wracking! With helmets and torches on, they explored the ancient limestone formations beneath the Mendip Hills. The day was filled with laughter, encouragement, and a real sense of achievement, with staff and instructors praising the maturity and determination shown by the group. It was a brilliant way to bring the PE curriculum to life and give pupils a taste of adventure and the great outdoors.Well done to all of Year 5 for making it such a memorable trip!





SCHOOL NEWS

Creative Arts

Art – Year 6 pupils have spent the term looking at the formal elements of art and studying how these are used when they analyse art based on the Day of the Dead culture. They have looked at the work of Kurt Jackson and have used the medium of clay to create Day of the Dead skulls. Some of which are shown below.









Drama - In Drama our Year 6 pupils are building on their physical characterisation skills they started to learn in Year 5 and they have focused on social classes, people of authority, freeze frames and body language. This term's project has been based on the book Kensuke's Kingdom by Michael Morpurgo.

Music Mark of recognition

Selwood Academy has been awarded the Music Mark of recognition for 2025 /2026 for dedication and improvement in music education.
By accepting the Music Mark of Recognition, this school pledges to:

- Advocate for the importance of music education in the curriculum and creative life of our school
- Provide an equitable, diverse and inclusive music education for every young person
- Welcome opportunities to broaden our musical horizons by working with providers in our community and beyond



SCHOOL NEWS

Selwood PTA News

If you want to get involved and have time to join the PTA Committee please email : **SelwoodPTA@Selwood-academy.co.uk**

Christmas Fair - 5th December 2025: We are so pleased to say that the stalls are filling up fast! If you would like to reserve a stall (at a cost of £15 plus a raffle prize donation) please email us. We have a limited number of stalls available to hire so it is on a first-come, first-served basis. We are also on the lookout for Raffle prizes - if you are able or know someone who is able to contribute a prize to the raffle please also get in touch. All those who donate a prize will get a mention on our Christmas Fair raffle advertising by way of thanks.

easyfundraising: With our new Parentkind UK membership we've found the easiest way for everyone to support Selwood Academy and it doesn't cost you a penny extra. Every time you shop online for groceries, gifts, treats or even booking a holiday, 8,000+ retailers like Tesco, M&S, John Lewis, eBay, Argos, ASOS, Booking.com and many more will donate to us for FREE through easyfundraising. Plus, for the **month of October**, for everyone who joins via the easyfundraising App, we'll get a £2 bonus for each new supporter! If more than 10 supporters sign up, we'll unlock more bonus funding as well so please consider joining to support us.

It's quick, it's easy, and it's FREE - get the App now at **https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/easyfundraising-app/** and choose to support Selwood Academy PTA once installed.

Thank you for your support!



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Venue: Selwood Academy. Frome, Somerset, BA11 2EF

Dates: Wednesday 29th and Thursday 30th October 2025

Times: 9-1pm (4 year olds) or over 4's 9-3pm

Price: 9-1pm - £13.84 9-3pm - £22.82 per day

Ages: 4-11

Additional info: ***childcare vouchers can be used here***





Looking for something exciting this October half-term? Our multi-activity holiday clubs are packed with fun, energy, and variety for children of all ages!

Each day brings something new – from archery and fencing to dodgeball, cricket, and loads more. With a mix of sports, team games, and seasonal crafts, there's never a dull moment.

Book now for an unforgetable half-term!

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ARTS AND CRAFTS

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

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LOCAL PEOPLE SHARING AND CELEBRATING THEIR DIVERSITY

16TH NOVEMBER 2025
AT THE CHEESE AND GRAIN

FOR MORE INFO PLEASE EMAIL LENKAGRIMES@GMAIL.COM OR AZEEMACAFF@GMAIL.COM

YPF

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thrive making somerset stronger

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 MEMES

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Memes may look like simple jokes, but, for many teenagers, they form a shared cultural language. Quickly created and reworked, they spread across social media platforms as images with text or short videos. Nearly eight in ten teenagers share memes (79%, YPulse), making them part of daily life. While memes encourage creativity and participation, they can also spread misinformation or reinforce harmful stereotypes.

SPREADING MISINFORMATION

While memes help to communicate complex topics, they can also spread misinformation. Memes may sometimes include content presenting false facts or biased viewpoints, especially around health, politics, or current events and, as they're designed to be shared quickly, young people may not question their accuracy.

EXPOSURE TO INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Memes are widely circulated, and not always age-appropriate, meaning young people may encounter explicit language, sexual content, or graphic imagery, even without searching for it. As memes spread fast on platforms like Instagram, TikTok, or WhatsApp, it's nearly impossible to filter them completely.

MASKED MESSAGES

Some memes are designed to be confusing or layered with hidden meanings, making them hard for parents, and, sometimes, other young people to understand. Online groups often create these memes to look like inside jokes, but they can sometimes conceal offensive, harmful, or misleading content.

HIDDEN HARMS & LOSING SENSITIVITY

When serious topics like violence, racism, or mental health are turned into jokes, children and young people may become less sensitive to these issues over time. While a funny meme may seem light-hearted, it can carry messages that belittle certain groups, encourage risky behaviour, or mock personal struggles. Repeated exposure through memes can make harmful behaviour seem normal or less important. Over time, this can blur their understanding of what is funny versus what is discriminatory, harmful, or damaging to themselves and others.

PERMANENT DIGITAL FOOTPRINT

Unlike spoken jokes, memes leave a trail. Created or shared memes can resurface later and be misunderstood, even if intended as harmless. Once online, memes may be copied, saved, or spread beyond a young person's control - digital actions can follow them into their future, shaping how they are perceived by peers, teachers, or even employers long after the original meme has been shared.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ENCOURAGE OPEN CONVERSATIONS

Talk regularly with young people and try to understand their online world - discuss what they find funny about the memes, and why. By listening without judgement, you build trust, making it easier for them to come to you if they see something harmful. Open conversations also help children and teens think critically about the messages behind memes rather than simply accepting them at face value.

TEACH DIGITAL LITERACY

Help children and young people learn to question where information comes from and whether it's reliable - developing media literacy skills prepares young people to understand and navigate through their future online lives. Show them how memes can sometimes exaggerate or misrepresent facts for laughs, and encourage them to check credible sources when memes claim to present truth.

MODEL HEALTHY BOUNDARIES

Show children and teens positive online behaviours, such as taking breaks from screens, avoiding late-night scrolling, and engaging in offline activities. Setting clear routines around screen time at home can help to reinforce healthy boundaries and reduce the risks of overuse. By modelling balanced technology use, adults can help children and young people see that digital entertainment, including memes, should be just one part of life.

FOSTER EMPATHY ONLINE

Remind children and young people that memes should never come at someone else's expense. Encourage them to think about how a meme might make another person feel before sharing or creating it. Highlight examples of positive memes that celebrate creativity without hurting others. Fostering empathy, respect, and kindness in digital spaces will help them become more aware of promoting a safer, more supportive online culture.

Meet Our Expert



Dr Cristina Moreno-Almeida is a Senior Lecturer in Digital Culture at Queen Mary University of London. She specialises in memes, online networks, and youth culture, examining how digital spaces shape identity and everyday life.

See full relevance list on our website

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