Spa Camberwell, Southampton Way, SE5 7EW
A special school for autistic pupils

16th October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of the first half-term, we would like to hear from our Spa community to understand what is working well and where we can make improvements. We would be grateful if parents and carers could complete the survey being sent home with your child today and return it in your child's diary.
We will also be gathering pupils' views through surveys completed during lessons. These will cover similar topics, with adapted versions provided where needed to support pupils' understanding and communication.
Once the surveys have been completed, we will share the feedback and outline any actions we plan to take in response. Thank you, as always, for your continued support and for helping us make Spa the best it can be for our pupils and families.

Highlights from this week

Parent Zone LEGO Build and Talk online safety workshop for parents and carers

Thank you to everyone who attended our Parent Zone LEGO Build & Talk online safety workshop. Keeping children safe online is increasingly important and can present particular challenges for families. The session provided practical ideas for starting positive conversations about online safety and supporting children to develop safe digital habits. It was particularly valuable to hear parents and carers share their own strategies for managing screen time and keeping their children safe online at home.
The workshop was a wonderful reminder of the value of sharing our experiences and knowledge as a school community to support the wellbeing and safety of all our pupils.



SeeAbility

SeeAbility – Specialist Eye Care at Spa Camberwell
We were delighted to welcome SeeAbility to Spa Camberwell to share information about the specialist eye care service they will be providing for our pupils this year. The service enables pupils to have their eyes tested and their vision and eye health checked in the familiar surroundings of school, supported by staff who understand their individual needs.
SeeAbility can also offer advice about glasses, free glasses, repairs and adjustments where appropriate, as well as guidance for families about their child's vision.
We look forward to developing this partnership and supporting the health and wellbeing of our pupils.

On-Site Enrichment at Spa Camberwell

Yoga
Our weekly yoga sessions, delivered by trained school staff, provide pupils with a calm and supportive space to meet their sensory needs, aid regulation, and enhance overall wellbeing.



Dance
Delivered by the Royal Academy of Dance and Movement Works, our weekly dance sessions support motor skills, sensory integration, and emotional expression — while also promoting communication, confidence, and plenty of fun.



Assemblies
Our weekly assemblies provide valuable opportunities for enrichment, shared learning and personal development across Key Stages 2, 3 and 4. Each key stage has its own assembly, carefully tailored to pupils' ages, interests and developing understanding of the world around them. For KS2, assemblies focus on awe and wonder, encouraging pupils to explore new ideas and develop their skills in learning together. In KS3 and KS4, assemblies explore important world events, religious celebrations, we welcome community speakers and explore a wide range of careers, helping pupils develop their awareness of the wider world, their community and future opportunities. Through these shared experiences, pupils build knowledge, broaden their interests and develop skills that support their preparation for adulthood.



Spa Camberwell, Southampton Way, SE5 7EW
A special school for autistic pupils

Online Safety

Protecting Children's Images from AI Abuse

AI tools can now be used to manipulate ordinary photographs of children into sexual or otherwise harmful imagery.
The Internet Watch Foundation and the National Crime Agency have produced practical guidance for parents and carers about reducing the risk of image misuse.
The advice includes thinking carefully about privacy settings, who can see photographs, how much identifying information is shared and involving children in decisions about posting their images as they get older.
The guidance also explains what parents can do if an image has been manipulated or misused.
Link: **IWF – Parent Guide: Stopping AI Child Image Abuse**

Understanding AI Companions

AI chatbots are increasingly able to hold long, personal conversations and may sometimes feel more like companions than simple information tools.
For parents, it's useful to understand how repeated conversations with an AI system can encourage trust or emotional attachment, particularly for children who may find the interaction supportive or easier than talking to another person.
Children and Screens has produced a short research overview explaining some of the opportunities and concerns around AI companions and young people.
Link: **Children and Screens – Chatbots, AI Companions and Youth**

Flu Vaccinations

The school nursing team will be visiting on Monday, 2nd November to offer flu vaccinations for pupils whose families have completed the online consent form. The vaccine is a quick nasal spray (not an injection).
You can find the online form here:
https://cypcis.kingstonandrichmond.nhs.uk/flu/2025/southwark

As always, please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions.

Wishing you all a restful weekend.



Rian Ehlers
Head of School

Spa Camberwell, Southampton Way, SE5 7EW
A special school for autistic pupils

Support and activities for families



After school, weekend and holiday activities for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities, funded by Southwark Council. Many of the activities are for children and young people aged 5-19 with an EHCP who are unable to access universal provision. There are also a range of social clubs and special interest groups for young people aged 16+. You can find details of other services and activities at www.localoffer.southwark.gov.uk

Click HERE for a full list of upcoming activities and events.

Spa Camberwell, Southampton Way, SE5 7EW
A special school for autistic pupils

Access Sport October Holiday Programme
Access Sport is excited to be hosting a free October Holiday Programme for children and young people with SEND living in Southwark and the surrounding areas.
This is a fantastic opportunity for young people to try a range of local activities in a welcoming and inclusive environment. All sessions are adapted to meet individual needs and designed to be fun, accessible, and engaging.

Southwark Inclusive October Holiday Programme
When: Tuesday 27 October 2pm - 4pm and Thursday 29 October, 10am - 12pm
Where: Canada Water Leisure Centre, SE16 2AJ
Who: Children and young people with SEND aged 5–18
Cost: Free
Find out more and sign up:
Southwark Inclusive Sport & Physical Activity Network - SEND October Half Term Sports and Activities 2026 - Google Forms

Please note: Parents and carers must remain at sessions at all times, as we are unable to provide 1:1 support. Siblings are also welcome to attend; however, please complete a separate registration form for each child.

Black History Month Events in Southwark
There are many free and low-cost Black History Month events taking place across the borough, many of which have been funded by Southwark's Black History Month Grant.
Click here to find out more: Southwark Presents

Transport for London: Handy Links
- 11-15 TfL Zip Oyster cards – information and applications https://tfl.gov.uk/fares/free-and-discounted-travel/11-15-zip-oyster-photocard
- TfL Cycle skills - both online and with links to free in-person training for individuals and families via local boroughs https://tfl.gov.uk/modes/cycling/cycle-skills
- TfL Journey Planner – and the main TfL website with live travel updates and maps, plus route maps for all the different modes and accessible travel information https://tfl.gov.uk/plan-a-journey/

Health and Attendance
Click on the link for a health and attendance-related messages from the Department of Education
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_i5KxggkPTw

Spa Camberwell, Southampton Way, SE5 7EW
A special school for autistic pupils



Best Start Family Hub Activity Timetable
Southwark's Best Start Family Hubs continue to offer a range of activities, groups and support for families. Click on the links below for the Family Hub timetables
Rye Oak Ann Bernadt Best Start Family Hub
Dulwich Wood Best Start Family Hub
South Bermondsey Best Start Family Hub
1st Place Best Start Family Hub