

End of Half Term Newsletter



Swiss
Cottage
School
Development &
Research Centre

Inclusive
Nurturing
Inspiring

Friday 23rd October 2026

Dear Families,

Thank you to all of our families and pupils for helping to make this half-term a wonderful start to the year. There is lots to celebrate across the school and below we have picked out some teaching and learning highlights from each pathway and phase of provision. We are very proud of the children and young people, as I know you will be too.

Please remember to sign up to the Family Learning Week session for your class during the week beginning 9th November, so that you can see the provision in action (stickers are in home learning books for you to confirm your attendance, or you can call or [email the office](#)).

Have a wonderful half term,

Syra (Principal)

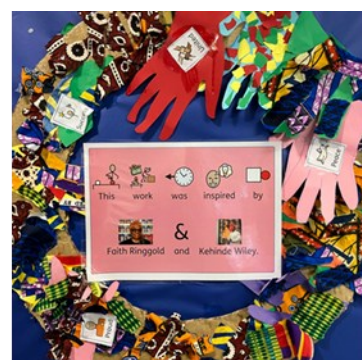
Autumn Celebrations

Emerald Pathway has enjoyed returning to school this academic year, building new relationships and learning together.

We have been taking advantage of the changing seasons and exploring Autumn, with lots of opportunities for messy play with Autumn leaves and Autumn themed foods. In My Thinking, we have been exploring number and time, including learning new number songs to support with counting and the learning about day and night and the timings of different daily routines.

Classes have also enjoyed celebrating the Harvest Festival, Black History Season, and Halloween through play and a range of multi-sensory activities. It has been wonderful to see such high levels of engagement and focus throughout the term.

Take a look at their fantastic work, inspired by the Black artists Faith Ringgold and Kehinde Wiley, exploring colours, patterns, and different perspectives to make some beautiful creations.



Healthy Breakfasts

Pearl Pathway has begun the first few breakfast clubs of the year. Each class have a day that they lead for other classes and pathways to join and eat some healthy breakfast. This is a great opportunity to practise writing, speaking and listening with peers and adults in a real life context, in addition to developing life skills needed as they move towards adulthood.

They are working on cleaning, cooking and customer service!



Blink Dance

In Ruby Pathway, pupils have enjoyed taking part in new dance routines with the company Blink Dance and learning about the dancer Alice Sheppard.

We've also enjoyed plenty of rebound therapy on the trampolines.

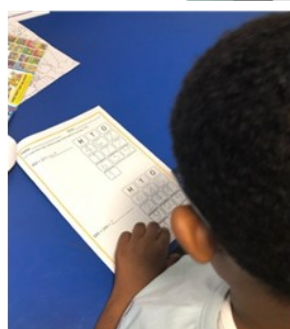
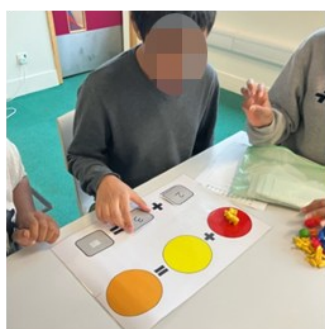


Communication & Independence

Pupils in Emerald Upper & Pearl Pathway have been developing their understanding of money through engaging in shopping role-play activities and real-life shopping experiences in the local community. These activities have helped build their confidence in using money and developing important life skills.

Pupils have also been developing their addition skills through a range of practical activities. They have been using concrete resources, addition mats and column addition to solve problems.

A group of pupils have begun horse riding and care sessions this half-term, greatly enjoying the opportunity to develop their life skills, including communication, confidence, independence and responsibility, while learning how to interact with and care for the horses.



Social Enterprise

This term, pupils in our sixth form have been selling their handmade ceramics at a stall in Waitrose. This has been a valuable experience and a wonderful opportunity to share their creativity with the local community.

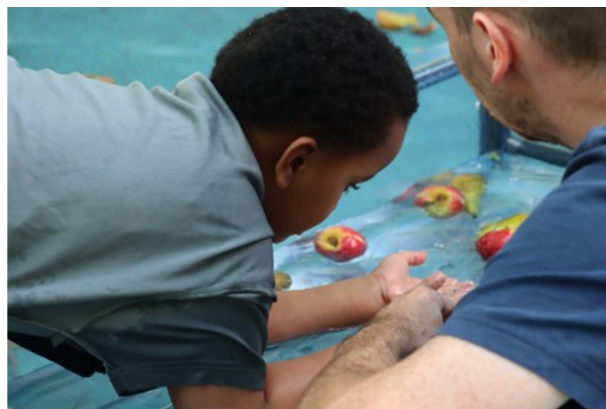
Their work has been selling really well – well done to everyone involved, and thank you to all who have supported our talented students!



Harvest

Our youngest pupils in the Amethyst Gem Cluster have enjoyed a wonderful first half-term, warmly welcoming back returning families alongside five new pupils joining Cherry Blossom and Foxglove classes. Pupils quickly settled into their new classrooms, learning new daily routines and building friendships. A major highlight was the newly fitted soft-play room, which provides daily opportunities for joyful, play-based learning.

The pathway came together for a vibrant International Day of Peace carousel on 21st September. Amethyst then proudly launched the Harvest season with a sensational celebration on 2nd October, followed by an inspiring Play Afternoon on 20th October that beautifully showcased the power of learning through play.



Term Dates

Autumn Term 2026

Wednesday 2nd September to Friday 18th December

Half-term: Monday 26th October - Friday 30th October

Monday 2nd November: **Pupils return to school**

Friday 18th December: **Last Day of Autumn Term - (3.15pm finish)**

Winter Holiday: Monday 21st December - Friday 1st January

Spring Term 2027

Monday 4th January to Thursday 25th March

Monday 4th January: **Staff training day - no school for pupils**

Tuesday 5th January: **First day for pupils**

Half-term: Monday 15th February - Friday 19th February

Thursday 25th March: **Last Day of Spring Term - (3.15pm finish)**

Spring Holiday: Friday 26th March – Friday 9th April

Summer Term 2027

Monday 12th April to Thursday 22nd July

Monday 12th April: **First Day for pupils**

Monday 3rd May: **May Day Bank Holiday – no school for pupils**

Half-term: Monday 31st May - Friday 4th June

Monday 7th June: **Staff training day - no school for pupils**

Tuesday 8th June: **Pupils return to school**

Thursday 22nd July : **Last day for pupils - (3.15pm finish)**

Wishing all of our families a safe
and enjoyable break.

The first day back for pupils is
Monday, 2nd November!