



Selwyn Primary School Curriculum Newsletter

AUTUMN 2018

Welcome Back

Welcome to the first edition of our school's curriculum newsletter. How time flies when you are having fun - we can hardly believe we are already into our second half-term! We would like to take this opportunity to share with you all we are doing to improve learning for our children.

Firstly, we have launched our reviewed curriculum this autumn, which we are very excited about. This year, children will have the opportunity to build on the already rich curriculum by learning the skills needed for engineering, architecture, agriculture and philosophy. Through these subjects, we aim to build a deeper understanding of concepts for our children and prepare them for the ever-changing world in which they live.

We aim to achieve deeper understanding and grow excellence through our curriculum, as pupils develop a deeper conceptual understanding of the subjects that they are learning about by drawing together and evaluating their knowledge from a range of subjects and topics.

Our curriculum ensures the cumulative effect of layers of knowledge, and focuses on the building blocks of knowledge acquisition. It drives progress by ensuring mastery of skills and depth of learning. We are determined to see our children keep up, not catch up.

Here's to an exciting 2018 - 2019!



Results are Out!

Last year, parents, children and staff worked incredibly hard to provide children at Selwyn with an outstanding education, close gaps and make accelerated progress towards the end-of-year expectations and together we achieved some brilliant outcomes!

90% of our Reception children achieved a Good Level of Development (GLD). This is an upward trend when compared with the previous year's results.

In Year 1, 88% of pupils passed their phonics check, and 99% at the end of Year 2. In Year 2, 87% of children achieved the Expected standard in reading, writing and maths - well above national attainment. 34% of Year 2 children achieved Greater Depth standard in all areas.



In Year 6, children improved on last year's success, with 71% achieving the Expected standard in reading, writing and maths, and 11% achieving Greater Depth standard in all of those areas. This is well above national attainment and demonstrates how well children in our school are learning.





KS1 2018 TA		
Numeracy	EXS	GDS
School	93%	44%
National	76%	22%
Reading	EXS	GDS
School	91%	43%
National	75%	26%
Writing	EXS	GDS
School	90%	37%
National	70%	16%
Combined	EXS	GDS
School	87%	34%
KS2 2018		
Numeracy		
School	90%	27%
Reading		
School	79%	21%
Writing		
School	93%	40%
SPaG		
School	92%	51%
Combined		
School	71%	11%

RE and PSCHE

Religious Education at Selwyn is an excellent platform from which our children are developing their knowledge and understanding of themselves and others within our school community. We have focused on increasing enjoyment in our learning which has been stimulated through exciting visits to local places of worship throughout the last academic year and through hands-on resources of religious artefacts within lessons.



During the year, we will have some inspiring visitors, and these visits will give children the opportunity to ask questions and share personal experiences; thus making learning more engaging for all. RE at Selwyn allows children to develop self-confidence and presentation skills through exposure to vocabulary which is transferred across many curricular subjects, such as PSCHE.

Within our PSCHE curriculum, children have been busy exploring the nine characteristics and have illustrated their work by creating exhibitions to celebrate our school ethos.



Selwyn Sports

Teams at Selwyn have taken part in football, table tennis and cross country competitions so far this year!



Welcome back to a new year of PE at Selwyn Primary School. We have hit the ground running with our PE curriculum and are excited to be getting everyone moving. Children are enjoying a range of engaging lessons with our PE coach, where they learn traditional sports and skills, and with their class teachers for dance and gymnastic lessons.



Children in KS1 have competed in their first cross country event against other schools in the Waltham Forest area. The Girls Team came 10th out of 34 teams and the Boys Team came 9th out of 38 teams. This is a fantastic achievement for Team Selwyn as it was the first time KS1 children have been placed so highly in this event. Congratulations to all who took part; we are extremely proud.

In Years 5 and 6, the boys attended their first A-Team Football Tournament with other schools in Waltham Forest. This year, we are looking to have a confirmed team who train regularly and build up their experience of competitions. The boys arrived with a little apprehension due to it being their first tournament but quickly settled into the games, which came thick and fast. After the first game, a coach from a different school commented on Selwyn's style of play as a team, and their sportsmanship. Although we did not manage to progress to the next stage of the tournament, we did secure three victories, drew one and lost two matches.

We are looking forward to future competitions and progress of the football team.



Lunchtime

club

Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 can sign up to attend Fitness Club in the Small Hall with Mrs Curtis every Monday from 12.30 – 12.50 pm. Children will be able to take part in a 15 - 20 minute HIIT class to increase their physical activity.

Reminders

Every child should have their PE kit in school every day. Some lessons within other areas of the curriculum may also require a PE kit, and every child should be prepared for this to happen.

Jewellery should not be worn in PE lessons. It is a safety hazard and should be removed; this includes watches.

Interview with Mr K

Favourite sport: **FOOTBALL**

Did you represent your school in sports when you were a child? **YES**

What was your favourite lesson at school? **PE**

What's your favourite sport to teach? **GYMNASTICS**

If you could learn a new sport, what would it be and why? **OUTDOOR ADVENTURE ACTIVITIES – I think Bear Grylls is awesome.**

Have you ever forgotten your PE kit? **YES☹**

Who inspires you to succeed? **SELF-MOTIVATION**

Reading



Reading underpins all that we do here at Selwyn. We believe that building a strong foundation and a love of reading enables children to get so much more from their learning. This year, we have started our novel studies from the Autumn Term. This approach proved to be a huge success last year in developing language acquisition and bringing a 'reader's' style to the children's writing.

We have started off this term with many exciting novels. Children are getting the opportunity to study and analyse the following books during shared reading sessions: Nursery: Let it Fall, Peace at Last, and The Gruffalo. Reception: My Dad, On the Way Home, Five Minutes' Peace, and The Rescue Party. Year 1: Funny Bones, The Robot and the Bluebird, The Dark, and How to Find Gold. Year 2: Flat Stanley, Grace and Family, and Horrid Henry. Year 3: Cliffhanger, Gregory Cool, and Danny the Champion of the World. Year 4: Street Child, The Iron Man and Zeraffa Giraffa. Year 5: Kensuke's Kingdom, Shakespeare Stories, and There's a Boy in the Girls' Bathroom. Year 6: War Horse, Stormbreaker, and A Christmas Carol.

We have already had one visit from the Scholastic with the children will again have an opportunity to Buying a book at the book fair helps the school to exchange for new books for the school. Thank you new books!

Here at Selwyn, we also learn about the works of focus on a particular author, for example: Eric Carle, Howell, Michelle Magorian, and Phillip Pullman, to



Book Fair, visit it with accumulat for your st

successful Anthony E name just



Magic Maths

At Selwyn Primary School, we believe that all pupils can be confident and fluent mathematicians. This term, our main focus has been the foundations of Mathematics; developing place value and number knowledge. We have used a range of strategies to embed and apply these skills effectively, including using apparatus, visualisation, jottings and pictorial representations.

At Selwyn, we value the importance of a cross-curricular education and therefore visit our maths skills in our other subject areas, such as history, geography and science. This enables the pupils to deepen their understanding and apply their knowledge in various contexts. It is also an excellent opportunity for reasoning and problem solving!



In the meantime, www.letters-and-sounds.com and www.phonicsplay.co.uk have fun, interactive games for your child to play which include the reading of pseudo words. If your child is in Year 1 they will need to know all the sounds up to and including Phase 5 in order to succeed in the Phonics Check. We would therefore appreciate your support at home both with Phonics and regular reading with your child.

Science

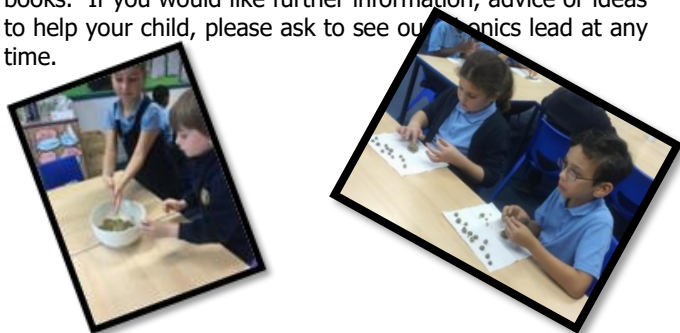
Science at Selwyn has been on an exciting journey starting in the last academic year! We have focused on increasing enjoyment in our learning and have done so through the use of more exciting hands-on experiments, providing opportunities to bringing research and investigations into the classroom.

We have had some inspiring visitors (eg the Science Dome) and visits and, what's more, our weekly lessons are more hands-on and engaging for all! One great example of this is Year 5 who used Oreo cookies to explain the phases of the moon!

Phonics

During phonics lessons, the children learn how to blend sounds into words for reading and segment words by breaking them up into sounds for spelling. The children start their phonics learning in Nursery by listening for sounds around them, singing songs and nursery rhymes, and being able to hear and say the sounds that words begin with. As they progress, they begin to link sounds to letters. This continues throughout Reception and Years 1 and 2, with the sounds and spelling gradually becoming more complex. Unfortunately, to read and spell in English can be tricky as the same sound can often be spelt in different ways, eg the sound 'i' can be represented by igh as in light, ie as in pie, y as in my and i-e as in drive!

By June of Year 1, the children take a Phonics Reading Check to find out if they have mastered a lot of these patterns. The children read 40 words - half are real words and half are pseudo (made up) words to see whether they can use their phonic knowledge when reading. At school, we try to make phonics learning fun and interactive and also to apply knowledge when reading unfamiliar words in their reading books. If you would like further information, advice or ideas to help your child, please ask to see our phonics lead at any time.



Writing

At Selwyn Primary School, we try to provide many exciting and meaningful opportunities for children to develop their writing, as well as encouraging them to write for a range of purposes across different text types.

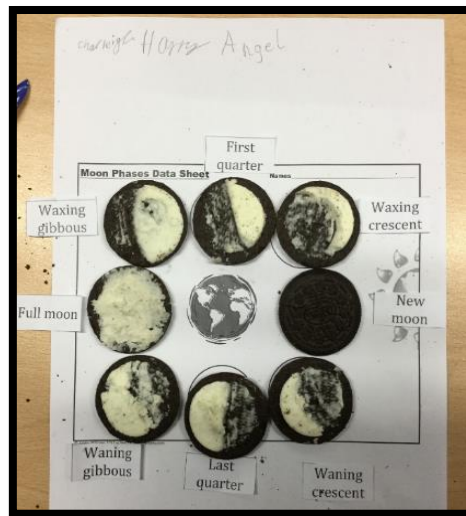
In each classroom across the school, every child's writing is exhibited on our 'Proud of our Writing' walls. This term, we have had a huge push towards building and developing the children's use of vocabulary; encouraging pupils to be ambitious with their word choice and to learn the meaning of a range of words that can be used in different contexts.

In Year 6, the children have been writing a balanced argument on whether war is justifiable or not, which links to their class novel War Horse and topic work on World War 2.

The Arts

The Autumn Term has started with lots of creativity happening across the whole School.

In Year 2, the children have been focusing upon architecture and building design. They have created models of houses from London in 1666 and 2018. This has been a great way for the children to see the contrasting styles and designs from the different eras.



Science has also expanded this year and now includes Agriculture to enrich our science curriculum even more. This gives us the opportunity to discuss and debate various environmental issues and how these impact on our everyday lives and the environment we share with other species on this planet.

As part of the new enriched curriculum, Year 4 has been looking into food supplements for livestock on farms, in particular, chicken. Using our mathematical skills of percentages and measuring, we created some pellets, which the children eventually took home to share with local wildlife.

History and Geography

History and Geography have been strong areas of interest for our children. They have demonstrated an eagerness to learn about past civilisations where they can discover similarities and then compare them with the world in which we live. These have seen them marvel at our planet and all that she is capable of.

Looking at evidence of lessons in photos and books, it is clear to see that there is a hands-on approach, as well as more children using subject-specific vocabulary. The effect of this wider reading scope is also transferred to other areas of learning. Having knowledge, and the opportunity to express new concepts, has encouraged children to build upon their understanding.

Computing

In Selwyn, pupils are given access to Computing, both across the curriculum within all curricular subjects, and through the implementation of succinct computing clubs. During lessons, pupils use iPads and laptops for research and for learning various software programmes, including Microsoft office, where they have been creating and editing documents.

All pupils at Selwyn have been provided with log-ins for apps such as Mathletics and Rockstars. Teachers are able to monitor their progress and set challenges to ensure that children are engaged and enthused about their learning.

In line with the new approach to teaching Computing in schools, there are two computing clubs at Selwyn.

Computing Club: Pupils are taught about different types of

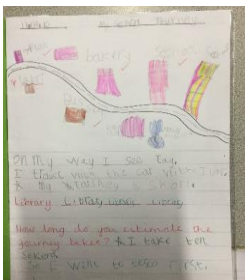


Year 1

Our topic this term has been 'Homes' and we have been discovering various elements of our topic across all areas of our curriculum.

In History, we had a visit from the Geffrye Museum who showed us artefacts from homes of the past. We discussed the differences between then and now, and how technology has changed over the years.

In Geography, we have been mapping our local area and thinking about the people who help us in our community. We also walked around the local area to observe the different types of houses that there were, for example, detached and semi-detached buildings.



In Science, we have been finding out about the habitats of different animals and plants, and reading about particular countries in our English lessons.

To celebrate the end of our topic, and amalgamate all that we have learned, we plan to make a home of the future. We must design our buildings, think about which materials will be most appropriate, and measure the dimensions using our maths skills. I wonder what creative inventions we will come up with!



Music

The Music Curriculum has just been revised. The new curriculum has more focus on skill development, with exciting performance projects that enable these skills to be put into practice and give the children opportunities to choose their roles (instrumentalist, conductor, composer, dancer, singer, sound engineer etc).

We have recently trialled one of the new lessons: whole-class snare drum technique, with each child having their own pair of drumsticks and an Ikea place mat to play on. The children were thrilled with the lesson and some of the boys who are sometimes less engaged, were completely focused and achieved much more than expected in the lesson.



Architecture: We have been identifying the style and design of homes and buildings in 1600s. Children have constructed their own 3D Pudding Lane houses ready for when the Fire Brigade visit and have been able to compare and contrast street layouts in 1600s and now.

Philosophy: Children have been given philosophical questions to discuss and support growth mind-set during PSHE lessons, such as: What's in a name? If you had a different name, would you be the same person? These sessions have given children the opportunity to question, answer and challenge different ways of thinking.

We have also enjoyed a fantastic day out in London, and participating in an African Dance Workshop.



Year 3

This half-term, the children in Year 3 have been learning all about the Roman Empire and the fearless Iceni queen Boudicca. We all greatly enjoyed our trip to the Roman

Year 2

In Year 2, the children have been introduced to three new areas of the curriculum: Agriculture, Architecture and Philosophy.

Agriculture: We are learning about compost, where our food comes from and how to recycle food in a responsible way.



Coming up, we will be continuing our investigations into the lasting effects of the Roman Empire, solving mathematical problems (including learning how to solve duration problems), and writing fantastic stories, descriptions and reports.

Year 4

Year 4 this term have learnt all about the Victorian era. They have thoroughly enjoyed their novel study of *Street Child* by Berlie Doherty, set in the Victorian times, which follows the life of Jim Jarvis.

To bring their learning to life, they visited The Ragged School Museum in Tower Hamlets. The museum was once The Ragged School, opened by philanthropist Dr Barnado in 1877, to provide the children of Mile End with a basic education. Whilst there, they got into role and took part in a typical Victorian lesson with a very strict teacher!



They surely appreciate their own school much more and are glad not to have attended such a school 141 years ago.

Year 5

Year 5 started the year by studying *The Tempest* by William Shakespeare. They have looked at Elizabethan vocabulary and discussed how to use fronted adverbials to vary the way they begin their sentences.

In Maths, the children have been converting various measures and dividing by multiples of 10, 100, and 1000. They have also looked at multiplying and rounding decimal numbers, and applying this to real-world contexts.

In History, they have been studying Ancient Greece and its contribution to Western Civilisation. By comparing and contrasting the Ancient Athenians and Spartans, they have been able to acquire an understanding of how this society thought and behaved.

Geography lessons have seen Year 5 analysing different maps of the UK and identifying agricultural and urban areas. They have also looked at the local area, discussing the different facilities that borough councils provide.

In Science, they have been looking at the movement of the Sun, Earth and Moon. They have compared different models of the solar system, and most recently the phases of the moon.



Miss Spry and Mrs Ahmed were extremely impressed with the children's understanding of the circulatory system in Science.



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