

End of Half Term Newsletter



Swiss
Cottage
School
Development &
Research Centre

Inclusive
Nurturing
Inspiring

Thursday 21st December 2023

The second half of the Autumn Term included a number of cross-curriculum activities for all pathways. We celebrated important dates across November and December.

Classes have worked with specialist cultural arts teams through our school timetable, and also across London.

Thank you for supporting us throughout this half term!

Tree of Kindness

Pupils across all pathways designed their own leaf of kindness for our 'Tree of Kindness' display in reception, in celebration of 'International Day of Kindness' in November.

Lessons focused on the themes linked to friendship, positivity, listening, and support through peer learning activities.

We were learning about the importance of being kind to each other; listening to each other's ideas and opinions, and how we be kind to each other.

Our 'Tree of Kindness' is a growing installation led by our Amethyst Pathway which is the Early Years Foundation Stage classes.



Winter Festival

Classes across the school took part in an immersive multi-sensory 'Winter Festival' to explore festivities and seasons through music, dance, and activities.



Mandela Class created an eco-snowman art installation that will be a part of their recycling lessons in January!

Theatre/Dance: Flamingo Chicks

Every half term we have an 'Artist in Residence'. This half term we worked with Flamingo Chicks. They are an award-winning inclusive theatre and dance company who combine storytelling, music, sensory props, Makaton signing and movement to engage pupils of all ages in exciting learning opportunities.

In November we planned a curriculum activity at the school with their accessible mobile stage to perform with pupils across the school. Pupils really enjoyed becoming part of the imaginative stories, stepping into characters with costumes and performing with their peers from other classes.



Road Safety Awareness Week

During this half term, the curriculum area of How My World Works in the Lower School focused their attention on Road Safety Awareness Week in November.

Classes collaborated to develop understanding of road safety with creative sessions. Pupils worked with a range of multi-sensory resources to develop their understanding with the Pelican Crossing, flags, sounds and signage.



Reactive Forum

Pupils in the Upper School attended the Camden LA Reactive Forum at Somerstown Youth Club to share their views about local services for disabled people. They also had the opportunity to meet and socialise with other young people with special educational needs and disabilities from their local area. They enjoyed playing pool, table football, chatting with their peers and giving their feedback about what it is like for young people such as them in Camden. This term the forum had a visiting speaker to talk about the Windrush Generation.



Wallace Collection

This year, the Sapphire Pathway have teamed up with the Wallace Collection for community-based curriculum in the local community. Post-16 learners attended exciting workshops tailored to their needs and interests. These have included: 'A Knight's Hard Day', a sensory story of a young squire searching for the right outfit through sight, sound and sensations; Dressing Safely, comparing outfits from today to the past; and a creative workshop focused on landscapes through printmaking and collaging. All of the learners enjoyed exploring the grand space of the museum and fully embraced the interactive workshops. This partnership will continue into the Spring Term.



Centre of Excellence in Financial Education

Swiss Cottage School has been reaccredited for the third successive time as a Centre of Excellence in Financial Education with Young Money, part of the Young Enterprise Charity. The reaccreditation process confirmed that we are highly effective in personalised planning to teach pupils about money and finance in ways which are meaningful to them. The assessors noted that we are providing practical, effective and sustainable financial education for the young people at our school and praised the adaptations we have made over the last ten years to meet pupil's needs.



Assistant Principal for Upper School Matt Maguire and Lead of Post-16 Ben Stewart received our reaccreditation award at the National Conference in December. Congratulations!

**Wishing all of our families a fun, enjoyable, and safe Winter Holiday.
First day back for pupils is Tuesday, 9th January 2024!**

Term Dates

Autumn Term 2023

Monday 4th September to Thursday 21st December 2023

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

Tuesday 5th September: **Staff training day - no school for pupils**

Wednesday 6th September: **First day for pupils**

Monday 16th October: **Staff training day - no school for pupils**

Half-term: Monday 23rd October to Friday 27th October 2023

Last Day of School: Thursday 21st December 2023

Winter Holiday: Friday 22nd December 2023 to Friday 5th January 2024

Spring Term 2024

Monday 8th January to Thursday 28th March 2024

Monday 8th January: **Staff training day - no school for pupils**

Half-term: Monday 12th February to Friday 16th February 2024

Spring Holiday: Friday 29th March to Friday 12th April 2024
(Easter weekend 29th March – 1st April)

Summer Term 2024

Monday 15th April to Wednesday 24th July 2024

Friday 28th June: **Staff training day - no school for pupils**

Half-term: Monday 27th May to Friday 31st May 2024

Wednesday 24th July 2024: **Last day for pupils**