

End of Half Term Newsletter



Swiss
Cottage
School
Development &
Research Centre

Inclusive
Nurturing
Inspiring

Thursday 28th March 2024

Every term includes 'Artists in Residence' to enrich the Curriculum and Learning across all classes. We were thrilled to have fantastic organisations including Stomp, Umbrella Theatre, and Interplay Theatre at Swiss Cottage School this term! Upper School classes in the sixth form practiced choreography for a fantastic expressive performance at the Camden Dance Festival. A group of pupils across Lower and Upper School also performed at the Camden Choir Festival this week with incredible confidence!

Shakespeare in Schools

We are so proud of the Upper School pupils that took part in one of the largest youth drama performances of Macbeth this term.

Months of cross-curricular learning prepared the pupils for a truly incredible evening performance at the Shaw Theatre.

The annual performance was so special for our community and reflects the talents, passion, confidence and creativity of our pupils.

www.shakespeareschools.org



'Stomp the Musical' Workshop

We had the pleasure and privilege to welcome and work together with one of the founders of Stomp. Carl is an incredibly talented percussionist who joined us as an 'Artist in Residence' for a series of workshops across March.

Stomp is a musical that uses everyday items to create rhythmic beats for performance. Carl led workshops to bring an introduction to making music, and pupils explored how to use every day objects to create rhythm and music. Classes across all pathways in Lower and Upper School loved every minute. There were many magical moments of engagement and peer music interactions. We are thrilled that Carl will be back with us next year for another round of Stomp in the Curriculum.

www.stomp.co.uk



Interplay Theatre

Interplay are a National Sensory Theatre who joined us as 'Artists in Residence' to create a highly immersive environment for pupils to engage with their story 'My Life with the Wave'.

Pupils across Lower and Upper School were captivated by the multi-sensory performances and developed their listening skills, confidence and creativity as they participated in each performance. This is the fantastic approach of Interplay Theatre and we are looking forward to their return!

www.interplaytheatre.org.uk

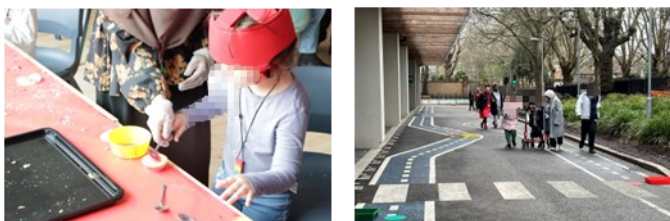


Red Nose Day

Our pupils take part in charitable fundraising every term. This term the school focused on 'Comic Relief Red Nose Day' to support the efforts to reduce child hunger and impacts of poverty.

Learning activities across Lower and Upper School were through the Comic Relief focus: the school was filled with laughter and entertainment. Peer learning focused on sports, art, singing, and dance. It was a delightful way to unite our community and support a vital charity.

www.comicrelief.com



World Book Day

World Book Day took over Swiss Cottage School with a celebration of the incredible power of books. The sheer joy of reading, sensory literacy, storytelling, and performance of favourite characters was felt across Lower and Upper School all week. We loved having **Umbrella Theatre** in school as Artists in Residence for performances, and the week ended with our immersive sensory world to explore a treasured favourite "The Gruffalo."

www.umbrellatheatreproductions.com



Community Learning

Classes across Lower and Upper School have explored the curriculum themes through community lessons.

Lower School classes have explored London sites, with pupils sharing a favourite experience with 'Shrek's Adventures'. Upper School pupils have experienced history and arts through our partnership with the Wallace Collection.

www.wallacecollection.org



Evidence for Learning: Family Conference

It was a privilege to host the National Family Conference for Evidence for Learning. We are so proud that parent Katie and Family Inclusion Team mentor Mohammed were speakers at this important event. Professor Barry Carpenter chaired the event, which explored topics that are important to parents, carers, siblings, and the wider family network that support pupils with additional needs.

We are in partnership with EfL and the network of 800 schools that use this tool for meaningful partnership between home and school.



Teacher Training

It was fantastic to have 35 mainstream PGCE trainee teachers in placement at Swiss Cottage School across the spring term.

The trainee teachers from UCL Institute of Education, Brunel University, and Middlesex University completed placements to understand how curriculum and teaching is adapted for pupils with complex needs. Their placements enriched the learning opportunities for pupils across Lower and Upper School.

**Wishing all of our families a safe and enjoyable break.
The first day back for pupils is Monday, 15th April!**

Term Dates

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

Monday 6th May: **May Day Bank Holiday - no school for pupils**

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

[Click here to view the term dates for 2024/25 on the school website](#)