

End of Half Term Newsletter



Swiss
Cottage
School
Development &
Research Centre

Inclusive
Nurturing
Inspiring

Friday 20th October 2023

Thank you for working with us to shape a positive start to the academic year. The transition for pupils into this new academic year, and creativity for personalised learning across every class, is through the partnership with families. We are so proud of the personal development and progress of the pupils across this half term through the curriculum themes.

Artist in Residence - Oily Cart

We were so excited to host the multi-sensory theatre group at the school for a creative arts takeover. Oily Cart have come in residence over a few years now, and this year's week long residence brought 'When the World Turns' to Swiss Cottage School. Our drama studio was transformed to a jungle. The Oily Cart team immersive experience made the pupils the part of an ecosystem surrounded by live plants, music, scents, sounds, and shadows. They experienced and discovered how they can feel the world turn as they connect with nature and one another.



<https://oilycart.org.uk/>

Hullabaloo Theatre

We also hosted performances at school from the incredible Hullabaloo team. They brought classes a sensory adventure with the shape shifting character 'tooob'. Classes explored performance of discovery and friendship, through an incredible piece of original music. We are thrilled to develop these partnerships so that creative experts can base their productions at our school.



Camden Cycle Training Team

The specialist team from Camden worked with pupils that were ready for their independent skills with cycling. The pupils completed cycle training and road safety skills in the local community. It is great to have the specialists from Camden join us at the school to support these important skills with their expertise.

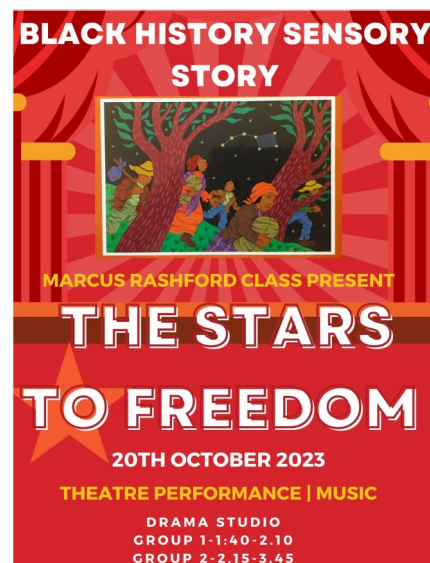


Harvest Festival

Classes explored seasonal topics this half term. This included a Harvest Festival to understand nature through peer learning activities across classes.

Black History Month

Classes across Lower School and Upper School are ending the half term with cross-curricular activities focused on diversity and cultures. Classes will take part in activities focused on dance workshops, music events, cooking lessons, food tasting, multi-sensory activities, and more. It is a wonderful celebration of a fantastic first half term!



Community & Sixth Form

The Sixth Form 'EmployMENT Pathway' led a stall at the Waitrose in Finchley Road. They explained their pottery and greeting card products, shared information on the school, and also made sales.

The Sixth Form pupils also host visitors when an event is taking place in our conference room. Pupils recently hosted School Leaders from across the country for an event at the school. This is part of their work-related learning curriculum.

Pupils in the graduating class have started their work-experience through our partnership with Mencap at ZSL London Zoo. The Sixth Form classes have started accessing The Hive Youth Centre to experience a learning environment within their local community.



Parent/Carer Workshops & Coffee Mornings

The workshops across this half term included Makaton, Communication Support for Pupils, Evidence for Learning, Preparation for Adulthood, Information Sessions, and Wellbeing through Knitting and Yoga. The coffee mornings have provided an important opportunity to meet with key team leads from Camden. We ended the half term with a special coffee morning to celebrate Rob, our Family Inclusion Team member who is finishing at Swiss after many years of support for families.

Partnerships



Our team showcased Evidence for Learning at the National TES SEN Show. Delegates explored how we use Efl as a school and for our families.

The school works with trainee teachers at UCL Institute of Education for their teacher training programme. This half term, Swiss Cottage school led training for 550 mainstream school trainee teachers at UCL IoE on their modules on supporting pupils with Special Educational Needs. We look forward to hosting groups of trainees at the school across this year.

International Delegations

The school was privileged to support three delegations across this half term. The Ministerial Delegations from Saudi Arabia and Egypt joined us to understand School Provision, Curriculum, Partnerships and Professional Learning Community Model, and the National Context. The third delegation from Kuwait also explored similar themes to inform their planning. We are very proud that the Swiss Cottage School community is supporting their considerations.



EmployMENT Pathway Online Store

Pupils in the Sixth Form sell pottery and greeting cards through an online store. They are designed, created, produced, package, sold, and posted through the curriculum:

<https://cardanddesign-sc.co.uk/>

Next Half Term: Family Learning Week

We look forward to welcoming families into school during Family Learning Week. This will be week of 6th November 2023 and your child's class session will be in their home-school diary. You will receive the day / time of your child's class session. This term we are also hosting workshops during Family Learning Week so that you have the option to stay, learn, and connect with other parents/carers.

Wishing all of our families a fun, enjoyable, and safe half term break!

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**