



Swallow Dell Weekly Newsletter 9th October

Autumn Term

Message from the Headteacher

Following on from the extended weekend break, children have been working hard in classrooms across the school. Class teachers have particularly been focusing on supporting children to be resilient in their learning and when learning new schools and the impact has been evident to see.

As always, attendance remains one of our highest priorities. Every day in school matters, and even small amounts of absence can have an impact on a child's learning and confidence. We ask all families to do everything they can to ensure their child attends school every day and

arrives on time, unless they are genuinely unwell. Regular attendance helps children make the most of every learning opportunity and supports them to thrive both academically and socially.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mr J Berry, Headteacher

Dates for the Diary

October

Wednesday 14th - Year 1 Phonics/Reading Workshop and Open Classroom

Wednesday 14th - Year 6 Trip to RAF Hendon

Thursday 15th - Year 2 Great Fire of London Day

Sunday 18th - Wednesday 21st - Year 5 PGL Trip Osmington Bay

Wednesday 21st - Reception to Year 6 Flu Vaccinations (Year 5 will be vaccinated on second session)

Thursday 22nd - Individual/sibling photos

Friday 23rd - End of Half Term (Normal finish time)

November

Monday 2nd - Pupils return to school

Friday 6th - Year 6 Selling Poppies

Monday 9th - Year 6 Selling Poppies

Wednesday 11th - Remembrance Day Assembly: Scouts/Guides can wear uniform

Wednesday 11th - Parent Teacher Consultations (3:30 - 7)

Thursday 12th - **School Closes 1:15pm** Parent Teacher Consultations (1:30 - 5)

Friday 13th - Children in Need

Monday 16th - Anti-bullying Week/Odd Socks Day

Wednesday 18th - Reception to Year 6 Flu Vaccination (2nd session)

Friday 20th - Prospective Parents Reception Open Morning

Saturday 21st - Prospective Parents Reception Open Morning

Wednesday 25th - Prospective Parents Reception Open Morning

Weekly Term Time Events:

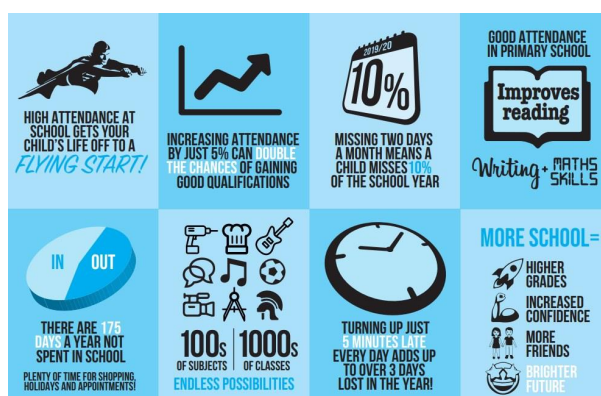
Baby & Toddler Group (every Wednesday)

Other Term Time Events:

Family Support Worker Coffee Morning every other Friday

[Visit our website for the latest term dates](#)

Attendance



Our whole school attendance target is **97%**, total attendance last week was **95.5%**.

 **Top Classes for Attendance were:**

Silver Birch - 98%

Beech - 98%

Willow - 98%

Well Done! 

Please follow the link below for further information about attendance:

[Spotlight on Attendance](#)

PTA News and Events

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are writing to give notice of the PTA's Annual General Meeting (AGM).

The AGM is an opportunity for members to hear about the PTA's activities over the past year, receive an update on the PTA's finances, and elect the committee for the coming year.

Date: *Thursday 22nd October*

Time: *6:30pm*

Venue: *Online - Join Zoom Meeting (please see email sent for link and joining information).*

*There will be a change of **Chair and Secretary** at this AGM. The current Treasurer intends to continue in the role.*

If you would like to stand for election to the Chair or Secretary role, or would like to nominate another member, please email pta@swallowdell.herts.sch.uk by Thursday 15th October.

All teachers, parents and carers of children at Swallow Dell are welcome to attend. We would particularly encourage anyone interested in becoming involved with the PTA to join the meeting and find out more.

If you have any questions or would like to raise an item for consideration under Any Other Business, please email pta@swallowdell.herts.sch.uk by Thursday 15th October.

We look forward to seeing you at the AGM.

Announcements, Notifications and School Events

Amazing News!

We are thrilled to announce that Olivia has been named the overall winner of this year's National Book Token Thank You Teacher Campaign, with her entry chosen from over 150,000 entries.



Olivia's lovely message to Mrs Nicolson highlighted how reading can inspire confidence, enjoyment and a love of learning. As part of her prize, Olivia won £50 in National Book Tokens, £500 vouchers for the school and every child in her class received a £10 National Book Token. Olivia helped to choose some new books for both school libraries. A huge

congratulations to Olivia on this fantastic achievement and thank you to Mrs Nicolson for inspiring a love of reading in her pupils. We are incredibly proud of them both! 🌟📖

Year 1 and 6 Buddies

Year 6 and Year 1 have begun their weekly buddy sessions together. These sessions offer our younger and older pupils the opportunity to build positive relationships across the different key stages.

We look forward to updating you with more photos and exciting news later on in the term.





Parking

We appreciate that dropping off and collecting your children can be a challenging time in terms of parking, but please ensure you are considerate to our neighbours and ensure that you park safely and legally. If possible, consider walking to school or parking on a nearby street and walking a short distance to the school to reduce traffic directly outside the school and keep everyone safe. Thank you.

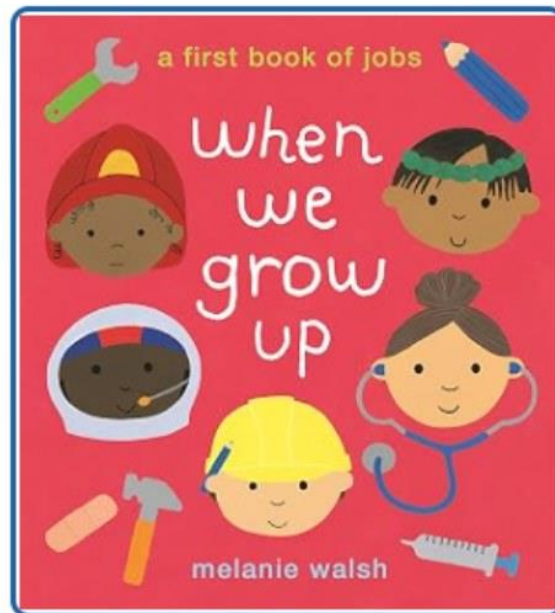
Can you help?

If you have access to cable reels that are going spare, they would be greatly appreciated for our KS2 Forest School. Please contact the school should you be able to help us get hold of any!

Mrs C Joyce's Book Review

When we grow up by Melanie Walsh

Age 3+



This beautifully illustrated book encourages children to think about what they want to be when they grow up. From page one, this book shares the message that you can be whatever you want to be. Whether it is a vet, mechanic or dancer, this book shares the positive message that you can be anything you want to be. This is a fantastic book for starting conversations about aspirations and future dreams.

Swallow Dell Champions

*Celebrating the achievements of our children who have shown examples of our values:
Kindness, Respect and Ambition. Well done!*

Swallow Dell Way Class Champions from 25th September 2026 🏆

Rec Pine - Olivia

Rec Chestnut - Niamh

Y1 Beech - Reece

Y1 Cherry - Arabella M

Y2 Oak - Indigo

Y2 Maple - Ruairi

Y3 Silver Birch - Aiydhen

Y3 Apple - Ayla

Y4 Ash - Callie

Y4 Willow - Rose

Y5 Sycamore - Trishaan

Y5 Elm - Harry

Y6 Cedar - Bonnie

Y6 Poplar - Ruby

Rowan Class - Franklin

WISH - Henry

PE Champions 🏆

Rec Pine - Shania

Rec Chestnut - Buster

Y1 Beech - Reece

Y1 Cherry - Olivia

Y2 Oak - Jasmine

Y2 Maple - Arthur

Y3 Silver Birch - Henry

Y3 Apple - Elijah

Y4 Ash - Liam

Y4 Willow - Aimee

Y5 Sycamore - Tuesday

Y5 Elm - Alfie

Y6 Cedar - Harry

Y6 Poplar - Brooke

External Notices

Cooking Courses

Save money and cook better than the takeaway



Join our free, fun cooking courses

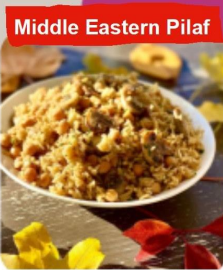
Impress your friends, learn to cook great food at home in just two weeks!



Chana Masala



Italian Pasta Sauce



Middle Eastern Pilaf

Meals can be quick, fun and cheap to cook:

- Free ingredients included
- Free, flexible, home-based short courses
- All you need is a kitchen and a phone

To register

Phone / text / WhatsApp
07813 678 660

Email:
adele.buckland@bagssoftaste.org

Sign up online:
<https://bagssoftaste.org/students>



All we ask is that you cook the three recipes and post photos of your lovely food, then at the end we'll send you a free gift and more great budget-friendly recipe sheets.

How long does it take? About two weeks but you can work at your own pace.

All you need is a kitchen and a phone!

Are you worried about the rising cost of food and how to eat healthily on a tight budget?

Then join one of our free, fun cooking courses. Learn how to make delicious, healthy meals from all over the world whilst saving money.

FREE, ingredients included*

- Cook tasty, exciting meals, cheaply
- Get tips on how to budget and save money when you're shopping
- Learn how to waste less

How does it work?

We deliver three step-by-step recipes and all the ingredients you need, straight to your door.

Your personal mentor will support you by phone or WhatsApp with lots of tips and advice along the way.

What do I need to do?

How do I join?

Sign up online:

<https://bagsoftaste.org/students>

Phone / text / WhatsApp

07813 678 660

Email:

adele.buckland@bagsoftaste.org

Once we've confirmed your registration we'll contact you to arrange your delivery

***For qualifying participants only**

Coram Family Lives Autumn Term Workshops



Anxiety around ADHD Workshop - Wednesday 21 October, 9.30am to 11.30am

This workshop helps parents/carers understand what ADHD is, why it makes sense for a child to be anxious if they have ADHD, strategies to help support you and your child, plus signposting to other support that is available.

Sibling Rivalry Workshop - Monday 9 November, 9.30am to 11.30am

This workshop provides parents/carers with practical strategies and tools to effectively foster positive sibling relationships, promote cooperation and manage conflicts between children.

Reducing Conflict Workshop - Wednesday 25 November, 7pm to 9pm

This workshop is for parents/carers struggling with conflict within their family life and provides tools to promote a cooperative and collaborative approach to resolving the conflict.

It's a Dad's Life Workshop - Thursday 26 November, 7pm to 9pm

This workshop empower fathers with the knowledge and skills to develop deep connections with their children, enhancing their parenting journey.

Navigating the Storm (Teens) Workshop - Wednesday 2 December, 9.30am to 11.30am

This workshop is designed to support parents of pre-teens and teenagers facing challenging behaviours. It aims to equip parents with effective strategies and tools to manage the complexities of raising adolescents, fostering a positive parent-teen relationship

The two-hour workshops will be online via MS TEAMS

All our programmes provide support, information and resources to parents, carers and adult family members in Hertfordshire so they can help their children reach their full potential. For more info, please contact **Louise** on **0204 522 8700/8701** or email **services@coramfamilylives.org.uk** or scan the QR code for our online form.



We build better family lives together

www.coramfamilylives.org.uk

 @coramfamilyliveshertsandbeds

Funded by
Hertfordshire
County Council



Coram Family Lives is registered as a company limited by guarantee in England and Wales No. 3817762. Registered charity No.1077722.
Registered address: Coram Family Lives, Coram Campus, 41 Brunswick Square, London, WC1N 1AZ

Dance Club



SUPER STAR SPORT

DANCE CLUB

SWALLOW DELL
PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL
Blackthorn Road, Welwyn Garden City, Herts, AL7 3JP

FREE TRIAL SESSION
Wednesday 4 November FREE • ADVANCE BOOKING REQUIRED

6-WEEK BLOCK: 11 NOVEMBER – 16 DECEMBER
Every Wednesday

TIME
5:30–6:30pm

AGES
5–11 YEARS

6-WEEK BLOCK
£39

MOVE • GROOVE • PERFORM • CREATE • EXPRESS • HAVE FUN!

DANCE & DISCOVER	BUILD NEW SKILLS	COME PREPARED
• Street & commercial dance • Routines, games & performance	• Rhythm, balance & coordination • Confidence, creativity & teamwork	• Sportswear & trainers • Named water bottle

ALL ABILITIES • OPEN TO ALL SCHOOLS • EXPERIENCED & DBS-CHECKED COACH

BOOK YOUR PLACE: Scan the QR code

Questions? operations@superstarsportnwl.com

SCAN TO BOOK

COLLECTION: 6:30pm

Tech & STEM Camp

Dear Parents & Guardians,

October half term is fast approaching — and if you're looking for exciting, fun-filled childcare with a difference, we've got you covered! We're thrilled to announce our October Tech & STEM Camp at **Swallow Dell Primary School, AL7 3JP** running on the **26th – 30th October**.

Perfect for children aged 5–12, our camps combine hands-on technology with creativity, giving young learners the chance to explore coding, robotics, engineering, and more in a safe, engaging, and spooky Halloween-themed environment!

 What's in store this October?

This year's camp is packed with spook-tacular activities your child won't want to miss:

-  **Micro Bots, LEGO Machines & Big Bots** – Build and control awesome robots and machines, take on exciting challenges and bring your creations to life.
-  **Movie Making & Video Game Creation** – Create your own movies, explore video game creation and bring your digital ideas to life through exciting projects.
-  **LittleBits, K'NEX & 3D Creations** – Get hands-on with LittleBits, K'NEX and 3D creations as you design, build and invent amazing things.
-  **Crazy Circuits, Science & Cool Coding** – Experiment with crazy circuits, discover exciting science and learn cool coding skills while creating your own projects.
-  **Minecraft, VR & Augmented Reality** – Create Minecraft Redstone marvels, step into immersive Virtual Reality and explore amazing Augmented Reality adventures.

 **Want to see what's happening at your camp?**

Check your **full camp schedule on Pebble** or see the **back of the flyer** for the activities running at your chosen venue.

 Why choose our October Tech Camps?

- ✓ Safe, fun, and educational childcare during half term
- ✓ Hands-on access to cutting-edge tech
- ✓ A Halloween twist that makes learning even more exciting
- ✓ Expert instructors who make STEM engaging and inspiring

 Pricing & Booking

£45 per day

 Or save with our EXCLUSIVE offer: **Book 5 days & save 10%**

✓ We accept childcare vouchers and tax-free childcare

📱 Spaces are filling fast – Book Now: <https://pbbi.uk/4d7Gw7Y>

Let's make this October half term an unforgettable adventure of coding, creativity, and discovery! 🚀👻

Warm wishes,

The Next Thing Education Team

🌐 www.nextthing.education | ✉ info@nextthing.education | ☎ 01442 873150

OCTOBER HALF-TERM 2026

WOW CAMPS
THE TECH CAMP
SUPERCHARGED!

Build skills. Make friends. Have fun!

Swallow Dell Primary School, AL7 3JP

26TH-30TH OCTOBER 2026

£45 DAILY OR BOOK 5 DAYS & SAVE 10%

AGES 5-12

BOOK YOUR PLACE!

OCTOBER CAMPS 2026
DISCOVER NEW ACTIVITIES THIS OCTOBER!

The timetables below are for this October – we refresh activities every holiday so there's always something new to experience!

OUR ACTIVITY COLOUR SYSTEM: FIRE (YELLOW), SPARK (PURPLE), POWER (RED), CLASSIC (BLUE)

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
LITTLE BITS	MICRO BOTS	CRAZY CIRCUITS	VIRTUAL REALITY	LEGO MACHINES
CIRCUITS	SCIENCE EXPERIMENTS	BIG BOTS	MINECRAFT REDSTONE	3D CREATIONS
MOVIE MAKING	VIDEO GAME CREATION	COOL CODING	KNEX	AUGMENTED REALITY

Please note that activities are subject to change due to availability or unforeseen circumstances.

WHAT TO BRING: Lunch & drink, Water Bottle, Headphones, Suitable Appropriate Clothing

FIND A CAMP NEAR YOU! We have more than 80 camps across the UK. View Locations → www.nextthing.education

RAVE REVIEWS ★★★★★
"Both my son and daughter had lots of fun, made new friends, learnt new skills and will not stop talking about the Robots!"
Lucy Hart - St Ebbe's Primary School

BOOK 5 DAYS AND GET 10% OFF

TAX FREE CHILD CARE VOUCHERS £45 PER DAY

Book Now: www.nextthing.education | 01442 873150 | info@nextthing.education

Hope Support

Hope Support Services

help@hopesupport.org.uk

FREE & CONFIDENTIAL ADVICE

All our support is confidential and completely FREE

ONE TO ONE SUPPORT

Get one to one support when it is needed and for as long as it is needed

PEER TO PEER SUPPORT

Talk with other young people who have gone through a similar experience

A FULLY DIGITAL SERVICE

You can access the service using text, audio or video.



If you're aged 5-25, live in the UK and have a loved one who is seriously ill, we're here for you!

To find out more call 01989 566317 or visit www.hopesupport.org.uk/support

Step to Skills Opportunities

[Watford Inclusive Job Fair Tickets](#)

[Digital Marketing Course - Booking Link](#)

[Microsoft Office Courses](#)

[CV and Job Interview Skills Courses](#)

[Early Years Skills Bootcamp](#)

[Connect To Work](#)

Welwyn Garden City 20mph consultation letter

Dear parent/carer,

Consultation on 20mph speed limits in Welwyn Garden City.

We'd like to hear your views on where 20mph speed limits may be appropriate in Welwyn Garden City.

Lower traffic speeds can make streets feel safer and more comfortable, especially for people crossing the road and children travelling to school. Slower traffic may also encourage more people to walk, cycle or use public transport.

We're not considering 20mph limits on key roads such as Stanborough Road,

Bessemer Road, Broadwater Road, Black Fan Road and Chequers. Our 'Right Place, Right Pace' approach recognises that different roads have different roles, with some helping people travel between communities and others supporting residents, schools, shops and everyday journeys.



To have your say, please complete our online survey at www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/20mph. The survey closes on Sunday 11 October 2026.

Yours faithfully,

The 20mph Project Team

Hertfordshire County Council

Welwyn Parent Support Sessions



WELWYN PARENT SUPPORT SESSIONS

Struggling with your child's behaviour at home? Feeling stressed, tired or isolated?

Come along to one of our parent support sessions for guidance and connection. You'll have a chance to talk with a Nessie therapist, a family support worker, and other parents facing similar challenges. Together, we'll provide support, discuss concerns, problem solve, and explore strategies or resources to meet your family's needs.

Autumn Term

Holwell School, Welwyn, AL7 3RP	Applecroft School, Welwyn, AL8 6JZ
Wed 21st October	Thurs 3rd December
10:00am - 12:00pm	10:00am - 12:00pm
BOOK HERE	BOOK HERE

Spring Term

Swallow Dell School, Welwyn, AL7 3JP	Welwyn St Mary's School, Welwyn, AL6 9DJ
Thurs 4th February '27	Wed 13th March '27
10:00am - 12:00pm	10:00am - 12:00pm
BOOK HERE	BOOK HERE

Summer Term

Applecroft School, Welwyn, AL8 6JZ	Holwell School, Welwyn, AL7 3RP
Thurs 27th May '27	Wed 30th June '27
10:00am - 12:00pm	10:00am - 12:00pm
BOOK HERE	BOOK HERE

[Holwell 21st October](#)

[Applecroft 3rd December](#)

[Swallow Dell 4th February](#)

[Welwyn St Mary 17th March](#)

[Applecroft 27th May](#)

Parenting When Separated for Parents of SEN Children



Come along to our six-session programme, specifically tailored to help separated parents navigate the complexities of co-parenting and provide the best possible support for their SEND child. This is a valuable opportunity to enhance co-parenting skills, support children's development and build a strong foundation for the future.

The programme includes:

- Understanding SEN and its impact on children and family dynamics
- Effective communication skills
- Managing emotions and stress
- Collaborative problem solving
- Building a supportive network
- Creating a unified parenting approach

Dates and times

Date: Tuesday 13th and 20th October, 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th November 2026

Time: 9.30am to 11.30am

Date: Wednesday 14th and 21st October, 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th November 2026

Time: 7.00pm to 9.00pm

This will be delivered online via MS TEAMS

SCAN ME



For more information or to make a referral, scan the QR code, email services@coramfamilylives.org.uk or call **0204 522 8700** or **0204 522 8701**

We build better family lives together

www.coramfamilylives.org.uk

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Halloween at Church Farm



Halloween at church farm

24th - 31st October

Visit Church Farm Ardeley
A real working farm!

- * Spooky Farm Trail to see the farm animals & Halloween Décor
- * Big Bale Play
- * Tractors & Digger Ride-Ons
- * Creepy Fairy Woodland Play
- * Spooky Photo Opportunities
- * Spot the Pumpkin & sweet treat prizes
- * Scarecrow Trail
- * Find the Spooky Fairy Doors
- * Find your unique Witch and Halloween name
- * Spooktacular Costume Stickers for the best dressed boys, girls & dogs
- * Halloween Activity Pack, 'I've Been to Church Farm' Sticker
- * Puzzles and Colouring-in fun
- * Farm Sensory Trail

Additional Activities

- Pumpkin Picking & Carving
- Trick or Treating in our Spooky Wood (4-6pm)
- Horrid Hay Tractor & Trailer Rides
- Eerie Egg Collecting
- Ghoulish Goat Walking

Book online www.churchfarmardeley.co.uk



CHURCH FARM, ARDELEY
A Free Range Experience