



Swallow Dell Weekly Newsletter 11th September 2026

Autumn Term

Message from the Headteacher

It has been wonderful to begin the new academic year with such a positive first full week. The school has been full of enthusiasm and purposeful learning, and it has been a pleasure to see children across all year groups settling quickly into their new classes and routines.

A particular highlight has been welcoming our new Nursery and Reception children. They have made a fantastic start to life at Swallow Dell, approaching new experiences with confidence, curiosity and enthusiasm. We are incredibly proud of how well they have settled and would like to thank parents and carers for their support during this important transition.

Across the school, classrooms have been busy with learning from the very first day. Staff have worked incredibly hard to establish routines, build positive relationships and ensure that every child feels happy, safe and ready to learn. The effort and commitment shown by both children and staff has been impressive, and it has created a calm and purposeful start to the year.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mr J Berry, Headteacher

Dates for the Diary

September

Monday 14th - Autumn Term Clubs start

Thursday 17th - Mental Health Support Team Coffee Morning for Reception parents

Monday 21st - PGL Parent Information Evening

Monday 28th - Year 2 Maths Workshop and Open Classroom

October

Friday 2nd - Occasional Day (School Closed)

Wednesday 7th - Reception Stay and Play

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)

Weekly Term Time Events:

Baby & Toddler Group (every Wednesday)

Other Term Time Events:

Family Support Worker Coffee Morning every other Friday

Parent Network Group (for Parents of SEND Children) every other Monday

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

Attendance



Announcements, Notifications and School Events



Mrs C Joyce's Book Review

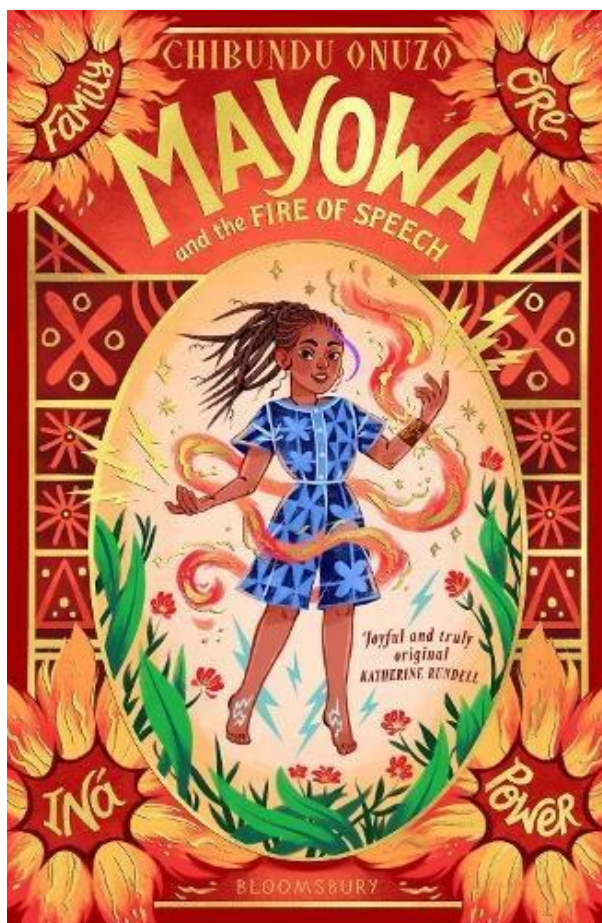
Mayowa and the Sea of Worlds

Mayowa and the Sea of Words is a magical and imaginative adventure that celebrates the power of books, emotions and kindness. In the first book, 10 year old Mayowa discovered that she had superpowers; when she jumps onto a book she can harness the emotions from inside a book and share them with others.

In this eagerly awaited second book, her adventures take her from England to Nigeria, where she explores how both her English and Nigerian culture can be used together to help those who need her help. Mayowa learns to combine her book jumping with ancient word weaving to fight for justice and the environment.

Both books in this series, are two of my favourite books read this year and can both be found in our school library.

Mrs C Joyce, Assistant Headteacher



Secondary School Applications

Please find information from Herts County Council about how to apply for a secondary school place for your Year 6 child.

[Applying for a Secondary School Place](#)

Secondary Transfer 2027

A guide for parents and carers of children applying to **secondary or upper schools for 2027**

This leaflet explains how to apply for a secondary school place for children born between 1 September 2015 and 31 August 2016 and upper schools for children born between 1 September 2013 and 31 August 2014.

All the information you need is available on our website www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions

The website has full details about the application process and a school directory providing information about secondary and upper schools in Hertfordshire.

Apply online at www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions

You should visit the website to view admissions information and apply online because:

- it is quick, easy to use and secure
- you will receive immediate confirmation that your application has been received, and you can view it at any time
- you can access your school offer before allocation letters are received
- you can accept the school place offered online.

If you do not have internet access at home, you can apply online from any Hertfordshire library.

The closing date for applications is Saturday 31 October 2026.

What happens when?

1 September 2026	Online application system opens.
June, July, September, and October	Secondary and upper schools hold their open events (Details available at www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/schoolsdirectory)
31 October 2026	Deadline for applications
1 December 2026	Last date to: • submit reasons for making a late application and for that application to be considered 'on time' • notify us of a change of address and for that address to be taken into account for allocation day Please refer to the online admission pages for more detail about these processes.
29 January 2027	Last date to make a late application to be considered for allocation day.
1 March 2027	Allocation Day. School places are offered.

Swallow Dell Champions

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

The Swallow Dell Way Class Champions

*Please keep an eye out for this week's values champions and PE champions in **next week's** newsletter!*

External Notices

Smartphone usage had a significant impact on children and young people. More information can be found here: [Smartphone Free Childhood](#)



Find some top tips for a healthy lunch!

Beezee FAMILIES

Making healthy school lunches easy!

Helping children make healthier choices at school doesn't have to be complicated. A few simple changes can build healthy habits and help your children stay energised and ready to learn throughout the day. Here's a few tips to help you get started:

Tip 1:

Pack some healthy snacks

Including a healthy snack in your child's lunchbox, like a preferred fruit or plain popcorn, can help them stay energised throughout the school day and make nutritious choices easier.

Tip 2:

Know what options are available

Take a look at your child's school lunch menu together and talk about the healthier choices available. Exploring the options in advance can encourage children to try new foods and make balanced choices at lunchtime.

Tip 3:

Talk about healthy choices

School lunchtimes can be a great time to encourage independence and positive decision-making. Agree simple goals together and celebrate healthy choices throughout the week.

Hertfordshire

Want more healthy lifestyle support?
Check out our website to find out how we can help your family.*

Scan here or Click to find out more

hrt.maximusuk.co.uk

* Our courses are designed for families with children aged 5-15.

Incredible Years Parenting Programmes

The Incredible Years - 11 Week Parenting Programme



For dads and male carers of children aged 4-11 in Welwyn and Hatfield whose children display anxious and aggressive behaviour at home.



"I would recommend the Incredible Years to any dads, especially who have neurodivergent children. I am now in touch with dads with children with similar needs"

Swallow Dell School, Blackthorn Road,
Welwyn Garden City
AL7 3JP

Monday's
5:45pm - 7:45pm
21st September 2026 -
7th December 2026

[Scan to book >>](#)



The Incredible Years - 12 Week Parenting Programme



For parents and carers of children aged 4-11 in Welwyn and Hatfield whose children display anxious and aggressive behaviour at home.



"It's been informative and has given me emotional support. It has helped to change things at home, and I have learnt from other people's experiences"

Fridays
10am - 12pm
11th September 2026 - 11th
December 2026

[BOOK HERE](#)



Creswick Academy,
Sir John Newsom Way,
Welwyn Garden City,
AL7 4FL

