



Swallow Dell Weekly Newsletter 18th September 2026

Autumn Term

Message from the Headteacher

Another great week at Swallow Dell! The children have continued to settle well into their new classrooms and routines and have been working hard across all areas of their learning.

Reading remains our highest priority. All children will be bringing books home to read and practise regularly, and we are grateful for the support families provide with this. Regular reading at home has a significant impact on children's progress, confidence and enjoyment of books, so thank you for working with us to develop strong reading habits.

Attendance is also a key priority for the school this year. Every day in school matters, and good attendance is closely linked to children's achievement, wellbeing and social development. We will be monitoring attendance closely throughout the year and will work with families where attendance becomes a concern. Thank you for your support in ensuring your child attends school every day.

Have a great weekend.

Mr J Berry, Headteacher

Dates for the Diary

September

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)

November

Monday 2nd - Pupils return to school

Friday 6th - Y6 Prefects selling poppies

Monday 9th - Y6 Prefects selling poppies

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

Wednesday 11th - Parent/Teacher Consultations (3:30 - 7:00pm)

Thursday 12th - School Closes at 1:15pm

Thursday 12th - Parent/Teacher Consultations (1:30- 5:00pm)

Friday 13th - Children in Need

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%**.*

Top Classes for Attendance were:

Beech - 99.6%

Sycamore - 99.3%

Silver Birch - 99.2%

Maple - 99.1%

Well Done! 



Announcements, Notifications and School Events

Reception Classes

What a fantastic first full week our Reception children have had! We are so proud of how brilliantly they have settled into school life and embraced all the exciting opportunities that Reception has to offer.

The children have been very busy making new friends, exploring the indoor and outdoor environments and learning our school routines. They have shown such wonderful enthusiasm, curiosity and bravery as they begin their school journey.

Well done, Reception — you have been amazing! We are so excited to see you continue to learn and grow over the coming weeks and months!

Miss Kelly, Miss Eaves and the Reception team



Young Carers

If you believe your child could be a Young Carer, please follow the link below to share information with our school.

[Identifying and Supporting Young Carers Form](#)

Mrs C Joyce's Book Review

The House with Chicken Legs Runs Away

This week's book review is the magical sequel to *The House with Chicken Legs*.

In this book we rejoin Marinka as she travels around the world in her house with chicken legs. However, one day she begins to feel that something is wrong with her house as little things start to go wrong and break within the house. That is until, one day, the house breaks apart and the chicken legs and house shell run away, leaving Marinka along at the top of a mountain. In this mystical adventure, Marinka and her friends must face danger and riddles to save her house.

This is one of my favorite books that I read over the summer and can be found in our school library.



Swallow Dell Champions

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

Last Week's Swallow Dell Way Class Champions 🏆

Rec Pine - Noah

Rec Chestnut - Rosie

Y1 Beech - Mabel

Y1 Cherry - Sienna B

Y2 Oak - Thomas

Y2 Maple - Cansu

Y3 Silver Birch - Johvan

Y3 Apple - Millie

Y4 Ash - Toby

Y4 Willow - Amari

Y5 Sycamore - Frankie

Y5 Elm - Ada

Y6 Cedar - Harvey

Y6 Poplar - Luke

Rowan Class - Blake

WISH - Noctis

PE Champions 

Rec Pine - Vivian

Rec Chestnut - Nathanael

Y1 Beech - Eliana

Y1 Cherry - Harrison

Y2 Oak - Elouise

Y2 Maple - Ella

Y3 Silver Birch - Acelin

Y3 Apple - Rheon

Y4 Ash - Rosie

Y4 Willow - Marcell

Y5 Sycamore - Emmy

Y5 Elm - Miruna

Y6 Cedar - Ella

Y6 Poplar - Anna

External Notices

Protective Behaviours Courses

We have five fully funded Supporting Families with Protective Behaviours courses for mums, dads and carers starting soon. There are some spaces available on our online and face to face courses. The courses are funded by HCC for parents and carers who may need some additional support.

Online:

For Mums, Dads & carers

- Thursday mornings 1 Oct – 26 Nov 9.30am -11.30am
- Wednesday evenings 30 Sept – 25 Nov 7.00pm – 9.00pm

For Dads & Male carers:

- Thursday evenings 1 Oct – 26 Nov 7.00pm – 9.00pm

Face to Face

- Broxbourne – Friday mornings 18 Sept – 20 Nov 9.30am – 11.30am

- Hertford - Thursday mornings 24 Sept – 19 Nov 9.30am – 11.30am

Please note that parents and/or their children need to live in Hertfordshire.

These fully funded 8-week term time courses can help with:

- Understanding how Feelings, Thoughts and Behaviour link together (including the 3-Part brain and stress response system)
- Understanding what may be influencing their child's behaviour
- Responding to a range of feelings e.g. anger, frustration, anxiety, stress and worry
- Improving communication to build better relationships
- Building on strengths
- Learning strategies to help parents and their family feel safe

To book a place on any of our courses this term please use this link:

<https://forms.office.com/e/xx8X4pUcj4>



Parenting while separated Programme



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**

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County Council



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Young Carers

Young Carers!
celebration!

A celebration of YOU!

A FREE fun day for young carers!

Take a break, meet new people and celebrate who you are.

MEET & CHAT

- Meet young carers from across Hertfordshire.
- Share your views about what matters to you.

GET CREATIVE

- Join fun workshops to express yourself and celebrate who you are!

EXPLORE & DISCOVER

- Marketplace with organisations that support young people.
- Find out about local services and activities.

RELAX & HAVE FUN

- Enjoy lunch and refreshments.
- Relax, socialise and make new friends!

WHEN?

Tuesday
27 October 2026
10:00am – 4:00pm

WHERE?

Oaklands College,
The Campus
Welwyn Garden City
AL8 6AH

FREE EVENT!

Lunch and refreshments included!

WHO CAN ATTEND?

Young people aged 8 to 17 who are registered as a Young Carer with Hertfordshire County Council.

NOT REGISTERED YET?

Email us at youngcarers@hertfordshire.gov.uk and a member of the Young Carers Team will be happy to help.

QUESTIONS?

Email participationteam@hertfordshire.gov.uk

READY TO SIGN UP?

Complete the registration form: [Young Carers Celebration](#)

Hertfordshire County Council

HERTFORDSHIRE PARTICIPATION TEAM

PARTICIPATION TEAM

Half Term Camp

WOW CAMPS
THE TECH CAMP
SUPERCHARGED!

Build skills. Make friends. Have fun!

OCTOBER HALF-TERM 2026

AWESOME SCIENCE SHOWS

MINECRAFT REDSTONE

CIRCUITRY INVENTIONS

VIRTUAL REALITY

3D STRUCTURES

ROBOT BUILDING

MOVIE MAKING COURSE

LASER TAG ARENA

Swallow Dell Primary School, AL7 3JP

26TH-30TH OCTOBER 2026

£45 DAILY OR BOOK 5 DAYS & SAVE 10%

SAFE & SECURE

OFSTED REGISTERED

TAX-FREE CHILDCARE ACCEPTED

AGES 5-12

SPECIALIST PRESENTERS EVERY DAY

BOOK YOUR PLACE!

www.nextthing.education

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

- SPARK = PURPLE
- POWER = RED
- CLASSIC = BLUE
- CLASSIC SET

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	ALPHABETIC REALITY

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

WHAT TO BRING

- Lunch & Snacks
- Water Bottle
- Medication if Required
- Weather Appropriate Clothing

SAFE & SECURE

EXPERT INSTRUCTORS

AGES 5-12

FIND A CAMP NEAR YOU

We have more than 80 camps running this summer across the UK.

[View Locations](http://www.nextthing.education)

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 CHILDCARE

CHILDCARE VOUCHERS

£45 PER DAY

Book Now:

www.nextthing.education

01442 873150

info@nextthing.education