SOUNDWELL ACADEMY

INCLUDE · RESPECT · NURTURE · PROMOTE · INNOVATE

TERM 1 NEWSLETTER

SOUNDWELL ACADEMY (26/27)



Midsomer Norton Schools Partnership

All Different, All Equal, All Achieving Together

Ofsted Good Provider

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TERM DATES 2026-2027

Term 1: Thursday 3rd September 2026 – Friday 23rd October 2026

Term 2: Monday 2nd November 2026 – Friday 18th December 2026

Term 3: Monday 4th January 2027 – Friday 12th February 2027

Term 4: Monday 22nd February 2027 – Thursday 25th March 2027

Term 5: Monday 12th April 2027 – Friday 28th May 2027

Term 6: Monday 7th June 2027 – Friday 23rd July 2027

INSET DATES

- Thursday 3rd September 2026
- Friday 4th September 2026
- Thursday 22nd October 2026
- Friday 23rd October 2026
- Monday 4th January 2027
- Tuesday 5th January 2027
- Monday 12th April 2027
- Monday 5th July 2027

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A Message from our Head Teacher:

Soundwell Academy has enjoyed a highly successful and positive start to Term One, with students demonstrating incredible resilience as they return to their routines. Transitioning back to school after the long six-week summer break can often be challenging, yet the children have settled into their classrooms with remarkable ease.

The school community is already buzzing with energy, and the students have quickly re-established their friendships, built positive relationships with staff, and embraced the daily structure of academy life with fantastic enthusiasm.

The success of these opening weeks is a direct reflection of the dedication of the staff and the wonderful attitude of the pupils. It has been incredibly rewarding to see both returning students and new faces adapt so quickly, laying a strong, confident foundation for a brilliant and productive academic year ahead.



Attendance!

If your child wakes up feeling unwell, please assess whether their symptoms allow them to participate in the school day. Children experiencing minor ailments—such as a runny nose, mild headache, or slight tummy ache, are encouraged to attend.

Our staff will closely monitor their well-being and contact you immediately if they become too unwell to stay. However, if your child is genuinely ill and unable to manage the school day, they should remain at home to rest and prevent the spread of infection to others.

When keeping your child at home, please notify the school office or leave a message on our answer-phone service at **0117 4280 505** before **8:45 am** with a reason for absence.

If you are unable to call then you can report an absence with details of reason using: **attendance@soundwellacademy.org.uk**

If you are unsure as to whether your child can attend school please contact your GP, speak to the school office or access the link for advice. **https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/**

Absence calls must be made to the school EACH day that your child is absent.

ZONES OF REGULATION

AUTUMN 2026

WHAT IS ZONES OF REGULATION?

The Zones of Regulation is a framework that helps students recognise and manage their emotions. It uses four colour-coded zones to describe how we feel and behave. Below are some body signals we may notice.

- 🔵 Blue Zone - Low energy and down feelings
- 🟢 Green Zone - Calm energy and a sense of control
- 🟡 Yellow Zone - Higher energy and stronger feelings
- 🔴 Red Zone - Extremely high energy and strongest feelings

Use Zone language during everyday moments (e.g., "You look like you're in the blue zone. Want to talk about it?")

Why We Use It at School

We teach the Zones of Regulation to help students:

- Identify their emotions
- Understand how emotions affect their behaviour
- Learn strategies to regulate their feelings
- Communicate how they're feeling in a safe, ready and respectful way in line with our school values.

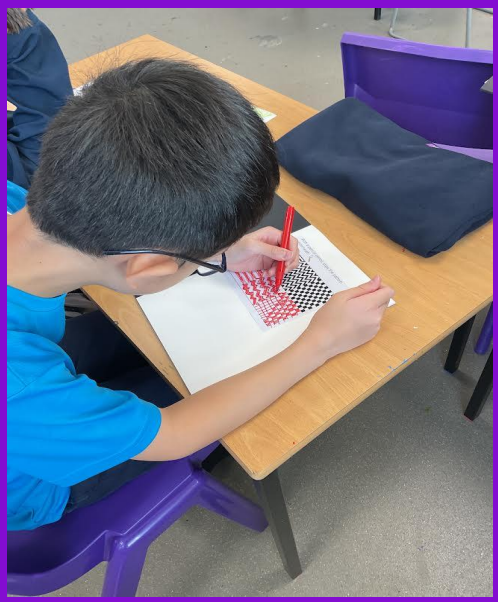


3AB



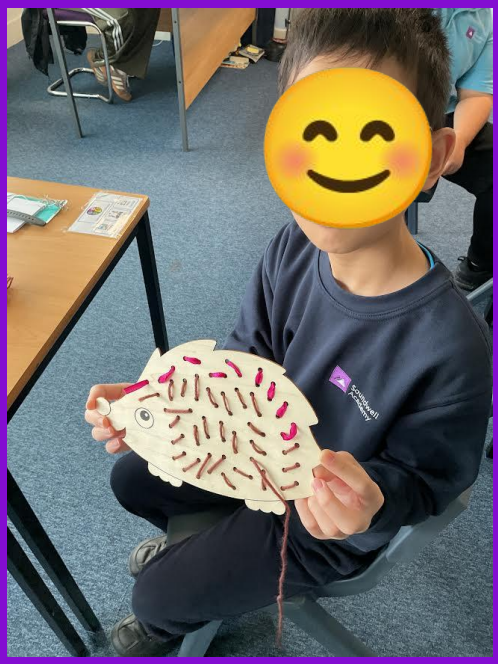
3AB have been exploring pattern across Art, Topic and English.

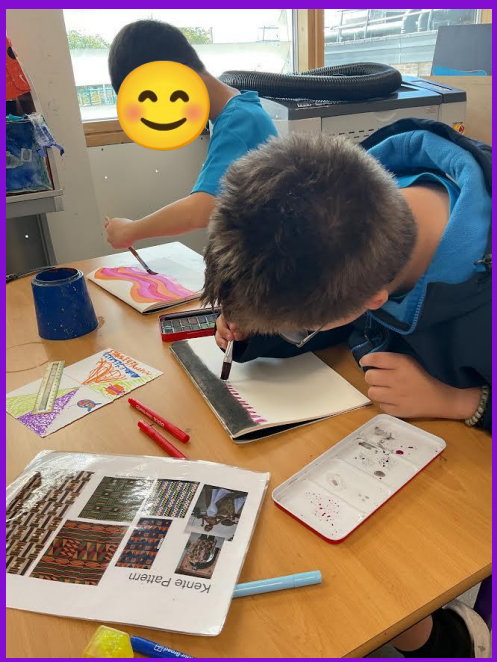
We are currently looking at comparisons between Kenya and the UK linked to our book Wangari's Trees of Peace - a great true story.



Students have explored how pattern creates meaning in African Art as well as how this looks in the illustrations in our book.

3AB have settled well as a new class and are enjoying their first year at Soundwell!



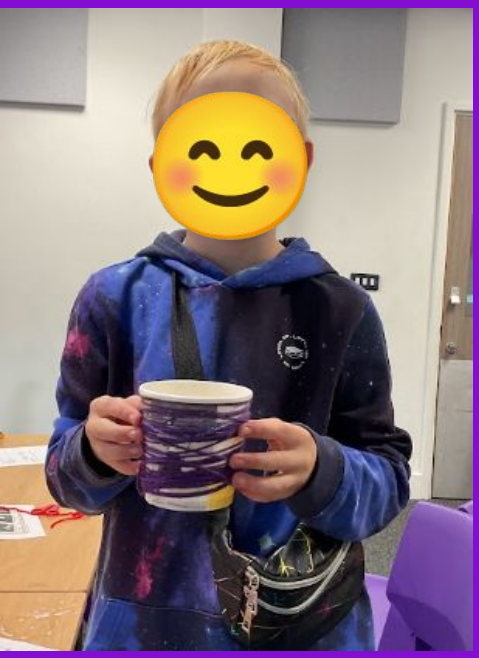


2CN





2CN have been earning all about Africa in Topic this term and have enjoyed making bracelets and exploring other cultures. They enjoyed making water transporters with cups and yarn!



In Maths, pupils in 2CN have been learning about place value this term. They have enjoyed using manipulatives to help their understanding.

The pupils have been enjoying lots of different recipes including ham kebabs and pizza wraps!



Towards the end of term one, they have enjoyed milkshakes, hot chocolate and tiffin at a local cafe!

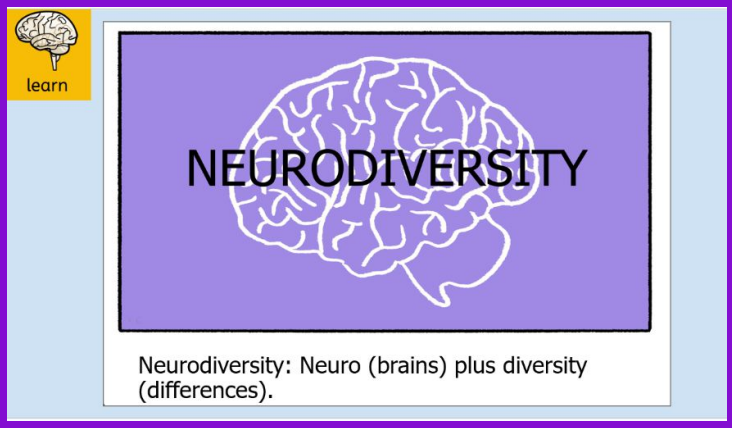


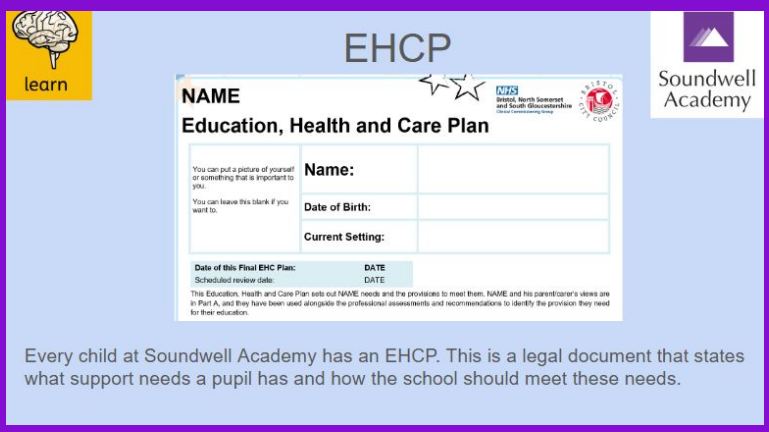
3CB

3CB have been learning about neurodiversity and the strengths and challenges it brings. We have been learning about autism, ADHD, dyslexia and other neurodivergent conditions. We have been learning about our own needs and understanding what an EHCP is.

We have discovered that many neurodiverse people have super powers which give them unique strengths, such as pattern spotting, problem solving, the ability to hyperfocus and become an expert in their area of special interest.

We have also learnt about the creativity and imagination that neurodiverse people can bring to the workplace, meaning they are often sought after by certain sectors.





Every child at Soundwell Academy has an EHCP. This is a legal document that states what support needs a pupil has and how the school should meet these needs.

4BD



Our talented cooks in 4BD have been busy practicing their culinary skills this week as part of their Home Cooking qualification! The students successfully prepared and baked delicious individual vegetable tarts, mastering the art of making a savory cheese pastry from scratch and topping it with fresh tomatoe



Beyond learning how to handle ingredients and follow recipes, this practical course focuses heavily on building essential life skills. By stepping into the kitchen, the students are developing the confidence, independenc and self-reliance they need to prepare nutritious meals for themselves now and in the future.



Fantastic work, 4BD—keep up the great cooking!

4NA

4NA have been attending Kingswood Leisure Centre and Gym this term, the students had an induction so that they knew how to use the equipment. They focus on three pieces each week and can change the settings to challenge themselves and see an increase in their fitness and stamina!



This is also a great opportunity to practice our social skills and interact appropriately with members of the public and staff at the gym as well as practicing road safety when we walk to and from the gym.





Land Studies Option

One Step Closer To Our New Sensory Garden!

Our sensory garden project is officially underway! We recently visited our local B&Q to pick up a fresh supply of tools, vibrant paints, and essential materials needed to bring this special space to life.

Every addition is being chosen to create an engaging, calming, and interactive environment for everyone to enjoy. With all our supplies ready, we're excited to start the groundwork very soon. Keep an eye out for updates as the transformation begins!





☆ Careers ☆



At Soundwell we believe it is never too soon to start thinking about and exploring the world of work and Post-16. As part of our careers provision we have a number of different curriculum areas, events and different opportunities for our students. Below details some of the pre-existing, and new and exciting opportunities for your child to prepare for adulthood.

1. We believe a fundamental part of a child's journey into adult life is learning about and experiencing work. As such, this year we have partnered with BristolWORKS to support our work experience package for students in KS3 & KS4. Throughout this academic year they will be supporting us with an array of exciting opportunities across a range of industries. So far, we have visits and experiences arranged within Construction, Retail, Hospitality & Outdoor work, through companies like Bristol City Council, The National Trust & Boston Tea Party. This is an area where we aim to get each child at least, experience a year, in an industry of interest. If your child has a particular field of interest, please pass it to myself or their class tutor.

2. Post-16 - for those in KS4, particularly Year 11, a large focus is upon life after Soundwell. To support this transition, we have held EHCP Annual Reviews already in Term 1, in an effort to get ahead in the consult and application process. All Year 11 students have met with Jo Newman, who is a Level 6 Careers Advisor for personalised, independent guidance, and our Year 9 and 10's will begin those sessions from Term 2.
Open Days - All colleges and Post-16 providers provide a range of open day opportunities, these are a really good place to start in terms of seeing provision and finding out if they are right for you and your child, please contact me directly for a document with all of the dates of these for all local providers.

3. Skills for the Future - Careers and Preparing for Adulthood isn't a 1 stop shop for all students, why our curriculum has been developed to promote and teach skills; development for our students, focusing on things like Team Building, Speak Listening and Communication and Aiming High. We have focused our attention on this across all subject areas but particularly through our PSHE curriculum, throughout the whole school, that is sequenced alongside Skills Builder, and our BTEC Workskills course in KS4 which is now part of our core offer for all students.

More information about Skills Builder can be found at - https://www.skillsbuilder.uk/

If you would like to find our more, ask any questions, or book a meeting/ phone call to discuss Careers and Preparing for Adulthood please contact me via email using: tom.palmer@soundwell.mnsp.org.uk



Tom Palmer
KS4 Transition Lead & Careers Lead