



SILCHESTER CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Compassion, Courage & Respect

Dear Families of Silchester,

As well as information about key dates and some notices at the end, this newsletter serves to share some of the exciting learning the children have been up to in school so far this term. We hope that you enjoy looking through some of our teachers' highlights from the term and seeing what our children have been getting up to! Apologies that it is a long one, but there is so much to share and celebrate!

Mrs Dowling says...

Ladybird Class have once again, continued to impress and amaze me. We have had another wonderful half term. Some personal highlights have been our Disney Day, dressing up in the most wonderful costumes, enjoying a photo booth, making and eating s'mores and enjoying the end of the day firework display.

Also, Going on a Bear Hunt around our local environment. The children embrace everything, and we always have the most wonderful time. I look forward to another fantastic half term!



Mrs Mitchell says...

Year 1 have shown how resilient and adaptable they are this half term. They have had lots of change with me being out for a couple of weeks on Jury Service and I would like to thank both them, and you, for being so patient and accommodating. We have been busy this term learning lots of new maths skills including telling the time, measuring, solving addition and subtraction problems and much more.



A highlight of our term was visiting Milestones where we took part in different activities to explore our topic of toys. We learnt lots of different facts and have since written a recount about our trip away.

We have written our own adventure stories linked to Harry and a bucketful of dinosaurs. In Science we have taken part in lots of different experiments where we have tested different materials and found the best material to build a wall.

In Forest School this half term we have made waterproof dens which we tested with a bucket of water! We made a mud slide, played in our new mud kitchen, made bird feeders and nests. We even made s'mores which were very tasty.



Miss Dodson says...

This half term has been all about our world and the habitats our world's animals live in! We have had a great time writing our stories based on Caterpillar Shoes, as well as in art and geography particularly, painting habitats and creating many different kinds of maps using different materials.

A particular highlight has also been our school trip to QMC! We had such great fun and learnt so much. There are many great photos which you will find in their Science books, but here are a few 😊



Miss Ouazzani and Mrs Webb say...

Year 3 had so much fun interviewing animals this term! Inspired by Andy Seed's 'Interview with a Tiger', the children have loved writing their own interview with a dragon. We have enjoyed reading lots of books in this series. In art, the children worked incredibly hard to design and create their own dragon eyes from clay - they look absolutely spectacular.

Learning about rainforests, the children have also enjoyed making their own trees and rainforests from various textures. The Year 3 adults have been very impressed with the effort that has been put into the wonderful rainforests. Thank you for sharing!



Ms Robson says...

I thought it would be nice to ask some of our year 4 children to share their own news so...

Katherine, Emilia and Eden say...

- We read and wrote lots of Robin Hood Stories.
- We wrote a newspaper report about an Anglo-Saxon Battle.
- In history, we learnt how Anglo-Saxons made their homes out of wattle and daub.
- In maths we did column addition and rounding – it was easy.
- In PE, we did hockey on the field and dancing, pretending we were cats.
- Some of us went to the cross-country.
- In Science, we learnt about rocks.
- In art we used different painting techniques.
- We did very hard spellings.
- In guided reading, we read Anglo-Saxon Boy – it had lots of blood.
- And that's what we did this term!



Mrs Pulford says...

'Wow' this has been a busy term!
In maths, we have really worked our brains learning about fractions, decimals and percentages. In English, we have enjoyed reading, watching and writing our own versions of Treasure Island. In PE we have tried hard to increase our stamina and our own personal bests in cross country as well as using our sprinting skills in tag rugby.



In Geography, we have learnt about global populations and what leads people to live in towns and cities as well looking at slums as a contrast to where we live. In DT we have learnt to make small toys out of felt. The children really enjoyed learning how to sew and have made some impressive furry friends!

Mrs Forrester says...

It's been a busy half term in Year 6 - we've enjoyed reading Holes by Louis Sachar and writing letters home from the main character. In science, we have investigated thermal insulators and conductors to see how long we could keep ice cubes cold for. We have continued researching different artists and created our own display based on Georgia O'Keeffe's flowers. In PE we have focused on using the apparatus to create group sequences that included matching and mirroring.



Cross Country Tournament



The 40 children that took part in the recent cross-country tournament at Down Grange did us all proud. 22 schools from across North Hampshire took part in the event and Silchester performed excellently both on and off the track. Below you can see the position that the Silchester Teams came in the following races:

- Yr3/4 girls = 6th out of 20
- Yr3/4 boys = 7th out of 20
- Yr 5/6 girls = 12th out of 22
- Yr 5/6 boys = 4th out of 22

Massive congratulations to Summer and Henry who both qualified to enter the next round. Summer came 7th out of 114 runners and Henry came 6th out of 110 runners. We look forward to cheering them on and hearing how they both get on at their next race in March.

Huge thanks to Ms Robson and the team for organising such an experience. The children also commented how grateful they were to have the most encouraging, involved and supportive staff members there – I totally agree!

World Book Day

This is just advance notice about our upcoming World Book Day activities. This day is held nationally on Thursday 7th March. To celebrate books and a love of reading, we will be asking children to come into school that day dressed as a book character. There is no need to buy anything additional, raiding fancy dress boxes will most likely result in some identifiable character or just bringing a book or prop is fine also. If you are able to stay for a little while after drop-off this day, we would love to invite you to join for our **Fancy-Dress Parade** out on the back playground so that the children can show off their costumes. We will also take this opportunity to invite you in a little earlier before pick up (2:45pm) for a '**Stay and Read**' event in the hall. Just as last term, we will set up a load of comfy spaces and bring in some books for you to snuggle up and share a book before home time.

Mothering Sunday Service

A date for your diaries is Sunday 10th March. St Mary's Silchester will be holding a family friendly Mothering Sunday service. The church are keen that children attend and can get involved with the service. A personal invitation from our lovely Revered Karen will be sent out from school nearer the time.

St Mary's Holiday Club

If you are looking for things to do over the half term. St Mary's Church are running a holiday club at Silchester Methodist Hall Monday – Friday 10am – 2:30pm. It is for children in years R to Y8 at any school and they will do age-appropriate activities whilst learning Christian teachings. For a Registration Form or for further information email holidayclub@silchesterchurch.co.uk (Numbers will be limited with a suggested donation of £25 to cover costs).

Website and Printing Help Requests

Just putting it out there in case any of you have contacts that may be able to help us with the following:

Learning Behaviour Stories – We are in the process of writing some ‘Animals of Silchester Forest’ stories to further embed our learning behaviours (Resilience, Reflectiveness, Resourcefulness, Communication, Collaboration and Independence). We hope that the stories will help to make the learning behaviours we are trying to teaching more accessible for the children e.g. Sybil the Resourceful Squirrel! We’d like to get these printed up and made into books preferably for each class but maybe also to sell for children to have their own copies if they’d like. If any of you work at or know printers who might make this dream come true – please do get in touch with school.

Website Revamp - We are also hoping to revamp our website in the coming weeks. We are in the process of updating the content. However, if any of you are, or know web designers who would be able to give us an hour or two of their time to fancy it up a bit – we’d be most grateful. We will be updating the photos on the website also. We WILL NOT include any photos of children who have already declined consent for multimedia image to be shared. However, if you have consented and do not want your children to be shown on the website, please do let us know.

Upcoming Key Dates

Monday 12 th February – Friday 16 th February	Half Term
Monday 19 th February	INSET DAY
Thursday 22 nd February	Deadline for bird feeders/nesting boxes – Council Environment Challenge
Wednesday 21 st & Thursday 22 nd February	Parents Evenings – bookings via Arbor
Thursday 22 nd February	Deadline for bird feeders/nesting boxes – Council Environment Challenge
Friday 23 rd February	PTA Family Quiz – booking via PTA Facebook Page
Thursday 7 th March	World Book Day Costume Parade – after drop off (9:05am) Read with me – before pick up (2:45pm)
Friday 8 th March	Year 4 science trip to QMC – packed lunch required
Tuesday 12 th March	KS2 Pilgrimage to St Mary’s Church
Friday 15 th March	Red Nose Day & Recycling Fashion Show
Friday 22 nd March	PTA Easter Disco
Monday 25 th – Thursday 28 th March	WOW Week to The Arts
Wednesday 27 th and Thursday 28 th March	Easter Worships for parents – Year 3/4
Thursday 28 th March	Last Day of Term – Break up for Easter Holidays.
Monday 15 th April	First day back to school after Easter Holidays

I really hope that you and your families have a lovely half term holiday together and I look forward to welcoming you back to school on Tuesday 20th February.

Kind Regards,

Rachel Moir

Rachel Moir
Head of School