



SILCHESTER CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Compassion, Courage & Respect

Dear Families of Silchester,

The children have all been working hard this week and it has been lovely to see them enjoying their lessons. Celebration worship on a Friday is always a joyful round-up of their achievements and it is wonderful to see them living out our values and adopting our learning behaviours. I often mention how proud your children make us, but I'd like to start this newsletter by praising our staff. The teachers and other adults in this school work so hard and care deeply about making education engaging, enriching and progressive. I massively appreciate all of their dedication so wanted to send out big thanks to them all and wishes for a relaxing weekend!

Brain Boxes

During our WOW week to wellbeing, our children learnt about different areas of the brain and how these are affected by our emotions. We learnt what happens when we 'flip our lid' and emotion takes over from logical thinking. In order to consolidate and practice grounding and regulation, each class now has their very own 'Brain Box'. Brain Boxes contain sensory and fiddle items to use in times of emotional stress to aid regulation. Children can now access 'Brain Box Time' when overwhelmed or if distraction, bringing back, exciting or calming is required. These boxes were funded by our PTA – huge thanks to Lara Holby-Wolinski for the time and care she put into making them for our children. They have already been used successfully several times!



Birdwatch

As a school we will be taking part in the RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch which is the world's largest garden wildlife survey. Every year, hundreds of thousands of nature lovers take part, helping to build a picture of how garden birds are faring. At Silchester, we are planning to do our bit and head outside to birdwatch on Friday 26th January. At home, please feel free to talk to your children about the birds you see and if you want to take part please see the RSPB website for more information

School and Eco Council Initiative – Environment Challenge

Our school and eco councillors had a big summit meeting this week! One of their initiatives is an environment challenge. The following is a message from them:

With Spring approaching, perhaps some of you will be tidying your gardens. What better time to build a bug house, a nesting box or make a bird feeder and donate it to our school, ensuring our birds and insects are looked after at Silchester! Perhaps you can make two so that you can have one at home too. Or, just make something for home and send us a photo to show where you have hung yours. There's plenty of ideas and help available online. We would obviously love as many of you as

possible to have a go at creating a feeder or nesting box. Certificates will be awarded. Entries to be in by **Thursday 22nd February 2024**. We can't wait to see your creations and we know the wildlife will be very grateful!

Thank you!

From the School and Eco Council teams

<https://www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/how-to-make-a-bird-feeder.html> and
<https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/advice/how-you-can-help-birds/>



Library

The School Library Service have supported us this week with organising and training up our new Silchester Librarians. Special thanks to Lizzie West who has become our Head Librarian and is already making a difference to encourage quality reading. We are pleased to announce that the library is now much more user friendly and hopefully more enticing to encourage more children to borrow books to read for pleasure. Children are allowed to borrow two books at a time and keep them out for two weeks.

Polite Reminders

Children are not allowed to have their mobile phones in class with them at school. Should your child need to bring their phones to school, we ask that they hand them in to the school office on arrival and then collect at the end of the day. This point also applies to smart watches linked with phones. Many thanks for your understanding.



Break The Rules Day!

Thanks to our PTA for organising our very popular 'Break The Rules Day'. The children have loved breaking rules and all looked fabulous coming into school this morning! Some of our Year 5s are keen to start their own 'Silchester Newspaper' so rather than me going into any more detail. I will hand over to them to report what's hot off the press!!



BREAK

RULES DAY

TODAY: Silchester School is celebrating break the rules day it is so fun!! There is beautiful dresses, cosy onsie and snuggle squishmelons yummy snacks we have oggically broke SA. the rules its time to see pictures too. So Zoom in but not to close.



COMENTS

Audrey said: lets be naughty!

♡♡ Picture of Squishmelons



CRO SPORTS

Silchester school does loads of sports!

We do football, netball and rugby. We also do cross country when we know who get picked will tell you in the next school news paper. we make



INTERVIEW

I ♥ Sports the School Sports team is so fun I Love Sport playing football, basketball, gymnastics and rugby to join a sport team





Upcoming Key Dates

Tuesday 23 rd January	School Nurse for Year R – height, weight, vision screening
Thursday 25 th January	Disney Day in Year R
Thursday 25 th January	Year 5/6 Tag Rugby Tournament
Friday 26 th January	Big Garden Birdwatch
Tuesday 30 th January	Year 1 Trip to Milestones (packed lunch required)
Tuesday 6 th February	Cross Country Tournament
Friday 9 th February	Fire Service visit to school
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
Friday 23 rd February	PTA Family Quiz

I really hope that you and your families have a lovely weekend and I look forward to welcoming you at the gate on Monday.

Kind Regards,

Rachel Moir