



SILCHESTER CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Compassion, Courage & Respect

Dear Families of Silchester,

Well, we all made it through our Autumn Term and can celebrate with two weeks off! Your children have been absolute superstars this week. Our showstopping nativity, beautiful carol concert and delicious Christmas dinner have all been a huge success. The excitement of Christmas and more unstructured activities can sometimes be overwhelming. However, despite being tired, your children have enjoyed themselves and coped brilliantly. I am really proud of them all.

Vision and Values Update

We are delighted to share our new vision and values mural with you:



It was a real collaborative project.

- Our values were chosen by gathering views of all stakeholders, children, parents, staff, and governors.
- One of our talented parents, Rhiannon Hoskins, created the design for the mural in response to the competition.
- One of our talented members of staff, Helen Scott, painted the people tree.
- One of our kind parents, Lucinda Dacre, loaned the Cricut for the lettering.
- Our generous PTA funded the materials.
- And every single one of our children and staff community added their own hearts.

It is such a bright welcome to our school and the children have drawn different messages of inspiration from what it represents. They have noticed that it is a nod to our school being nestled in the forest; that the people could be dancing, supporting each other, or reaching up and out to take their space in the world. We think that it represents our vision that is to ensure that everyone in our school is valued and recognised as uniquely gifted. With our roots deeply embedded and nourished by our Christian values, we will grow strong together. We will reach out to each other, our community and the wider world with *compassion* in our hearts. We will live bravely, showing *courage* to keep going when life is difficult. We will *respect* ourselves and others, embracing our differences and valuing the contribution that we can all bring to God's world.

WOW Week for Wellbeing

School starts back on Tuesday 2nd January. Our first week back will be a WOW Week for Wellbeing. This means that the children will start off 2024 learning about how to look after themselves and promote positive mental health. Rachel Dowling has put together an exciting programme of activities focused on the '5 ways to wellbeing' – Giving, Taking Notice, Connecting, Being Active and Keeping Learning. Each day will have a theme: Thoughtful Tuesday, Wishes Wednesday,

Thankful Thursday and Friendship Friday. We will also be going on a walk through the woods, keeping a gratitude journal and launching a new 'Community Compassion Crew' and 'Buddy' system. One of the activities will be making 'Dream Jars'. We would like to ask the children to bring in a small plastic bottle for this activity. Please can you therefore keep any small plastic bottles that you use over the Christmas break? Thank you.

More detailed information about our WOW week will be shared next year.

Sports Clubs

Please see below information from Miss Robson regarding after-school sports clubs for the Spring Term 2024. Please note that Tennis will be returning in the Summer.

Tuesday – Football – KS2 – 3.15-4.15

Thursday – Netball – KS2 – 3.15-4.15



Five ways to wellbeing

Thursday – Football – Year R and KS1 – 3.15-4.15

For football, please email Mason at mason@golelitecoaching.co.uk for information, or to book on, go to <https://www.goleliteprocoaching.co.uk/silchester/>

For netball, please sign up on Arbor. Maximum of 16 children. All clubs will begin on the second week back with netball starting on Thursday 11th January 2024.

For all clubs, children should bring in a sports kit from home to participate, suitable for the weather conditions.

Thank You

And finally... I want to offer my sincere and heartfelt thanks for welcoming our new leadership team to Silchester. It is such a special school within a really great community, and it has been a privilege to get to know your children this term.

I'd also like to make a big shout out to all of the staff who work at Silchester. They are a brilliant team who work incredibly hard and go above and beyond for our school community. I am so very grateful for the way they have embraced change, cared for our children, and commit themselves to their profession. Many thanks and enjoy your well-deserved break!

Upcoming Key Dates

Friday 15th December	Last Day before Christmas Holidays
Tuesday 2 nd January	First Day of Spring Term
2 nd 3 rd 4 th 5 th January	WOW Week for Wellbeing
Thursday 4 th January	Comfy, warm and waterproof clothes required for a walk.
Friday 19 th January	Wacky Rules Day (PTA)
Monday 12 th February – Friday 16 th February	Half Term
Monday 19 th February	INSET DAY

I really hope that your Christmas season is full of festive cheer and family.

Looking forward to welcoming you back in 2024!

Kind Regards,

Rachel Moir

Rachel Moir
Head of School