



SILCHESTER CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Compassion, Courage & Respect

Dear Families of Silchester,

As well as information about key dates and a few 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.

Mrs Dowling says: This half term has flown by, and Ladybird's have continued to impress me weekly 😊 We have had so much fun! Outside we have especially enjoyed making our own bonfires (roasting marshmallows), houses and creating firework display! Inside the classroom, Ladybirds have been working really hard at their writing and making amazing progress. We are now having lots of fun with our resident Elf and enjoying lots of Christmassy activities! I am very proud of them 😊



Mrs Mitchell says: Year 1 have had another busy term. We have been working really hard on our nativity and are looking forward to sharing it with you. We went to QMC and did lots of experiments to investigate materials. Thank you to the adults who came to help us. We went on a Nativity Trail and met all of the characters in the story before we sang Away in a Manger to Baby Jesus. Forest Schools has been a real highlight of the term, we have braved all weathers and taken part in lots of different crafts. We have toasted marshmallows, lit fires, painted with mud and lots more. In our writing at the moment, we are learning about the Gingerbread Man. We have practiced retelling the story, made story maps and are now writing instructions on how to make gingerbread men. Then next week we are going to make and decorate our own gingerbread men!



Miss Dobson says: This half term has been really fun getting to know our lines in the Nativity and putting it all together – we can't wait for you to see it!

Another exciting event was, of course, our Victorian day! It was AMAZING seeing the children dressed up in their Victorian costumes and Mrs Hammil did so well acting like a Victorian teacher! They had such a great day.

The children are also very much enjoying our "Mixing and Making" topic alongside "George's Marvellous Medicine". The children have done some great writing of their own story after been giggling away at the stories by Roald Dahl. They especially liked making their own magical potions and medicines in outdoor learning! Some of the children even gave theirs very imaginative names!



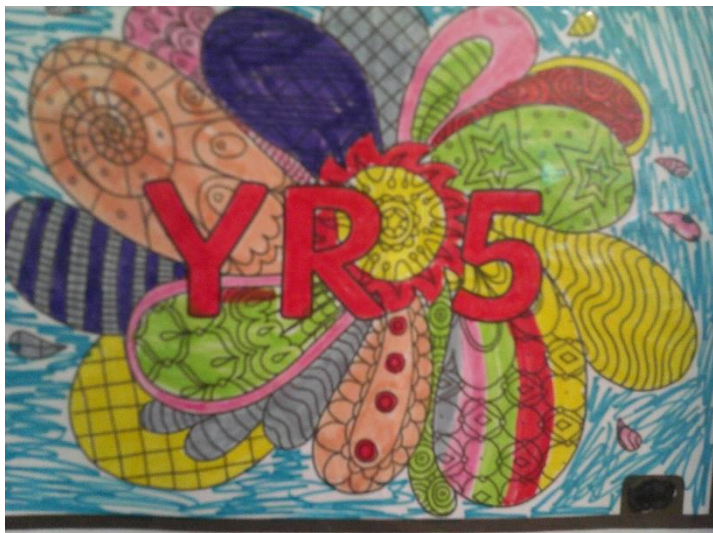
Miss Ouazzani says: This half-term year 3 have loved learning about the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age. We have enjoyed learning about how people lived in the Stone Age and how their lifestyles gradually changed. The children have relished writing their own information reports about Stone Age, learning about woolly mammoths, sabre-tooth tigers, and cave lions.

It has been wonderful to hear the children's ideas around Stonehenge and how and why it may have been built. We are all really looking forward to Stone Age Day on Tuesday.

Also, during this half-term, the children have been learning multiplication and division, as well as getting to grips with fractions - we've looked at pizza slices and learnt to count in tenths!

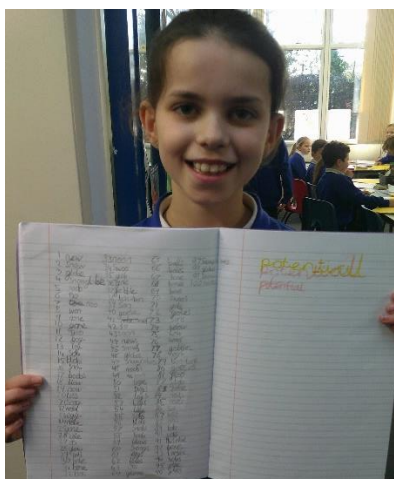
We have enjoyed having Coach Craig this half-term, teaching us tag rugby skills. We are really looking forward to watching the Nativity next week and celebrating before we have our Christmas break.

Miss Robson says: Year 4 have enjoyed our River topic this term, learning about all the features of rivers and making our own river models - at home and at school - there really have been some master pieces! We are very much looking forward to the culmination of our topic by visiting the River and Rowing Museum next week, especially visiting the Wind and the Willows exhibit. Year 4 have also done some fantastic writing this term, writing non-chronological reports about rivers, migratory animals and even their own fictional monster! In PE, we have enjoyed tag rugby with Coach Craig - in all weathers!



Mrs Pulford says: Mrs Pulford says we have had an exciting half term in Year 5! In English our theme has been survival and we have been inspired by the many animals who became heroes during WW1 and WW2 as well as Sir Ernest Shackleton and his expedition to Antarctica. We have also had fun writing about 'The Lost Thing' and creating our own 'Lost Things'. In history we have followed the history of the Tudor Monarchs and have learnt about Henry VIII and Elizabeth I. In PE we have learnt

orienteering skills and developed our teamwork skills. In maths we have been very busy converting metric and imperial measures, reading timetables, translating, and reflecting shapes and plotting co-ordinates.



Gassed by John Singer Sargent

Mrs Forester says: Year 6 have worked extremely hard this half term and they have demonstrated many of our new learning behaviours.

One of our highlights was investigating the artwork of John Singer Sargent and trying to recreate Gassed using ourselves as props!

We were also really excited to brave the cold and complete our Bikeability course, we showed great resilience to keep going and the hot chocolate definitely helped warm us up when we got back.



PIC•COLLAGE



Silchester Sports Teams

We have taken part in many sports competitions this half term, including netball, tag rugby and football. Whilst we haven't always won our matches, all the children have played valiantly; have been encouraging to their team members; taken on feedback; and played to their best abilities.

I'm sure all the children have had lots of fun and it's great to be able to play against other schools. It's a fantastic learning experience for the children and I hope that it will inspire a love of sport in their futures.



Christmas Cards

If your children would like to send any Christmas cards, we now have our Post-box set up in school. When writing envelopes, please can you ensure that both names and year group is included on the envelope. We will then employ some 'posties' to sort through the cards and give out to the classes at the end of the week.

Carol Concert by Candlelight

We would like to invite you all to join us for our annual carol concert which will take place on **Tuesday 12th December at 6:00pm**. The service will be led by people from both school and church as well as our school worship ambassadors. We are also very lucky to be joined by members of the Silchester Community Choir singing with our School Choir, a wind quintet and Robin Scott. It will be a great opportunity to sing out those carols and get into the Christmassy spirit. All are welcome to join us for this special occasion.



New Playtime Equipment

Our School Council members did a brilliant job of setting up the new playtime equipment purchased by the PTA. The children have really enjoyed playing with everything and there has been much fun over play and lunch times as children are exploring different games to play with their friends. One child commented, "Wow! Everyone is so much happier now we have fun, new stuff!" Thanks very much for supporting our PTA to enable additional resources for our children and a special mention to Mrs Reynolds for solving our storage and cover in such creative ways!



Upcoming Key Dates

Monday 11 th December	After School Charity Cake Sale for Victoria's Promise Charity
Monday 11 th , Tuesday 12 th and Wednesday 13 th December	Nativity – Monday = dress rehearsal, Tuesday = 9:30am, Wednesday = 2:00pm (<i>Apologies for previous incorrect time</i>)
Tuesday 12 th December	Year 3 Stone Age Day – costumes welcome!
Tuesday 12 th December	6pm Carol Concert by Candlelight – Everyone Welcome
Wednesday 13 th December	Year 4 Trip to Reading River & Rowing Museum – packed lunch required
Thursday 14 th December	School Christmas Lunch & Christmas Jumper Day
Friday 15 th 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

Wishing you all a great weekend full of busy Christmassy activities I'm sure and I look forward to welcoming you back to school on Monday,

Kind Regards,

Rachel Moir

Rachel Moir
Head of School