



## SILCHESTER CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

*Compassion, Courage & Respect*

Dear Families of Silchester,

Friday the thirteenth proved to be lucky for Silchester with an incredible Sport's Day! The children enjoyed the competing, and we enjoyed watching them encourage each other and persevere. Big congratulations to Salisbury the winning house, your House Captains were exceptionally proud! Thanks to everyone who helped out with the set up and take down and for those that were able to join us in the family picnic. A particular mention must go to our former pupils, Hurst volunteers, Mrs McKenzie, Ms Rodway, Team Clapson, and of course Miss Dadral who organised the whole event so successfully.





## Silchester's Got Talent

What a special treat Silchester's Got Talent was this year. The event was flawlessly planned and a huge success raising just shy of £1000. It was an absolute joy to see the children's confidence and pride in performing. An enormous thank you to everyone involved with the setup, running and clear up. Many congratulations to all of our fantastic performers and of course to our winners...

- ☆ **Resourceful Award** – Alec and Leo Edwards
- ☆ **Independence Award** – Audrey McCann
- ☆ **Reflective Award** – Robin Edwards
- ☆ **Collaboration Award** – Summer, Ellie, Ella, Alice & Chloe
- ☆ **Communication Award** -Ruth McCann
- ☆ **Resilience Award** – Arty Henry

☆ And our **overall winner**... Olivia Burton

## Eco Council's Churchyard Trip

written by Reverend Karen

June 8<sup>th</sup>–14<sup>th</sup> is Caring for God's Acre week when churches across the country are encouraged to celebrate the variety of nature species to be found in our churchyards and focus on our responsibilities to care for the beautiful world that God made. As in 2024, St Mary-the-Virgin turned to the Eco Council of Silchester School for their help to complete a nature count and to take some positive action to protect and grow the diversity of what lives in the churchyard, since, as Eco Council told Revd Karen "*without wildlife, our world can't survive*".

Ahead of the half-term break Revd Karen had met with the 14 members of Eco Council, representing each year group, to ask what they would like to do on the morning planned for June 9<sup>th</sup>. A long list of ideas was created, and with thanks to the late Doreen Atton who had left a gift in her will to the church, we were able to purchase all that was needed.



As the children and adult helpers walked from and to school (along a thankfully dry Drove!) a litter pick took place, and then once at the churchyard, teams spread out with binoculars and magnifying glasses



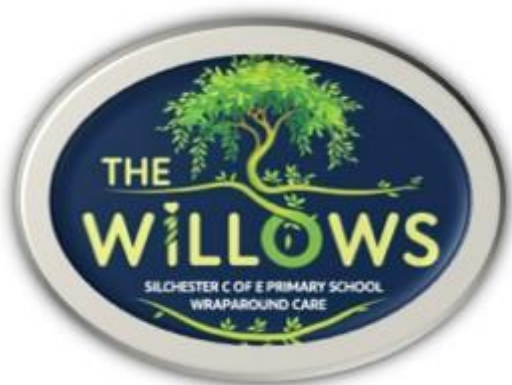
to see what we could spot. We are able to send a long list of 17 different species to the Caring for God's Acre organisation including kites, grasshoppers, worms, buttercups, woodlice and honeybees. We then planted pots of flowers to attract bees and butterflies which we placed along one of the outer walls of the church.

For many children, the highlight of the day was the installation of a hedgehog house, complete with straw bedding and, outside the house, a water bowl. The children learned new things hedgehogs from Denise, one

of Revd Karen's friends – as they told us on the way back to school, “we didn't know they can swim” and “it was interesting to find out that hedgehogs can climb - but not in a straight line”. To reward their support for hedgehogs each Council representative and the Eco Council as a whole were awarded a Certificate of Appreciation from the British Hedgehog Preservation Society.

Another often mentioned highlight of the day was the installation of a freestanding pond, complete with a variety of water plants. Eco Council representatives had obviously been listening well to Denise since they reminded the adults to “put some bricks into the pond to enable hedgehogs to climb out, since they are sure to find their way to the water”.

When you're next in the churchyard do have a look at the children's work. And their unanimous verdict on the morning's hard work? “We loved it – all of it”; “it was great fun” and “I love gardening, and I wish we could do this every day!”



### The Willows – Before & After School provision

Further to our letter on Monday confirming that we will be taking over the provision of the before & after school clubs, please use the below link if you are interested in your child attending The Willows.

Many thanks to those that have already completed the form.

Registration documentation and a Q&A form (answering the questions/queries that have been asked) will be sent out next week to all those that have completed the form.

[https://forms.cloud.microsoft/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=O2G64\\_XPj0StEMUF4lG5RC5AqVsJQd1EiVK1oJ4dIddUNVcxOUY2RTZRVUNPMFdOQ0o4Vlg3NE1OQj4u](https://forms.cloud.microsoft/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=O2G64_XPj0StEMUF4lG5RC5AqVsJQd1EiVK1oJ4dIddUNVcxOUY2RTZRVUNPMFdOQ0o4Vlg3NE1OQj4u)



### National Thank a Teacher Day! Expressing gratitude, one thank you at a time.

The National Thank a Teacher campaign is all about appreciating the hard work of every single member of staff in early years, schools and colleges across the UK. The campaign encourages everyone in the UK to recognise the impact that the education community has in shaping the minds and futures of our young people.



This year, Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> June is National ‘Thank a Teacher Day’, or as we prefer to call it ‘Thank a School Staff Member Day!’ Should you wish to express any thanks to any individual working within our school community, please feel free to do so using the following link or QR code, and we will make sure it is passed on to them. <https://forms.office.com/e/nLwJScmtsF>  
We've had 5 responses so far but any added before Wednesday can be included and given to our staff.

## Upcoming Key Dates

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Wednesdays – 18/6, 25/6, 9/7, 16/7                              | Beech Class (Year 5) Forest School Sessions  |
| Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> June                                   | All day Choir Rehearsal for BPSM   |
| Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> June & Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> June | BPSM Concert at The Anvil  |
| Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> June                                 | Year 6 Leavers Service at Winchester Cathedral   |
| Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> June                                  | Drama Workshop (Ladybirds, Chestnut & Hazel)   |
| Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> June                                    | Back-up Sport's Day (in case of bad weather)   |
| Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> June                                    | Shuffle Up Day   |
| Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> July                                     | PTA Inflatables Fun Day  |
| Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> July                                    | PTA Rainbow Run  |
| Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> July and Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> July | Year 6 Production (6pm)  |
| Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> July                                   | M&M Productions – Treasure Island (PTA funded)   |
| Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> June                                 | Year 6 Leavers Party   |
| Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> July                                  | Year 6 Trip to Paulton's Park  |
| Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> July                                    | Year 6 Leavers Service in school 9am (parents welcome)   |
| Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> July                                    | Last Day of School   |
| Amazon Wish List  | <a href="https://amzn.eu/diet9uj">https://amzn.eu/diet9uj</a>  |
| INSET DAYS 2025/2026  | Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September, Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> September<br>Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January, Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February<br>Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July |

I hope that you and your families have a great weekend, and I'll look forward to seeing you all again on Monday.

*Rachel Moir*

Rachel Moir  
Head of School