



SILCHESTER CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Compassion, Courage & Respect

Dear Families of Silchester,

Parents Evenings

We are looking forward to welcoming you to our parents evenings next week on Tuesday 21st and Thursday 22nd October between 3:30pm and 6pm. All appointments will be held in the school hall. Your children's books will be available for you to look through prior or post your appointment. How it works here is that each meeting lasts for 10 minutes. To try and keep to time, there will be a clock on the board and a noise to signify the next appointment. We are completely aware that this may feel a little rushed, however, in order to see the number of parents we need to in the allotted time, it is the best way to try and keep the schedule relatively on track! Please do ask your teacher for an additional meeting after school if you wish to discuss anything in further detail.



PTA Meet, Greet, Eat & Treat!

After school TODAY, we will open up the hall for those who wish to stay for a cuppa and a chat! Any donations given will go to the PTA, however, this is less of a fundraiser, and more a chance for parents to meet and greet other parents.

Contributions of cake or toys gratefully accepted, and it is the perfect opportunity for you to rehome any culled toys!

AWE STEM Day for Girls

The AWE held an Ada Lovelace Day STEM event this week. The aim of this event was to break the stigma around STEM subjects and careers and encourage girls to see themselves as future scientists or engineers. All local schools were invited to send a small number of year 6 pupils to attend.

Our girls came back thoroughly enthused! Silchester Team even won the science quiz with a score of 16/17!

We had a representative make it to the final 5 with her poster of her favourite woman in STEM and had to present to the 3 senior ladies from AWE that came to judge. We can also claim to have the rocket building team that made and launched their rocket that went the furthest. Many thanks to Mrs Scott for enabling the trip to happen.





Black History Month

In the UK, Black History Month takes place in October. Marking Black History Month at Silchester School is an important part of fostering an inclusive and respectful learning environment. Celebrating Black history encourages diversity, promotes equality, and empowers pupils to value different perspectives. It also provides an opportunity to challenge stereotypes and build a more just and compassionate society from an early age.

In Silchester, we will be sharing stories and completing artwork to help children

understand and appreciate the rich contributions of Black individuals throughout history. On Friday 24th October, we will have a gallery in the hall so parents can come and celebrate their work.

Silchester Magazine Competition

The Silchester PCC have invited the children of Silchester School to design the cover for the December/January cover of the village magazine.



The deadline for receipt of entries is Friday, November 14th so a perfect half term activity!

As well as the winning entry being on the cover, the runners up will also feature somewhere in the magazine with a prize and village notoriety on offer!

There are no 'rules' apart from the design needing to be A4 in size and portrait in orientation. Any entries can be sent into the school and collated in the office.



Compassion, Courage and Respect



Silchester

Church of England Primary School

Open Days

Tuesday 14th October: 9:00am – 10:15am

Wednesday 22nd October: 9:00am – 10:15am

Thursday 6th November: 9:00am – 10:15am

Is your child starting school in September 2026?

We invite you to come and have a look around our wonderful school. Our Open Days will consist of a brief presentation, followed by a tour of the school and the opportunity to ask any questions. We hope to welcome you soon!

School Lane,
Silchester,
RG7 2NJ
adminoffice@silchester.hants.sch.uk
0118 9700256

If you can't make any of the above dates, please do contact our school office to arrange an individual tour.



COLLABORATION

RESPECTFULNESS

REFLECTIVENESS

COMMUNICATION

RESILIENCE

INDEPENDENCE

Silchester Open Days

If you have a child who is due to start reception next year, or know someone else who has children this age, please come along and spread the word about our upcoming Open Days.

And a word of praise for our captains...

Year 6 House and School Captains are charged with being tour guides for our new prospective parents on the Open Days. During our first one this week, I was so incredibly proud of the way they rose to this responsibility and talked with confidence, poise and manners to unknown adults

A huge thanks to them, they have done us proud!

What a guy!

A huge shout out and heartfelt thanks to Dave Holby-Wolinski for taking on yet another incredible feat of strength and endurance. At the beginning of October, Dave completed the Basingstoke Half Marathon. This alone is an achievement, but Dave also carried his rowing machine, signed by the children of Silchester, throughout! He did this to help raise funds for our PTA and Breast Cancer Now.

Currently, his fundraising stands at just short of his target of £500, so any small donations to get him over the mark would be hugely appreciated.

[Basingstoke Half Marathon Rowing Machine Challenge | Wonderful.org](#)



PTA CHAIR REPORT

PTA AGM Oct 2025

Background

The PTA continues to support the school with its commitment to enhance the learning and enjoyment for the pupils. We love seeing the school community come together to give the children a little extra something and make the year special. With ever shrinking school budgets, we're focusing on what matters most: enriching experiences, useful equipment, and memories that will last. As we kick off a new year, we're aiming to keep the momentum going and match our fundraising with the school's evolving needs.

Fundraising

Look back at 2024/25

We started the academic year strong in the Autumn term raising just over £3,000 in total. A big shout-out to the Christmas Market, which raised over £2,000 in its first year! With local stall holders mixed with Santa's Grotto, tombola and children's games, it was a clear success bringing in people from across the local towns and villages. This along with other fantastic events enabled us to fund:

- Year R trip to the Anvil Theatre
- Wow Week activities
- Sports kit
- New playground equipment

To lift the mood after Christmas we "broke the rules" with coloured hair, non-school uniform and tattoos (washable, of course!) This was followed by our Easter discos and along with a successful first year of Coin Wars we raised over £2,000 which we put towards:

- School supplies for the classrooms
- Y6 coach trip to Paulton's Park
- Quidditch Day (yes, really!)

Always the highlight of the year is our Summer term, with the Rainbow Run a hugely anticipated date in the diary! This year our one and only record-breaking daredevil, Dave Holby-Wolinski decided that organizing that event wasn't enough on its own so instead embarked on rowing 30 marathons in 30 days. Perched on his static rowing machine every morning, outside of school, he was cheered on by the children every step of the way! Which is definitely why over £2,500 of our £4,000 summer term income was attributed to these two events and Dave's never-ending commitment to the school! Well done Dave (never retire!)

What we funded:

- Two Wow Weeks of activities
- Theatre group visit for the kids
- Inflatable Day to cap off the term with a bang

Commitments

With the school keen to continue its upward trajectory, the requests have already come in thick and fast for how we can help support the school enhancement:

Playground works: The quiet area, EYFS upgrade, and Year 1 outside learning area were completed over the summer. The PTA has agreed a contribution toward these works, with the rest of the funding supported by the Diocese and the School.

School purchase requests: The school would like to buy iPads (one per class) to help capture and share photos of school activities.

Total forecast spend for 2025/26

- 5 x £500 for class trips (not Y6) - £2,500 (voted and carried)
- £700 Y6 Paulton's Park trip - (voted and carried)
- £500 Y6 leavers fund – (voted and carried)
- Classroom spending pot (£100 per class/year = £600) - (voted and carried)
- Whole-school stationery £300/year – draw down as needed - (voted and carried)
- £2,000 – toward 5 iPads (1 per class; EYFS already have some)
- £750 – whole-school theatre visit to school
- £3,000 (£1,000/term) to fund activities during WOW weeks
- £900 – Inflatable Day
- £4,500 (£1,500 per term) – playground equipment funds

We're keeping our eyes on what the school needs and what our families can comfortably support. Our priorities stay child-focused: Year group trips, enrichment activities (theatre, music, workshops), PE and outdoor play, and events that bring the whole school together.

Summary

We're excited about continuing to grow the PTA, while keeping our funding goals open and transparent. We'll keep inviting more families to jump in—whether that's volunteering at events or sharing ideas for the year ahead. Succession planning is also on the agenda to make sure we have fresh energy and new ideas.

As always, a huge thanks to all the parents, carers, teachers, and volunteers. Your energy and enthusiasm make a real difference to the pupils' school experiences.

Final Note:

This will be my final report as I look to step down as chairperson at this AGM. Looking back over the last eight amazing years fills me with pride and love for the friendships formed, and the joy we've shared in supporting our children. I'll stay on as vice-chair (if you'll have me) to help a seamless handover to my successor, and most of all, thank you to every one of you for the love, time, and energy that makes our events, school, and PTA something we can all be proud of.

Rachel Dean - Silchester PTA Chair

PTA News

Thanks to all who were able to attend the PTA AGN on Wednesday. The minutes of the meeting and the Chair's report can be found on the PTA website (<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/silchesterschoolpta/index.cfm?event=meeting-minutes>)

A HUGE thank you must go to Rachel Dean and Edel Abott, who have stood down from their current committee roles – having given 8 years' service to the roles of Chair and Secretary respectively, ensuring that the PTA has been highly successful during this time. The meeting minutes detail all current committee members, but those elected to the key roles for the next academic year are:

2025/26 Committee Roles

Chair – Helen Blair

Vice-Chair – Rachel Dean

Secretary – Karolina Hartwell

Treasurer – Jo Woods

As parents of children in the school you are all members of the PTA and your input to fundraising and events is always very welcome. We have re-instated the 'PTA Class Representative' role to help with passing key information about events.

Messages are shared via the School office, the PTA Facebook Page (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ptasilchesterschool>) and via the class WhatsApp groups that the representatives will post to. If you aren't currently accessing any of these groups but would like to please let your Class Representative know.

PTA Class Representatives

Year R – Katie O'Byrne

Year 1 – Nicola Edwards

Year 2 – Helen Blair

Year 3 and 4 – Bill Clapson; Holly Abott; Karolina Hartwell

Year 5 – Helen Blair

Year 6 – Clare McMann

Upcoming Events:

- Autumn Term Bake Competition/Coffee and Cake Bring and Share – Friday 17th October (refreshments, tuck shop, school uniform)
- Bag2School – 6th November, 26th February 2026, 4th June 2026
- Tombola non-uniform day donations 21st November
- Christmas Fayre – 29th November 2025.
- Christmas Wreath Making – 4th December
- Children's Christmas Market – Friday 5th December 1.30pm to 3pm.
- 18th December Carol service – drinks and mince pies

As always we would like to say a massive thank you to all of you and your families for supporting our events so generously – it really does add to the brilliant experiences our children are offered.

Donations of items for PTA Christmas Fundraisers

As we approach Christmas we have a number of PTA fundraising events that we'd love you to help towards.

Tombola at the Christmas Fair – 29th November

We are holding a ***Non-Uniform day on Friday 21st November*** – all we ask in return is that the children bring a donation suitable as a tombola prize (for either adults or children).

Year R: Sweet Christmas treats

Year 1: Sweet Christmas treats

Year 2/3: Savoury Christmas treats

Year 3/4: Alcohol (must be brought in by adults)

Year 5: Small children's toys/teddy (not babies)

Year 6: Bath/beauty products

Children's Christmas Market- 5th December

This is much loved tradition for the children of Silchester Primary and something they look forward to each year. It will take place on Friday 5th December. As this is for the children only it takes place during the school day.

It is a lovely opportunity for children to do their own Christmas shopping and surprise their family on Christmas morning with their chosen gifts. Information about what the children need on the day will be sent out nearer the time.

Donations for this event can be new or good, used condition - be prepared for the potential to be gifted what you have donated!

Dropping off donations

PTA representatives with collection boxes at the entrance to school at the beginning and end of the day on the following dates:

Friday 24th October, Friday 7th November, Friday 21st November, Friday 28th November

To enable the children to enjoy this event as much as they have in previous years we need your help. Please can we ask for donations for the Market and make the following suggestions for each year to bring in (please make sure all donations are in good condition):

Year R - Pet gifts

Year 1 - Dad/male gifts

Year 2 - Children's gifts (not baby gifts)

Year 3 - Mum/female gifts

Year 4 - Dad/male gifts

Year 5 - Mum/female gifts

Year 6 - Dad/male gifts

The above list is just a suggestion, and all donations are gratefully received.

PTA – Wreath Making Event

✨ Join us on Thursday 4th December for a wreath making class, with an expert guide.

🕒 7pm-9pm (doors open at 6:30pm)

🌿 £45pp includes all wreath making materials, glass of prosecco & mince pie.

☕ Tea, coffee & snacks also available during the evening or BYO alcoholic drinks

🇬🇧 Ticket sale opens on Sunday 14th September



Book via <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/silchesterschoolpta/?event=event&eventId=102528>

Upcoming Key Dates

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Wednesdays: 24/9, 1/10, 8/10, 15/10, 22/10	am	Forest Schools for Sycamore Class
Monday 20 th October	am	Individual and sibling school photos
Wednesday 22 nd October	9:00 – 10:15	Open Day for 2026 intake
Tuesday 21 st October	15:30 - 18:00	Parents Evening
Thursday 23 rd October	15:30 - 18:00	Parents Evening
Thursday 23 rd October	All day	DT Trip to QMC – Sycamore Class
Friday 24 th October	All day	DT Trip to QMC – Oak Class
Friday 24 th October	15:15	Black History Gallery in the hall
Thursday 30 th October	17:00 - 19:00	CTAT Blazing Lights Party - Blazing Lights Party 2025 (30-Oct-2025) · ChurchSuite Events
Monday 27 th October – Friday 31 st October	All week	HALF TERM HOLIDAY
Monday 3 rd November – Friday 6 th November	All week	WOW Week for Design & Technology
Thursday 6 th November	9:00	Bags2School Collection for the PTA
Thursday 6 th November	9:00 – 10:15	Open Day for 2026 intake
Friday 7 th November	All day	DT Trip to QMC – Beech Class
Monday 10 th November	am	Chestnut Class Virtual Victorians
Wednesday 12 th November – Friday 14 th November	3 days	Year 5 Residential to Ufton Court

Thursday 13 th November	am	KS1 Drama Workshop
Friday 14 th November	All day	DT Trip to QMC – Chestnut Class
Monday 17 th November	All day	DT Trip to QMC – Hazel Class
Saturday 29 th November	15:00 18:00	PTA Christmas Fair
Thursday 4 th December	19:00 21:00	PTA Wreath Making Evening
Friday 5 th December	am	Ladybirds Theatre Trip

I hope that you and your families have a great weekend, and I'll look forward to welcoming you back on the gate on Monday.

Rachel Moir

Rachel Moir
Head of School



Christmas Events

Date	Time	Event
Saturday 22 nd November	11am	Family woods walk to select our Christmas Tree
Saturday 29 th November	3pm – 6pm	PTA Christmas Fair and Market
Thursday 4 th December	7pm – 9pm	PTA Christmas Wreath Workshop
Friday 5 th December	pm	Children's Christmas Market
Sunday 7 th December	10am – 11am	Church Christingle Service at School
Tuesday 9 th December	1:30pm	Nativity Dress-Rehearsal for children in school
Wednesday 10 th December	2:15pm	Year 1&2 Nativity for parents
Thursday 11 th December	9:15am	Year 1&2 Nativity for parents
Friday 12 th December	2:30pm	Year R Christmas Show for parents
Wednesday 17 th December	School day	Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Lunch
Thursday 18 th December	6pm – 7pm	School Christmas Carol Concert for all

Spring Summer
2025

WEEK ONE

21/4 12/5
9/6 30/6
21/7 1/9
22/9 13/10

MONDAY

Cheese and tomato
pasta

Option One

Tomato and
Lentil Pasta

Option Two

Vegetables of the Day

Dessert

Apple
Lapack

TUESDAY

88Q Chicken Pizza
with Salads

Cheese and
Tomato Pizza
with Salads

Vegetables of the Day

Summer Lemon
Cake

WEDNESDAY

Sausage, Roast
Potatoes & Gravy

Roasted Quorn,
Roast
Potatoes, & Gravy

Vegetables of the Day

Fruit
Platter

THURSDAY

Spaghetti
Bolognese

NEW Chefs Special
Chickpea Curry
with Rice

Vegetables of the Day

Strawberry Jelly
with Mandarins

FRIDAY

Fishfingers or Salmon
Fishfingers with Chips &
Tomato Sauce

Cheese & Bean Pasty
with Chips & Tomato
Sauce

Vegetables of the Day

Chocolate Brownie

WEEK TWO

28/4
19/5
16/6 7/7
8/9 29/9
20/10

Lentil and Sweet
Potato Curry
with Rice

Option One

Cheese and
Tomato Pizza
with Salads

Option Two

Vegetables of the Day

Dessert

Iced Vanilla Sponge

Pork or Chicken Hot Dog
with Wedges & Tomato
Sauce

Vegan Hot Dog with
Wedges &
Tomato Sauce

Vegetables of the Day

NEW Strawberry and
Apple Crumble with
Custard

Roast of the Day,
Stuffing, Roast Potatoes,
& Gravy

Vegetable Soya Roast,
Stuffing, Roast Potatoes
& Gravy

Vegetables of the Day

Freshly Chopped
Fruit Salad

Chefs Special
Chicken and Chickpea
Korma with Rice

Spaghetti and
Meatballs

Vegetables of the Day

Peaches and
Ice Cream

Battered Fish with Chips
& Tomato Sauce

Cheese and Tomato
Quiche with Chips

Vegetables of the Day

Vanilla
Shortbread

WEEK THREE

5/5 2/6
23/6 14/7
15/9 6/10

Option One

Cheese and
Tomato Pizza
with Salads

Option Two

Classic Vegan
Bolognese

Vegetables

Vegetables of the Day

Dessert

Pear & Cocoa Upside
Down Cake

Beef Burger Patty
wedges

NEW Chefs Special
Five Bean
Jollof Rice

Vegetables of the Day

Cheese and Crackers

Roast Turkey, Stuffing,
Roast Potatoes
& Gravy

Veg Wellington,
Roast
Potatoes & Gravy

Vegetables of the Day

Fruit Medley

Macaroni Cheese

Spinach and Cheese
Whit with Rice, Greek
Salad and Tzatziki

Vegetables of the Day

Jam and Coconut
Sponge

Breaded Fish
and Chips

All Day Vegetarian
Breakfast

Vegetables of the Day

Oaty
Cookie

MENU KEY

Added Plant Protein

Wholemeal

Vegan

Chef's Special

Available Daily: - Freshly cooked jacket potatoes with a choice of fillings - Bread freshly baked on site daily- Daily salad selection - Fresh Fruit and Yoghurt

ALLERGY INFORMATION:

If you would like to know about particular allergens in foods please ask a member of the catering team for information. If your child has a school lunch and has a food allergy or intolerance you will be asked to complete a form to ensure we have the necessary information to cater for your child. We use a large variety of ingredients in the preparation of our meals and due to the nature of our kitchens it is not possible to completely remove the risk of allergen cross contact.

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