



SILCHESTER CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Compassion, Courage & Respect

Dear Families of Silchester,

Given that today is the end of our first Autumn Term, this newsletter is a chance for our teachers to share what the children have enjoyed learning about throughout their curriculum.

Mrs Dowling says...

What an AMAZING first half term! The children have managed incredibly well getting used to their new environment, new adults and new friends and I am so proud of all of them.

By no means have they been 'eased' in but we have been busy with travelling to both Mexico and India, PE sessions with our buddies, football coaching session, learning about autumn, learning all single set sounds in phonics and beginning to subitise numbers up to 4- just to name a few! The children definitely deserve their half term break, and I can't wait for the fun we'll have together when they return.



Miss Dodson says...

Wow – our first term has flown by!

The children have settled in wonderfully, and it's been such a joy getting to know each of them so well over the past weeks. We've had so much fun and have crammed this half term full of exciting learning experiences...

We've enjoyed discovering the seasons (and creating seasonal artwork!), exploring the weather, learning about our world (continents, the equator, the North and South Poles!), diving into the story of Little Red Riding Hood, practising our number bonds to 10 (and singing our rhyme!) ... the list goes on!

I am incredibly proud of them all and can't wait for another action-packed term after the holidays 😊

Mrs Mitchell says...

Wow! And just like that, our first term is already over! The children have enjoyed exploring the language in *The Night Box*, creating their own alliteration, onomatopoeia, and similes.

They have also shown their creative sides in R.E. and Art, creating their own mini torahs and sukkahs, and making artworks inspired by Vincent Van Gogh. In PE, we have been practising our football skills as well as our gymnastic shapes. The children have been working collaboratively to create their own simple gymnastic routines.



In Geography, we've been learning about different biomes. Hazel Class have really impressed me with how well they've remembered key facts about the various biomes we've studied. Enjoy your half term, and I will see you after the holidays for another busy Christmas term!

Miss McNally says...

What a fantastic start to the year it has been in Sycamore Class! The children have thrown themselves into learning with enthusiasm and curiosity, showing great teamwork and resilience. In PSHE, we've been exploring how to work together as a team and build positive relationships, especially through our wonderful partnerships with our new Year R buddies, which the children have absolutely loved! Our STEM mornings have been a real highlight, inspired by *Don't Let the Pigeon Go to School!* The children have designed and built their own catapults, buses, and zip-wire systems, working collaboratively to solve problems and test their creations. In Science, we've enjoyed investigating states of matter, carrying out exciting experiments (including some very fizzy ones!) and learning all about how materials change. In English, our writing has been inspired by *Harry Potter*, with magical howlers and imaginative recounts.



We have also loved bringing our storytelling to life through **drama**, using *The Winter's Child* to explore character emotions and build powerful descriptive language. We have also been developing our maths skills with hands-on place-value challenges using natural materials from the Silchester forest! It's been a brilliant first half term, I am so proud of how hard everyone has worked and can't wait to see what our next adventure brings.

Mrs Cook and Mrs Forrester say...

What a fantastic start to Year 5 it has been!

In English and Guided Reading we have been focusing on biographies - we have found out about many inspirational people from around the world. We have developed our writing skills by creating our own biography about someone we found inspirational. Our geography topic has found us discussing different forms of energy and the benefits of renewable energy sources - we even wrote letters to Mrs Moir to persuade her to let us have solar panels on the school roof!

As always, we have been a very active class and enjoyed developing our football skills, we were particularly excited to utilise our gymnastic balancing skills on the wall bars and gymnastic equipment. We were also really pleased to be the first class to support Iron Sam as he began his run from Silchester school playground heading towards Tadley School, despite the rainy weather we kept him going around the playground until Year 6 came to take over from us. We hope that you have a wonderful half term



Black History Month

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.

After school **TODAY** will be having a **Black History Month Gallery** to display the children's work, please do pop into the hall to have a look on your way home.



Miss Dadral says...

Year 6 have been an absolute dream this half term! They have put 110% effort into everything and have achieved so much in a short space of time. PGL was incredible, I only wish you could have seen how amazing they were - you will have to take my word that they all SMASHED IT! They all returned to school with a new found confidence and maturity that I know will carry them through to next term. I miss you already Year 6! I'm excited to get back to it and to have another amazing term together.

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.



Silchester Scarecrow Trail

The Silchester Association Scarecrow Trail is back for this half term holidays from 25th October – 2nd November. The theme this year is Myths & Legends. The children at Forest Schools have made Blossom the Forest Fairy and she now stands outside our school gate! Should you wish to take part in the trail, maps are available from The Calleva Pub and the Pop-Up Café.

Bag 2 School

We will be having a collection for Bag 2 School on Thursday 6th

November. As this is the first week back after half term, if you are having a clear out over the holiday, please feel free to drop any bags under the bike sheds when we return. They will be collected at 9am on Thursday morning. All proceeds made return to the PTA



Wellies and Winterwear

Should you have any wellies or winterwear items to donate after a clear out, please can you hold these back from Bag 2 School and we can collect to pass on to the PTA for the Muddy Puddles Event.

Hopefully, we can kit out our little ones without having to buy anything new this year!

WANTED: Any donations of wellies, coats & waterproofs (toddler to pre-teens) would be greatly appreciated to enable us to make this new PTA event a success!



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
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 fantastic half term holiday and we look forward to welcoming you back after.

Rachel Moir

Rachel Moir
Head of School



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!



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



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.

Autumn Winter
2025 2026

WEEK ONE

3/11,
24/11,
15/12,
19/1,
9/2,
9/3

Option One

Plant Balls in Tomato
Sauce with Rice

Beef Lasagne with
Garlic Bread

Roast Chicken, Stuffing,
Roast Potatoes and
Gravy

Chicken Biryani

Fishfingers or Salmon
Fishfingers with Chips &
Tomato Sauce

Option Two

Autumn Vegetable
Lasagne

Cheese & Tomato Pizza
with wedges

Vegetarian Wellington
with Roast Potatoes and
Gravy

BBQ Vegan Sausage
Pasta with Garlic
Bread

Cheese and Bean Pasty
with Chips and Tomato
Sauce

Vegetables

Vegetables of the Day

Vegetables of the Day

Vegetables of the Day

Vegetables of the Day

Vegetables of the Day

Dessert

Cheese and Crackers

NEW Apple Crumb Cake
with Custard

Fruit Medley

Jelly with Mandarins

Syrup Sponge with
Custard

WEEK TWO

10/11,
1/12,
5/1,
26/1,
23/2,
16/3

Option One

Classic Cheese and
Tomato Pizza
with Wedges

Spaghetti
Bolognese

BBQ Chicken with
Seasoned Potatoes
and Sweetcorn Salsa

Meatballs in Tomato
Sauce with Rice

Breaded Fish or
Fishfingers with Chips &
Tomato Sauce

Option Two

Mild Mexican Chilli with
Rice

Vegan Spaghetti
Bolognese

Quorn with Seasoned
Potatoes and
Sweetcorn Salsa

Creamy Chickpea and
Coconut Curry with Rice

Cheese Whirl with Chips
and Tomato Sauce

Vegetables

Vegetables of the Day

Vegetables of the Day

Vegetables of the Day

Vegetables of the Day

Vegetables of the Day

Dessert

NEW Gingerbread
Cookie

Chocolate and Beetroot
Brownie with Chocolate
Sauce

Fruit Salad

Sticky Toffee Apple
Crumble with Custard

Vanilla Shortbread

WEEK THREE

17/11,
8/12,
12/1,
2/2,
2/3,
23/3

Option One

Macaroni
Cheese

NEW Chicken 50%
Enchilada Bake with
Paprika Wedges

Sausage with Roast
Potatoes and Gravy

BBQ Chicken
Pizza With wedges

Fishfingers with Chips &
Tomato Sauce

Option Two

NEW Chefs Special
Lentil Curry with Rice

Tomato Pasta

Vegan Sausage and
Roast Potatoes
with Gravy

Cheese & Tomato Pizza
with wedges

Red Pepper Frittata with
Chips & Tomato Sauce

Vegetables

Vegetables of the Day

Vegetables of the Day

Vegetables of the Day

Vegetables of the Day

Vegetables of the Day

Dessert

Oaty Cookie

Pear Crumble with
Custard

Fruit Salad

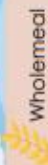
NEW Jamaican Ginger
Cake with Custard

Comflake Tart

MENU KEY



Added Plant Protein



Wholemeal



Chef's Special



Vegan



NEW

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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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