

# SILCHESTER CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

*Compassion, Courage & Respect*

Dear Families of Silchester,

Today marks the halfway point of this academic year! We are so proud of the progress our children are making across the curriculum in their learning and in their character – thanks for giving us such a great bunch! To send you off into the half term holidays, please have a read below to find out some of the highlights from each class:



**Mrs Dowling says...**

That went quickly! What another fun, fully packed half term! Ladybirds are just showing an absolute love for learning and amaze me each passing term. We have been

lucky enough to find and look after a dinosaur, travel to Australis for some fairy bread, taken over a Chinese restaurant and learnt some woodwork skills! We have not stopped! The children are now beginning to write their own simple sentences and recognise number bonds to 5! Ladybirds are also consistently showing off our learning behaviours, working collaboratively (bees), writing independently (fox), not giving up and trying again (badger), using their words to explain (robin). I couldn't be prouder:)

**Miss Dodson and Mrs Hammill say...**

This half term has been all about “Habitats” and the world in which we find these habitats! We have learnt about lots of different types of habitats (polar habitat, desert habitat, rainforest habitat, urban or domestic habitats, the list goes on!); made clay animals that live in some of these habitats; explored the countries and capital cities of the UK and the seas that surround it; learnt about The Creation Story in RE! I’m beyond proud in the progress the children are making in their maths, reading and writing... they are truly showing such resilience, independence and resourcefulness! I’m hope you enjoyed seeing all their work at the Parent Evenings and I’ll see you all again in the new half term 😊





**Mrs Mitchell says...**

Another busy half term has flown by! We have worked incredibly hard, and I wanted to share a few highlights with you.

Firstly, times tables! We have been working hard to become fluent, and I am honestly so proud of how far each and every member of Hazel Class has come with their tables. Maths is a real strength in our class. We have explored lots of different mathematical concepts, but our knowledge of fractions has really stood out to me.

In writing, we have written interviews

with dragons, capturing the style of Andy Seed. We have also been writing vivid rainforest setting descriptions, using rich vocabulary and descriptive language. We have also been working so hard on our handwriting and we will continue to improve this next term!

Our topic this half term has been rainforests, and we have created some brilliant collages and posters to showcase our learning. We have also taken part of in a rainforest quiz where we worked collaboratively with our peers. We are so proud of everything we have learnt that we would love to share it with you after half term at our very own **Rainforest Museum**. After school on **Monday 2nd March**, Hazel Class would like to invite you to come and see their rainforest work.

We are also very much looking forward to our trip to The Living Rainforest next term and are feeling hopeful about spotting the sloth! I hope you all have a wonderful and restful half-term holiday. See you next term!

**Miss McNally and Mrs Hammill say...**

Sycamore Class have really thrown themselves in to their topic this term. They have loved learning all about The Roman's invasion and settling in Britain. It linked so nicely to their previous learning about why we are called 'Silchester' and has helped to bring history to life. None more so than their exciting Roman Day today – great effort on the costumes everyone!

The children have also really loved their literacy focus on The Firework Maker's Daughter and their love for this has been reflected in their vocabulary and expressive writing this term. Their understanding of place value and column addition has shown vast progress, and they have impressed me with their thirst for challenge. Well done Sycamore Class!





**Mrs Cook and Mrs Forrester say...**

What a wonderfully creative time we have had in Year 5 this term - we have been blown away by your imaginative ideas. During our English session we created our own Pandoran bugs and then wrote a non-chronological report about them. We investigated the life cycles of different species of animals - mammals, insects, birds, amphibians and reptiles. It was particularly fun dissecting eggs during our research of the life cycles of birds and reptiles. We then related this knowledge to our invented bugs and devised a life cycle for our Pandoran creature. Finally, we used our artistic skills to create a

clay model of our bug. We are looking forward to being able to paint them once they are dry enough. Despite the very rainy weather we have had this half term, we have developed our basketball skills, and we are now more successful at applying these skills in game situations.

**Miss Dadral says...**

This half term has been an exceptional one for Year 6! The children have embraced every challenge with enthusiasm and curiosity. In topic, they explored *Trading and Economics*, gaining a deeper understanding of how goods move around the world. In Science, they investigated *Living Things and Their Habitats*, asking thoughtful questions and developing impressive scientific reasoning. In English, the children produced a fantastic balanced argument on *fast fashion*—a topic they were truly passionate about—before moving on to write gripping newspaper reports inspired by a fictional factory collapse in Mumbai. Their effort, maturity, and creativity have been outstanding. We are incredibly proud of everything they have achieved this half term! I am excited to see everyone after half term.



## Eco Council's Community Clean-up!

Our Eco counsellors had a fun afternoon improving our community by litter picking around our school car parks, the field and nearby roads. The weather was kind to us, but we were so glad we had our wellies as it was very muddy and there were plenty of huge puddles to splash in!

We were sad to find lots of plastic bottles, cans and many glass bottles. Our school playground was almost perfect though, which really pleased

us. Many thanks to Sam Rolph for taking our Eco Council on this venture and congratulations to our Eco Councillors for making a plan and acting to improve our little corner of the world – what a difference children can make!



# WOW Week for Poetry

The first week back after half term will be another special Silchester WOW Week – this time around for Poetry. To continue the work we've started on developing spirituality, each day will have a theme of 'self, others, beauty and beyond'. On the Tuesday (first day back), every child will get the opportunity to take part in our very own 'Rap School!' We are really excited about this and hope that as well as enjoying the day, children will also explore finding and expressing their voice through the power of words. Have a little look at the following video for a sneak teaser!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HWPHHbeGfAk>

Enormous thanks to The PTA for sponsoring this week, it enables us to provide these additional enrichments to enhance our curriculum and give our children experiences that turn into memories to inspire.

## Parent Survey

We would like to review how we, as a school are performing. What are we doing well? What could we do better? The best way of evaluating how well the school is meeting your child's needs is by gathering your views. Your opinion forms an extremely valuable part of school self-evaluation. Your responses are anonymous and will all be taken seriously.

I know that life is very busy, but we would be extremely grateful if you could find the time to take the survey before the end of the week. The survey takes between 5 and 10 minutes to complete. The more responses we have the more reliable the data is, enabling us to focus on the areas of improvement that matter most.

Please use the link below to complete the survey.

[Parent Survey - Silchester Church of England Primary School – Fill in form](#)

# PTA News!

## **Break the Rules**

Thanks to everyone who dared to 'Break the Rules' today. We are very grateful for your support of the event and we know the children had a blast too! The total amount raised was an incredible £432!

## **Pre-loved Uniform**

### **Purchasing**

We have plenty of preloved items – jumpers, cardigans, trousers, skirts and pinafores. If you wish to purchase pre-loved uniform items please contact Lizzie West via Facebook to check availability. Items are charged at £2 for logo items, and 50p per grey items. All funds go directly to the PTA Payment is via bank transfer or cash.

Name: Silchester School PTA

Account number: 00387022

Sort code: 30-18-45

Please reference “uniform”

### **Donations**

We would currently welcome donations of:

- cardigans and jumpers 30” and larger



## **New Fundraiser –Stikins**



Having a sort out over half term? Buying the next size up? Just bagged a bargain from our PTA pre-loved stock?

We have teamed up with 'Stikins', meaning we can now earn 30% commission on all orders placed – just use our fundraiser number **17969** – a handy flyer with the number on is hiding in your child's bag!

## **Future Events**

### **Bag2School Collection – Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February 9am**

Collection bags came home with the children last week. Donations can be made in any plastic bags, and you can donate as many bags as you like. Please leave at the right hand end of the bike-shed to ensure that the bags are kept dry prior to collection.

Please follow the link to check whether items you are planning to donate will be collected. We are currently receiving 30p per kg. <https://www.bag2school.com/what-we-collect>

## **PTA Volunteers**

Every parent/guardian of a pupil at the school is a member of the PTA. If you feel you can offer time, ideas, or expertise to help us maximise our support and enrichment of the work the school does please make contact with a member of the PTA via [silchesterpta.chair@gmail.com](mailto:silchesterpta.chair@gmail.com), through the Facebook page or in-person on the school run ☺ We would love to have all of you supporting projects that benefit your children in whichever ways you can.

If you are able to join us our next meeting is **8pm Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March.**

## Easter Disco – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March



The highly anticipated discos will be held on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March. **Tickets available to book from Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February** - £6 per child.

\*Children in year 3 are welcome to choose which disco they'd prefer to go to.

**KS1 3.30-5.00pm**- tickets include snack (nut free), drink and one 'treatment'



**KS2 5.30-7.00pm**- ticket includes snack (nut free) and 1x beauty treatment (temporary tattoos, hair, and nails). Tuck shop will also be available (cash only). Cash needed for further snacks, drinks or treatments.



**PTA  
EASTER  
DISCOS**

**FRIDAY 20TH MARCH**

**KS1 (YR, 1, 2 & 3) 3:15-5PM**

**KS2 (Y3, 4, 5 & 6) 5:30-7PM**

**£6 PER TICKET (COVERS ENTRY TO THE DISCO,  
A PACKET OF CRISPS, A DRINK OF  
SQUASH/WATER AND A BEAUTY TREATMENT)**

**BOOKINGS ONLY VIA THE PTA WEBSITE**

## Willows Job

We are looking to employ further play assistants to work at our after-school club. If you fancy joining the team, looking after our children and like playing, please see the job advert below:



# The Willows Breakfast and After School Provision Silchester C of E Primary School

**Job Start Date:** Immediately

**Contract/Hours:** Fixed Term until July 2027, Part-time

**Salary Type:** Support Staff

**Salary Details:** Actual salary £6,720.00

**Hours of Work:** 12 hours per week – Monday to Thursday - 3.00pm – 6.00pm

**Term time only**

**Location of Role:** Silchester C of E Primary School

**Contact e-mail address:** [s.phillips@silchester.hants.sch.uk](mailto:s.phillips@silchester.hants.sch.uk)

### Job/Person Summary

If you are someone who would like to be part of something special and make a positive impact on the lives of our children, then this could be the position for you. Silchester C of E Primary School is looking to appoint an enthusiastic, dedicated and caring Breakfast and Afterschool Club Assistant to work at their provision, The Willows. The Willows provides a sociable, safe and stimulating provision for children aged between 4 – 11, who attend Silchester C of E Primary School. The clubs run daily from 7.30am to 8.40am and from 3.15pm to 6.00pm.

The successful candidate needs to:-

- Enjoy working with children
- Have a sense of humour
- Work as a team to monitor the welfare of the children, ensuring their emotional and physical wellbeing
- Support children with Special Needs
- Set out activities and equipment at the start of each session
- Support children with eating their food/snacks
- The ability to communicate effectively with children and parents and maintain good relationships
- Be happy to administer first aid (training will be provided if needed)

In return, we can offer you: -

- A friendly school team who will support you
- The opportunity to work with lovely and respectful children
- A happy and safe school environment
- Fun packed sessions
- Staff training where needed

### Application Procedure

If you are interested in applying please contact our School Admin Officer, Sandra Phillips on 0118 9700256 or email on [s.phillips@silchester.hants.sch.uk](mailto:s.phillips@silchester.hants.sch.uk) for an application pack.

### Safer Recruitment

Silchester C of E Primary School and Hampshire County Council are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. We will ensure that all our recruitment and selection practices reflect this commitment. All successful candidates will be subject to Disclosure and Barring Service checks along with other relevant employment checks.

Address: School Lane, Silchester. RG7 2NJ

Telephone:0118 9700256

## Upcoming Dates

DATE	EVENT
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> -Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> February	HALF TERM
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	Inset Day
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> – 27 <sup>th</sup> February	WOW Week to poetry
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> February	The Rap School visit for all
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> February	After School SATS meeting for Year 6 parents
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> February	Bags2School
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	After School Rainforest Museum – Hazel Class
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	PTA meeting
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> March	Judo Day - sessions everyone to school in PE kits please
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> March	Beech Class (5) visit to Science Museum
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> and Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 6 Bike ability
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	PTA Easter Discos
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> March	Rock Steady Concert – 2:30pm
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> March – 9:15am Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March – 2:15pm	Year 3 and Year 4 Easter Play
30 <sup>th</sup> March – 10 <sup>th</sup> April	Easter Holidays
Amazon Wish List	<a href="https://amzn.eu/diet9uj">https://amzn.eu/diet9uj</a>

**Don't forget that the first Monday back is an INSET** so I'll look forward to welcoming you all on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February. Wishing you all a really great half term full of relaxation, togetherness, adventure and play!

*Rachel Moir*

Rachel Moir  
Head of School

TADLEY & DISTRICT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

# FEBRUARY HALF TERM @ THE LINK & THE POINT

Booking Online  
or call 0118 9814538

**16TH**

£5pp

## MINI CHEF'S CHINESE NEW YEAR @ THE POINT

9.30am to 11am

Looking for a session full of fun, learning, and lasting memories? Come along and make spring rolls at our Mini Chef Session!



**17TH & 18TH**

£2.25pp

## YOUTH 1/2 TERM CELEBRATIONS

Yr 6 - 6pm to 7.15pm  
Yr 7-11 7.30pm to 8.45pm  
Join us for a party night to celebrate the 1/2 term.



**18TH**

£3pp

## CHUCKLE CHIMP FUN MORNING @ THE LINK

9.30am to 11am

Join us for a morning of Chuckle Zone, ride ons, craft zone and play - it's a morning of CheekyChimps meets ChuckleZone.



**20TH**

£3pp

## NATURE EXPLORER'S CRAFT MORNING @ THE POINT

9.30am to 11am

Join us for a Morning of fun exploring nature, we will be making bird feeders, creating bird boxes from milk bottles and more.



THE LINK, NEWCHURCH ROAD, TADLEY, RG26 4HN  
CHARITY NO: 1198457

Autumn Winter  
2025 2026

**WEEK ONE**

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

**MONDAY**

**Option One**

Plant Balls in Tomato  
Sauce with Rice

**Option Two**

**Autumn Vegetable  
Lasagne**

**Vegetables**

Vegetables of the Day

**Dessert**

Cheese and Crackers

**TUESDAY**

Beef Lasagne with  
Garlic Bread

**Cheese & Tomato Pizza  
with wedges**

Vegetables of the Day

**NEW** Apple Crumb Cake  
with Custard

**WEDNESDAY**

Roast Chicken, Stuffing,  
Roast Potatoes and  
Gravy

**Vegetarian Wellington  
with Roast Potatoes and  
Gravy**

Vegetables of the Day

Fruit Medley

**THURSDAY**

Chicken Biryani

**BBQ Vegan Sausage  
Pasta with Garlic  
Bread**

Vegetables of the Day

Jelly with Mandarins

**FRIDAY**

Fishfingers or Salmon  
Fishfingers with Chips &  
Tomato Sauce

**Cheese and Bean Pasty  
with Chips and Tomato  
Sauce**

Vegetables of the Day

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**

**Option Two**

Mild Mexican Chilli with  
Rice

**Vegetables**

Vegetables of the Day

**Dessert**

**NEW** Gingerbread  
Cookie

Spaghetti  
Bolognese

**Vegan Spaghetti  
Bolognese**

Vegetables of the Day

Chocolate and Beetroot  
Brownie with Chocolate  
Sauce

BBQ Chicken with  
Seasoned Potatoes  
and Sweetcorn Salsa

**Quorn with Seasoned  
Potatoes and  
Sweetcorn Salsa**

Vegetables of the Day

Fruit Salad

Meatballs in Tomato  
Sauce with Rice

**Creamy Chickpea and  
Coconut Curry with Rice**

Vegetables of the Day

Sticky Toffee Apple  
Crumble with Custard

Breaded Fish or  
Fishfingers with Chips &  
Tomato Sauce

**Cheese Whirl with Chips  
and Tomato Sauce**

Vegetables of the Day

Vanilla Shortbread

**WEEK THREE**

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

**Option One**

**Macaroni  
Cheese**

**Option Two**

**NEW** Chefs Special  
Lentil Curry with Rice

**Vegetables**

Vegetables of the Day

**Dessert**

Oaty Cookie

**NEW** Chicken 50%  
Enchilada Bake with  
Paprika Wedges

**Tomato Pasta**

Vegetables of the Day

Pear Crumble with  
Custard

Sausage with Roast  
Potatoes and Gravy

**Vegan Sausage and  
Roast Potatoes  
with Gravy**

Vegetables of the Day

Fruit Salad

BBQ Chicken  
Pizza With wedges

**Cheese & Tomato Pizza  
with wedges**

Vegetables of the Day

**NEW** Jamaican Ginger  
Cake with Custard

Fishfingers with Chips &  
Tomato Sauce

**Red Pepper Frittata with  
Chips & Tomato Sauce**

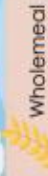
Vegetables of the Day

Comflake Tart

**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.

**caterlink**  
feeding the imagination