



## SILCHESTER CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

*Compassion, Courage & Respect*

Dear Families of Silchester,

### **Cricket Taster Day**

What a perfect start to our sunny Friday than to enjoy a bit of cricket on the field! It was so nice to welcome Rachel and Paul, Silchester cricket coaches, into school for a fun and engaging Cricket Taster Day today. The children had the opportunity to learn and practise key cricket skills, including batting, bowling and fielding, through a range of exciting activities and games. The coaches were excellent with the kids and created a supportive and enthusiastic atmosphere that encouraged everyone to get involved, try something new and build confidence. It was wonderful to see so much teamwork, determination and enjoyment on display, and the children finished the session enthusiastic and eager to continue developing their cricket skills. Even as I write this from my office, I can hear them cheering each other on from here!



Starting on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May, there will be All Stars Cricket (5-8year olds) and Dynamos Cricket (8-11year olds) on the field outside the pop-up. Should your child wish to join after their taster day, booking can be made here: [Clubspark / All Stars / Search](#) It is a really nice way to end your week watching cricket with a bit of community and always signals the start of summer!

## Drama Workshop

Ladybirds, Chestnut and Hazel were treated to a drama workshop this week led by Gemma from Perform. With a theme of Peter Pan, the children used their imagination to travel to Neverland. They were very creative and really enjoyed the drama!



## Disney Day!

Another magical day in Ladybirds this Thursday with their special Disney Day. The children enjoyed dressing up with Anna and Belle! Throughout the day, the children watched the Disney parade, made Mickey Mouse snacks, went on their own Slinky Dog ride and applied their knowledge of shapes to create Disney drawings.

## Reading in the Sunshine: A Library Initiative

Our Year 5 librarians have launched a wonderful new lunchtime initiative, bringing books and cushions out onto the playground so that children can enjoy reading in the sunshine. This inviting space has quickly become a hub of activity, with older pupils enthusiastically sharing stories with younger children, and younger readers proudly reading aloud too. It has been a joy to see children connecting through books in this way and so lovely that these interactions have happened organically.



During Monday's worship, which focused on **British Values**, the librarians were able to clearly link their initiative to each value.

- **Democracy** is reflected in pupils helping to choose which books are taken outside and how the space is used.
- **The Rule of Law** is demonstrated through children taking responsibility for caring for the books and following agreed expectations at lunchtime.
- **Individual Liberty** shines through as pupils freely choose when, where and what they read.

- Most powerfully, **Mutual Respect and Tolerance** can be seen in the way children of different ages read together, listen attentively to one another, and encourage each other's confidence and enjoyment of reading.

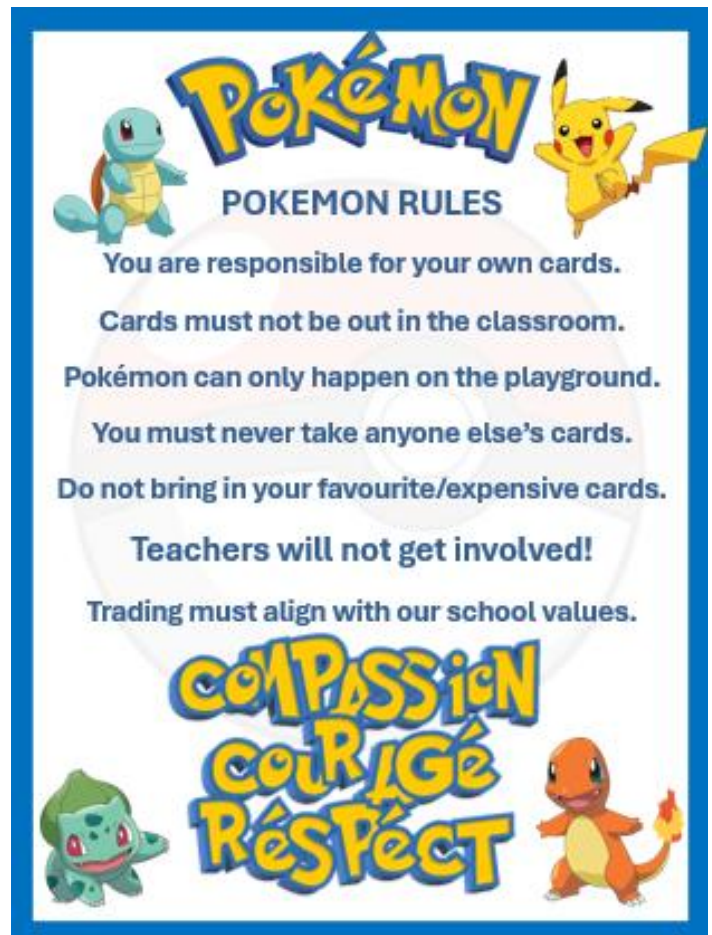
This lovely initiative has been made possible thanks to the PTA, whose fundraising enabled us to purchase the trolley and cushions to turn this reading time into a truly special shared experience.

### **Gotta Catch 'em all?!!! Pokémon Cards in School – A Trial Period**

Many of our children have recently been enthusiastic about bringing Pokémon cards into school. We recognise that this interest can be a positive one: for many pupils it is a shared, non-screen-based activity that encourages conversation, turn-taking and social interaction.

At the same time, we are naturally cautious about items being brought into school, as they can sometimes lead to disagreements, distraction from learning, or place additional demands on staff time. Children should not bring in anything they'd be upset to lose. In order to teach compassion, courage and respect, we also must model it. Our children have put forward an emphatic argument and pupil voice is incredibly important to us. We have therefore agreed to offer a **trial period** to see whether Pokémon cards can be managed responsibly within clear boundaries. We hope that this will give them a practical experience that rights go hand in hand with responsibility.

We have discussed expectations with the children and agreed a set of rules, which are outlined on the poster here and shared with pupils. Most importantly, Pokémon cards **must not disrupt learning time or take up teacher time**. If difficulties do arise, we will review the arrangement. We are grateful for your support in reminding children of the rules and helping us ensure this trial is a positive experience for everyone.



Let's see how it goes!



### **Cycling to School**

It is so lovely to see lots of children and parents taking the opportunity to cycle into school. Our bike shed is big, and all are welcome to leave their bikes on school site. We are so lucky to have lots of common and woods that enable a safer cycle route to school.

Please may I urge some caution regarding safety? Several children have been seen cycling on the roads without helmets, not being fully aware of cars or cycling through the carpark whilst on their bikes. Please can you make sure that your child is as safe as possible, with the correct gear, and that they know the importance of not cycling around moving cars. Thanks so much and enjoy the ride in!

## Request from The Willows

We are trying to update/add to our outside play equipment as well as adding to our stock inside, at the Willows. If you have any of the following items, that are still in good, working condition and would be willing to donate them to us, we would be very, very grateful to accept any donations of the following...

- \* Helmets - all sizes
- Scooters/wiggle carts
- Hoops
- Coloured paper
- Skipping ropes



## Behaviour Change

Our friends at the not-for-profit Behaviour Change are running some research on school uniforms. The average child in the UK goes through 30-40 items of school uniform and PE kit EVERY year. If you're a parent and this sounds like your life, they'd love to hear from you.



They're surveying parents to learn more about how you source and dispose of school uniform, to gain insight into how this system could be made more circular.

Contributing to this survey would greatly help their research and hopefully positively influence our environmental impact. It will take less than 5 minutes to complete: <http://bit.ly/3O6PqcP>

## PTA News!

Silchester Primary PTA

**V O L U N T E E R**

**What's missing?**

**U R**

**WE NEED YOU!**  
We would love for you to join us at our next ideas and planning meeting on **Tuesday 28th April at 8pm** in The Calleva Arms - just turn up!

Up-coming events we'd love help with:  
Silchester's Got Talent; Colour Run (including BBQ) and Summer Raffle

**Parenikind**

## Future Events

Treat Tuesday – lolly sales at the end of the day every Tuesday (weather permitting)

Break the Rules Day – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May

Bag2School Collection – Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June

Silchester's Got Talent – Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June

Colour Run – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July

## 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 do not need any more grey uniform items or white polo shirts (even those with logos) as we have a considerable number in stock already.
- We will welcome donations of jumpers and cardigans with the school logo. Please pass to the school office, for the attention of Lizzie West.

### Stikins



We have teamed up with ‘Stikins’, meaning we can now earn 30% commission on all orders placed – just use our fundraiser number **17969**

### World Record Attempt



A shout-out to all the Dads – we need your muscles for a PTA fundraising endurance rowing world record attempt!

Starting at **8am on Friday 16th May and finishing at 10am on Sunday 18th**, we will attempt to row for 50 continual hours on a single Concept 2 rowing machine to hopefully break the current male record of 48 hours – and we need you all!!

If you **fancy popping down for a ten minute rowing session** (or 12!!) during morning, noon or night, then please, please do contact Dave Holby-Wolinski. It would be amazing to see you and many man hugs shall be bestowed upon you.

Absolutely no pace or skill required (that will be hugely apparent from the team we've pulled together!!) - just a giggle, great coffee and a fab opportunity to raise funds for our wonderful school. And of course every one of Dad Rowers will receive a World Record Certificate from Concept2 if we can make it through. The payoff being that you will despise rowing machines for evermore 😊

So hoping you can join the team – we need you 😊

<https://wonderful.org/fundraisers/NPbg3>



## Upcoming Dates

DATE	EVENT
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> April	PTA Meeting – 8pm @ The Calleva
30 <sup>th</sup> April, 7 <sup>th</sup> May, 14 <sup>th</sup> May, 21 <sup>st</sup> May	Sycamore Class Swimming Lessons
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> May	MAY DAY BANK HOLIDAY
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> – Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 6 SATs
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> May	The Big School Workout with Joe Wicks
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Walk to School Week
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	PTA Break the Rules Day
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> May – Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> May	HALF TERM HOLIDAY
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June – Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> June	WOW Week – Inclusion Outdoors!
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June	WOW Basketball – Britain’s Tallest Man visit
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> June	Bags2School Collection
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> June	Sports Day (first attempt!)
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> June	PTA Meeting – 8pm at The Calleva
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> June	Silchester’s Got Talent
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> June – Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> June	Ladybirds Cycling Proficiency Week
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> June	Whole School Pilgrimage to the church
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> June	After School Book Sale for Dyslexia Resources
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> and Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> June	BPSM Choir Performances at The Anvil
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 6 Leavers Service at Winchester Cathedral
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 5 and 6 End of Year Production
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> July	Sycamore Class River Study Field Trip
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July	Year 6 Paulton’s Park Trip
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July	The Secret Garden Production in school
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> July – 6:30pm-8:30pm	Year 6 Leavers Party
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> July at 9:30am	Year 6 Leavers Assembly
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July	FIRST DAY OF SUMMER HOLIDAYS
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September	FIRST DAY OF NEW SCHOOL YEAR
Amazon Wish List	<a href="https://amzn.eu/diet9uj">https://amzn.eu/diet9uj</a>

And as advanced notice (should you wish to plan ahead for holidays/childcare) here’s our INSET Days for 2026/2027:


- Tuesday 1st September 2026
- Monday 4th January 2027
- Monday 22nd February 2027
- Friday 28th May 2027
- Wednesday 21st July 2027

Wishing you all a wonderful weekend, I’ll look forward to seeing you on the gate on Monday.

*Rachel Moir*

Rachel Moir

# SPRING SUMMER MENU 2026

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	MENU KEY:
<b>WEEK ONE</b>	<p><b>Option One</b> Macaroni Cheese</p> <p><b>Option Two</b> Chickpea Curry with Rice</p> <p><b>Sides</b> Vegetables of the Day</p> <p><b>Dessert</b> NEW Banana Mousse</p>	<p><b>Option One</b> Phat Pasty Pork Sausage Roll with Potato Wedges</p> <p><b>Option Two</b> Mild Mexican Chili with Rice</p> <p><b>Sides</b> Vegetables of the Day</p> <p><b>Dessert</b> Strawberry Jelly with Mandarins</p>	<p><b>Option One</b> Roast Chicken, Stuffing, Roast Potatoes &amp; Gravy</p> <p><b>Option Two</b> Roasted Quorn, Roast Potatoes, &amp; Gravy</p> <p><b>Sides</b> Vegetables of the Day</p> <p><b>Dessert</b> Fruit Platter</p>	<p><b>Option One</b> Spagheti Bolognaise</p> <p><b>Option Two</b> Cheese &amp; Tomato Pizza</p> <p><b>Sides</b> Vegetables of the Day</p> <p><b>Dessert</b> Apple Flapjack</p>	<p><b>Option One</b> Fishfingers with Chips &amp; Tomato Sauce</p> <p><b>Option Two</b> Cheese &amp; Bean Pasty with Chips &amp; Tomato Sauce</p> <p><b>Sides</b> Vegetables of the Day</p> <p><b>Dessert</b> Orange drizzle Cake</p>	<p> Whole grain</p> <p> Plant based</p> <p> Added plant protein</p> <p> Chef's Special</p>
<b>WEEK TWO</b>	<p><b>Option One</b> Cheese &amp; Tomato Pizza</p> <p><b>Option Two</b> Lentil &amp; Sweet Potato Curry with Rice</p> <p><b>Sides</b> Vegetables of the Day</p> <p><b>Dessert</b> Iced Vanilla Sponge</p>	<p><b>Option One</b> Beef Chilli with Rice</p> <p><b>Option Two</b> Spagheti &amp; Meat free balls in a Tomato Sauce</p> <p><b>Sides</b> Vegetables of the Day</p> <p><b>Dessert</b> Peaches &amp; Ice Cream</p>	<p><b>Option One</b> Park Sausage, Roast Potatoes &amp; Gravy</p> <p><b>Option Two</b> Veg Wellington, Roast Potatoes &amp; Gravy</p> <p><b>Sides</b> Vegetables of the Day</p> <p><b>Dessert</b> Freshly Chopped Fruit Salad</p>	<p><b>Option One</b> Chicken Burger in a bun with wedges</p> <p><b>Option Two</b> Spinach &amp; Cheese Whirl with Rice</p> <p><b>Sides</b> Vegetables of the Day</p> <p><b>Dessert</b> Jam Sponge with Custard</p>	<p><b>Option One</b> Battered Fish with Chips &amp; Tomato Sauce</p> <p><b>Option Two</b> NEW Cheesy Broccoli Frittata with Chips</p> <p><b>Sides</b> Vegetables of the Day</p> <p><b>Dessert</b> Oaty Cookie</p>	
<b>WEEK THREE</b>	<p><b>Option One</b> Tomato Pasta</p> <p><b>Option Two</b> NEW Chinese Vegetable Noodles</p> <p><b>Sides</b> Vegetables of the Day</p> <p><b>Dessert</b> Pineapple Upside Down Cake</p>	<p><b>Option One</b> Beef Burger with Potato Wedges</p> <p><b>Option Two</b> Cheese &amp; Tomato Pizza with wedges</p> <p><b>Sides</b> Vegetables of the Day</p> <p><b>Dessert</b> Cheese &amp; Crackers</p>	<p><b>Option One</b> Roast Pork, Potatoes &amp; Gravy</p> <p><b>Option Two</b> Vegetable Loaf with Stuffing, Mashed Potatoes &amp; Gravy</p> <p><b>Sides</b> Vegetables of the Day</p> <p><b>Dessert</b> Fruit Medley</p>	<p><b>Option One</b> Chicken Korma with Rice</p> <p><b>Option Two</b> All Day Vegetarian Breakfast</p> <p><b>Sides</b> Vegetables of the Day</p> <p><b>Dessert</b> Apple Crumble with Custard</p>	<p><b>Option One</b> Fishfingers with Chips &amp; Tomato Sauce</p> <p><b>Option Two</b> Cowboy Sausage and Bean Hotpot</p> <p><b>Sides</b> Vegetables of the Day</p> <p><b>Dessert</b> Vanilla Shortbread</p>	
<b>AVAILABLE DAILY:</b>	Jacket Potatoes with a choice of fillings, Salad Bar, Freshly Baked Bread, Fresh Fruit, Yoghurt					

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.

# PICNIC BAG MENU

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>W E E K 1</b>	<b>CHEESE SANDWICH</b>	<b>HOT DOG</b>	<b>CHEESE SANDWICH</b>	<b>PIZZA</b>	<b>FISHFINGERS IN A BUN</b>
<b>W E E K 2</b>	<b>PIZZA</b>	<b>CHEESE SANDWICH</b>	<b>HOT DOG</b>	<b>CHICKEN IN A BUN</b>	<b>HAM SANDWICH</b>
<b>W E E K 3</b>	<b>HOT DOG</b>	<b>PIZZA</b>	<b>CHEESE SANDWICH</b>	<b>HAM SANDWICH</b>	<b>FISHFINGERS IN A BUN</b>

All picnic bags will include vegetable sticks, cucumber slices, apple slice, orange segment and a pudding