



## SILCHESTER CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

*Compassion, Courage & Respect*

Dear Families of Silchester,

Well, this term has certainly flown by, and I couldn't be prouder of our school, our staff, our children and our community. Wishing you all a really happy and restful half term holiday next week. We will look forward to welcoming you back for the final Summer Term kicked off by our WOW Week for Inclusion in Sport. To summarise Summer 1, please read on to hear highlights from each teacher about your children's learning and curriculum this term.

### **Mrs Dowling says...**

I think this has been our most exciting half term!

With our 'Muddy Mondays' at forest school, Disney day, trip to the supermarket, visit from the police, making fruit kebabs, learning about pirates and then weddings... we have just been non-stop super busy!

The children have engaged with everything and love sharing their knowledge with us. I can't believe we are heading into our final term with our not so little Ladybirds, but I know it will be the best term yet!



### **Miss Dodson says...**

As always, I can't believe how fast this half term has gone (which makes me very sad because there's only one-half term left!!) This half term has been packed as always, full of much learning and fun.

Our main topic has been "Influential People", so we have learnt all about inspiring people like Greta Thunberg and different queens who have ruled our country. We've done some fantastic work in maths too – the children have been blowing me away with how much they've been challenging themselves and progressing now we're coming up to the end of the year! We've also looked at healthy eating and enjoyed a fruit salad – yum! Throw in a drama workshop, a cricket day taster and a friendly visit from the police, we've had many exciting times together.

See you soon for the final few weeks after a sunny half term! Enjoy!

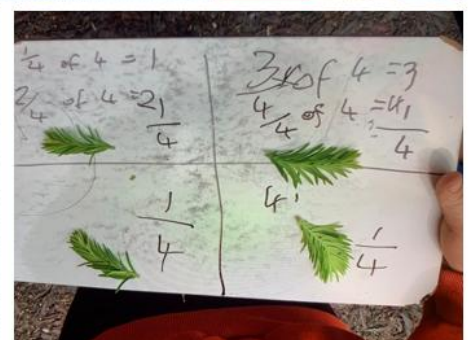


**Mrs Cook and Mrs Pulford say...**

Mrs Cook and I have had a lovely half term in Hazel Class, and it has been such a pleasure getting to know all of the children. In English, we began the term with an exciting workshop with *Perform*, where we explored the story of *Peter Pan* and had great fun acting out the different characters. We have also enjoyed reading *Bog Baby*, *Claude on Holiday*, and *Bear and Rabbit*. Through these texts, the children have been learning how to make inferences about characters based on their actions, as well as developing their understanding of onomatopoeia and personification. It has been fantastic to see them beginning to use figurative language in their own writing. The children have also enjoyed learning how to write fact sheets by creating their own imaginative creatures inspired by *The Barnabas Project*. In addition, they wrote wonderful storm diary entries based on *The Windmill Farmer*.

In Science, we have been learning about what animals need to survive and how to keep ourselves healthy by eating a balanced diet and exercising our muscles. During our Geography lessons, we have explored different types of settlements and learnt about their key features. In PE, the children have worked hard to improve their tennis skills and have practised their balances and jumps in gymnastics. In Art, we created our own monoprints using oil pastels. It was fantastic to see the children expressing their creativity!

We are very proud of everything the children have achieved this half term and look forward to another exciting one ahead.





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

This half term has been another busy and exciting one in Sycamore Class, filled with hands-on learning, creativity, and lots of memorable moments!

Our Topic work focused on the Anglo-Saxons, where the children developed their historical enquiry skills by analysing a range of sources. We explored the difference between primary and secondary sources and discussed reliability and bias, with the children showing

some fantastic critical thinking as they questioned how trustworthy different pieces of evidence might be.

In Maths, a large focus has been on preparation for the Multiplication Tables Check (MTC) for both Year 3 and Year 4. We have worked incredibly hard on improving times table fluency and recall, as these fundamental skills support so many other areas of maths learning. Alongside this, we also explored geometry, including shape properties, angles, and position and direction. Science has definitely been a highlight this half term! The children absolutely loved learning about the digestive system through a range of wonderfully messy and memorable experiments. From creating “stomach contents” bags to squeezing “food” through intestines and producing some rather revolting “poo”, the children gained a brilliant understanding of the journey food takes through the human body. It was gloriously disgusting in the best possible way!

In English, we used *How to Train Your Dragon* as inspiration for our instruction writing, creating clear and detailed guides with strong organisational features and precise vocabulary. We also showcased one of Sycamore’s greatest strengths: poetry! The children produced some fantastic Kennings poems full of creativity, humour, and imaginative language. As always, we are incredibly proud of the enthusiasm, resilience, and kindness the children continue to show every day. What a brilliant half term it has been!

In Art the children have worked hard creating collograph prints of animal patterns. First, they had to sketch different patterns, then glue different textures onto a board to represent the pattern, before

applying paint and pressing hard on the board to create a print. The end results were very effective.





### **Mrs Forrester says...**

What a short but jam packed half term we have had in Beech class. Most of our learning has been around the book 'holes' by Louis Sachar, we have done lots of writing including setting and character descriptions as well as writing a letter home from the viewpoint of the main character. We used one of the songs from the film version as the music for our dance sessions, (supported by a street dance workshop) and used the storyline for some drama activities.

As the book is set in the desert, we found out about desert biomes in Geography and used fabric to create a desert scene in art. We have also enjoyed some 'unhole' related activities - the cricket session and making sandwiches in Spanish were two particular highlights. I can't believe how quickly this year is going and, that when we come back, we only have one half term of Year 5 left!

### **Miss Dadral says...**

I am incredibly proud of my Year 6 class, who have shown such copious amounts of resilience throughout their SATs. They have worked exceptionally hard, not only in their assessments but also in creating imaginative and truly impressive scary stories.

It has also been wonderful to see the respect and support they have shown one another as we have begun preparing our Year 6 play. They have all been amazing—not just this term, but across the whole year—and I can hardly believe we are about to enter our final half term together.



## Our Values

An article by Ruth McCann

We are kind, compassionate and loving at our school. **Compassion** is caring about others and taking action to help them when they are sad, hurt, or in need. It is like mixing "understanding how someone feels" with "doing something nice to make them feel better." Simply put, it is love and kindness in action. We help each learn about compassion by setting an example.

When you are listening to a teacher or someone else, you are showing **respect**. Respect means treating others the way you want to be treated. It is about recognizing that everyone's thoughts, feelings, and bodies have value, and acting with care so that people feel safe, heard, and important. At school we learn to respect our teachers and friends, school's property and respect ourselves too.

Sometimes there are things that make us afraid... when you look at a test you can feel scared, and sometimes if people aren't kind you can feel scared. Having **courage** means being brave enough to try new things or do the right thing, even when you feel scared or unsure. It doesn't mean never feeling afraid; rather, it is the strength to keep going and face challenges anyway. At Silchester we are courageous!



## Walk to School Week

Thank you to everyone for supporting us this week. With a variety of typical British weather, it was great to see many of you leaving your cars at home or parking and striding.

Our JRSO's (Junior Road Safety Officers) confidently led our worship on Monday, on the green cross code as well as promoting the health and environmental benefits of walking to school. We were so proud to notice how well all our children can explain how to stay safe outside school and in our community.

With that in mind, we had a report this week of a near miss when a child road their bike straight out into the road across from the park. Please remind your children that the **Stop, Look, Listen Think** applies to bikes as well as walking!

Many congratulations to those of you who were able to take part - this certificate is for you!!



# WOW Week for Inclusion in Sport

The first week back after half term will be our next WOW Week. As well as learning about sports across the world and across diversities, the children will also:

- Meet and have a basketball workshop with Paul Sturgess, Britain's Tallest Man and former Harlem Globetrotter.
- Take part in inter-house sports competitions.
- Trial buddy time sports coaching to practice sportsmanship.
- Have an Inclusion Forest Schools session.
- Finish the week with Sport's Day!

Children are invited to come into school wearing their **PE kits all week from Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June to Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June.**



## Forest School Session during WOW Week

Children will also have an additional Forest Schools Session during WOW Week. Therefore, please see the poster about needing Forest Schools clothing for those sessions. There will be repeat information next week and we'll send out reminders after half term!

As we will be taking the children in smaller groups, these have been organised via year groups.

Year R will be sticking to their normal Muddy Monday's and Year 6 have chosen to save their Forest School Day until later in the term.

For our WOW week, children will be joining Miss Heeks for Forest School! We have split the children up into small groups within their year groups.

- **Tuesday- Year 1 and 2**
- **Wednesday- Year 3 and 4**
- **Thursday- Year 5**

On this day, please can your child come into school in Forest School clothing which should be trousers and long sleeves.

If it is raining, please bring a coat and wellies as we will still go out regardless of the weather!

## Sport's Day

As we want to celebrate all we've learnt throughout the week by ending on Sport's Day. Throughout the morning, our Year 6s will lead a circuit of activities. Year 5s will be team leaders for the other year groups and all children will get to participate in a number of athletic activities. All points gained for their houses throughout the morning will be added to the final sports day total. We thought that this would encompass our WOW aim of **Inclusion in Sports** and enable everyone (even those that hate the races!) to participate in Sports Day. Therefore, this year, the races will take place in the afternoon. On Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June, if you're available, everyone is welcome to join us for a **picnic lunch on the school field starting at 12:00. Races will then start just after 1pm** and continue throughout the afternoon. The kitchen will offer picnic bags to anyone who would still like to order a school lunch.

# Sports Day

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June

This year, we are inviting parents to join us for our races which will take place in the afternoon. Parents are invited to join us for lunch on the field where you can set up picnics.

You can collect your child from their marquee where you can sign them out just after 12. Children will then need to return to the marquee at 1pm for a 1:15 start.

If anyone can please help set marquees up either Thursday afternoon/evening or Friday morning, please let us know 😊

## Silchester's Got Talent

We are delighted to let you know that Silchester's Got Talent is back this year on Friday 12th June.

If your child would like to take part (either as an individual act or as part of a group) sign up forms are now available from the school office. Spaces are limited and will be allocated on first come first serve basis. We will confirm your act participation via email. Only one act per person/group please!

Deadline for submissions is 3:15pm on Friday 22nd May - we won't be able to accept any late entries.

Instructions on how to return forms, pay the sign up fee etc. are detailed on the form.

Any questions please contact the PTA via email, Facebook or via a class rep on WhatsApp.

# SILCHESTER'S GOT TALENT

## Friday 12th June 2026

Doors 5.30pm, show starts 6pm in the School Hall

Can you sing, dance, act, tell jokes, juggle, perform magic tricks, play a musical instrument, recite a poem, do keepy uppies, do gymnastic tricks, or any other amazing talent?

**Then you need to enter Silchester's Got Talent!**



Only  
£3 per  
person to  
enter!



Limited  
spaces!  
Open to all  
year groups!



Food stall,  
bar and tuck  
shop will be  
open!

Entry forms are available from the School Office.

Please return the form and £3 entry fee (per person) to the PTA via the School office in a sealed envelope by **Friday 22nd May**.

Limited spaces. Strictly first come first served basis.  
We will not be able to accommodate any late entrants after 22nd May.

(No unsupervised children allowed to spectate.  
'Silchester's Got Talent' is only open to Silchester School pupils.)



## PTA News!

### World Record Attempt

What an amazing team! Thank you so much to every single rower - your fundraising efforts have been phenomenal – an amazing £1340 - and we are so grateful to you all on behalf of the whole school. A special mention needs to go to Dave Holby-Wolinski, without whom this would not have been achieved. The team covered 591km across 50 hours to set a new continual indoor rowing world record for an all-male team.

Everyone has been so incredibly generous already but of course the fundraising link is still live if you'd like to give:

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

### Silchester's Got Talent

Applications have now closed for the Talent Show. We look forward to seeing all of the wonderful talents on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June. Doors open 5.30pm, with the show starting at 6pm. There will be food, drinks and tuck shop available on the night too.



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



If you are planning a clear out over half term don't forget that we have our next Bag2School collection at 9am on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June. Please leave donations at the right hand end of the Bike Shed – ensure they are in sealed bags to avoid damage to the contents whilst awaiting collection. A reminder of what you can donate is here:

<https://bag2school.com/what-we-collect>

## 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**



## Future Events

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

**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

## Upcoming Dates

DATE	EVENT
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 in Sport – PE Kits Every Day!
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!) – 12=picnic lunch, 1 = races
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

I hope that you all have a lovely half term holiday. Stay safe and enjoy the sunshine! Looking forward to seeing you back for our exciting WOW Week on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June for our final term.

*Rachel Moir*

Rachel Moir  
Head of School

# SPRING SUMMER MENU 2026

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