



02/10/26

SILCHESTER CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Compassion, Courage & Respect

Dear Families of Silchester,

Harvest Festival

Enormous thanks to all of you who were able to donate items for our Harvest Festival. It was a lovely occasion for us to stop and be thankful for the food we have and the farmers who produce it.

The Basingstoke Foodbank have already come to collect all of the food and these will be distributed to families who need it most. It is so important for us to teach our children practical ways that we can live out our value of compassion to others. Thanks so much for coming together to support us with this action.



St Mary the Virgin, Silchester Parish

Litter Pick

Saturday 3rd October
10.30am – midday

Meet in the Silchester Pavilion car park (Pamber Rd, RG7 2PH)

Please bring your own kit if you have it, otherwise equipment will be provided

Please feel free to leave whenever you're ready.
If you have any queries please email
Revd Karen: revkarenw24@gmail.com

St Mary's The
Virgin
Silchester
Church:

Community
Events This
Weekend

ST MARY THE VIRGIN
SILCHESTER

Harvest FESTIVAL

10AM
SUNDAY 4TH OCTOBER

St Mary the Virgin
Church Lane, RG7 2HH

Donations for our local Foodbank of non perishables, either on the day or in Silchester School, the Pavilion Cafe or Calleva Arms. Thank you.

Exciting Outdoor Improvements Coming to School!

We are delighted to share some very exciting news with families. From next week, work will begin on a series of major improvements to our school grounds that will significantly enhance our children's play, learning and outdoor experiences for many years to come.



These projects have only been made possible thanks to a highly successful funding bid to The Diocese, who have generously awarded funding for 90% of the total project costs. We are also incredibly grateful to our wonderful PTA, who have stepped in to provide the remaining 10% of funding. Their continued dedication and support mean that these ambitious improvements can become a reality for our children, and we cannot thank them enough.

During the works there will inevitably be some short-term disruption, with certain areas of the grounds temporarily inaccessible and a little more activity around the site than usual. However, we know the end results will be well worth the wait and will provide lasting benefits for all of our pupils.

★ Augustus Garden Transformation

The Augustus Garden playground area will be completely refreshed to create a safe, attractive and welcoming space for children to enjoy. Improvements include new artificial grass 'Teletubby' type hill, enhanced landscaping and a beautiful bench surrounding the existing tree. Once completed, children will have access to a shaded outdoor area where they can relax, read, talk with friends and enjoy playtime in a much-improved environment.

★ New Playground Equipment and Play Opportunities

A brand-new climbing frame will be installed with safer play surfaces and dedicated sand play areas. No more will our children want to dig in the dirt when they have proper sand pits to use! These additions will provide children with exciting opportunities to climb, explore, create and develop their physical skills in a safe and stimulating environment. We know how much our pupils enjoy imaginative & active play and this project will greatly enhance those opportunities.

★ Enhanced Site Security and Wider 'Let's Play' Spaces

We will also be making important improvements to the front of the school by installing new fencing and gated access. As well as strengthening the security of the site, this will allow children to safely access a much larger outdoor area during the school day, effectively doubling the available play space. All children will benefit from this as we expand 'Let's Play!' to include Forest Schools and an Imagination Station! We are particularly excited about the increased opportunities this will create for outdoor learning and play.

★ Chestnut Class Outdoor Learning Area

The Year 1 outdoor provision will be transformed with the installation of soft all-weather flooring throughout the area. This will create a much more usable outdoor learning environment all year round, supporting continuous provision and enabling children to access high-quality learning and play opportunities whatever the weather. The improved space will also support our wider "Let's Play" initiative and provide even greater opportunities for exploration and discovery.

We are incredibly excited to see these projects come to life and cannot wait to share updates and photographs as work progresses. Thank you for your patience and understanding during the improvement works. Together, with the support of The Diocese and our amazing PTA, we are creating even better spaces for our children to learn, play and thrive.

The Playground Marathon!

All of our children are geared up and ready to partake in The Playground Marathon **this afternoon!** All classes at Silchester will join Sam for part of his four miles around our playground.

As Sam ends at Silchester, we're hoping to raise a crowd to cheer him over the finish line which will be on the **Silchester field around 3:20pm TODAY.** If you're able to stay for a few minutes after school to cheer him on and show your support - it would be greatly appreciated.

Please do sponsor your child if you're able using the following link:

<https://sams-uk.org/silchester-ironsams-relay>

It is a great charity that directly benefits the mental health and wellbeing offer from Silchester School as well as many other local children.

Then on Saturday... The challenge moves to Tadley Common on **Saturday 3rd October** at 10am, where families and the wider community are invited to join us. You can take on your own running or walking challenge, fundraise for SAMS, or simply turn up, take part and make a donation on the day. Whether you run a mile, walk a few laps or cheer from the sidelines — everyone is welcome.



Black History Month

As part of our celebration of Black History Month, some of our classes will be joining a special live assembly on 8th October with guest speaker Swarzy. Children will hear inspiring stories about people and communities who have made a positive difference, both in the past and today. The assembly will encourage children to celebrate diversity, appreciate the contributions of others, and think about how they can help make their own communities kinder, stronger and more

inclusive. We are really looking forward to sharing this inspiring experience with the children.

Preparing for PGL

Year 6 are heading off to Osmington Bay next week for their residential to PGL. We are sure that they will learn so much about themselves and each other as they try practical activities aimed at building resilience, independence and confidence. We wish you the most incredible week and can't wait for you to return and tell us all about your adventures.



FSM Eligibility Checker

You may be aware that the Government has recently expanded the eligibility criteria for free school meals to include all families receiving Universal Credit.

All you need to check is your National Insurance number. If you think your child may now be entitled to free school meals, please complete an application using the link below:

<https://apply.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/hants>

If your application is successful, the school will be notified automatically.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school office and we will happily assist in applying.

Open Days

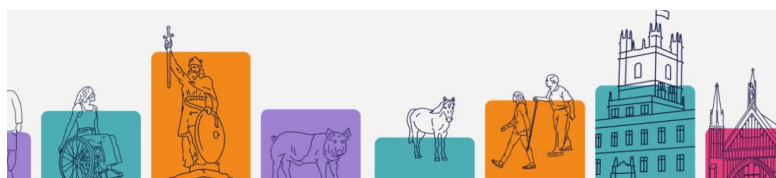
If you have a child who is due to start reception next year, or know someone else who has children this age, please come along and spread the word far and wide about our Open Days!

WOW Week for History

The final week before half term (19th – 23rd October) will be our first WOW Week of this year. Mrs Hammill has planned a memorable week of history-based activities including a visit from a real archaeologist and the chance for all children to touch and explore numerous historical artifacts.

Advanced Warning! To end our WOW Week, we will be inviting children to come into school dressed as a character from history on **Friday 23rd October**. This can be as a person from an historical time period e.g. Roman, Tudor etc. or a specific historical figure e.g. Queen Victoria, Christopher Columbus etc. We will then complete work with the children in the day about their costume and invite parents in to see our 'History Museum of Living Wax-Works!' from 2:45pm on Friday 23rd October.

"Come dressed as a person from any period in history and help bring the past to life."



Connect to Support Hampshire

Connecting you to local care, support and information for every stage of life

Parent Support

I just wanted to signpost you to the following website:

[Home | Hampshire CTSH](#)

Connect to Support Hampshire (CTSH) is a free online information and advice service

that helps children, young people, families and adults find local support, services and activities across Hampshire. Parents can use the website to access Hampshire's SEND Local Offer, find information about childcare, family support, health and wellbeing services, local groups, activities, and organisations that can provide additional support. The website also includes a searchable directory to help families find services and advice tailored to their needs.

Silchester Church of England Primary School

Open Days

9:00am – 10:15am

Tuesday 13th October

Wednesday 21st October

Thursday 5th November

Is your child starting school in September 2022?

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 KNOWLEDGE REFLECTIVE COMMUNICATION RESILIENCE RESILIENCE

PTA Update

Children's Christmas Market

Donations can be dropped at the school staff carpark any Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday morning – starting from next week (further details to follow)

"Treat Tuesday"

**PTA ICE LOLLY SALE
EVERY TUESDAY
AFTER SCHOOL**



Future Events

Friday 23rd October - Break the Rules Day

6th November – Bag2School Collection

7th November – Silchester Fireworks

20th November – Non Uniform Day (for tombola donations)

Saturday 28th November – Christmas Fair & Market 3-6pm

Wednesday 2nd December -Christmas Wreath Making Evening

Children's Christmas Market – Wednesday 2nd December



Minutes of the latest PTA meeting can be found on the school website and at <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/silchesterschoolpta/index.cfm?event=meeting-minutes>

Date of next PTA meeting Wednesday 4th November 8pm.

This is our AGM and will be held online to enable as many as possible to attend – to stand for committee roles and to vote in a new committee.

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”



STOCK NEEDED

We need donations of cardigans and jumpers - 26" or larger please

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.**

Lost uniform? We have the solution.....

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



STIKINS® Name Labels
SIMPLY STICK IN & STAY IN

Save Time & Money Reduce Lost Property

Quote Our Fundraising Number To Raise Funds For School

WWW.STIKINS.CO.UK

Upcoming Dates

DATE	EVENT
Monday 5 th October – Friday 9 th October	Year 6 PGL Residential
Tuesday 13 th October	9:00 – 10:30 – Silchester Open Morning
Wednesday 14 th October	Open Morning at The Hurst added for Silchester
Friday 16 th October	PTA Break the Rules Day
Monday 19 th – Friday 23 rd October	WOW Week for History
Monday 19 th October	School Photos
Tuesday 20 th October	Archaeology Day – History Visitor
Wednesday 21 st October	9:00 – 10:30 – Silchester Open Morning
Friday 23 rd October	Historical Dress-Up for WOW Week to History Museum!
Monday 26 th – Friday 30 th October	HALF TERM
Tuesday 3 rd and Thursday 5 th November	Parents Evenings
Thursday 5 th November	9:00 – 10:30 – Silchester Open Morning
Friday 6 th November	Bags2School Collection
Saturday 7 th November	Silchester Fireworks
Thursday 12 th – Friday 13 th November	Year 5 Ufton Court Residential
Tuesday 17 th November	Drama Workshop in school
Friday 20 th November	PTA Non-Uniform Day (for tombola donations)
Saturday 28 th November	PTA Christmas Fair
Monday 30 th November	Flu Immunisations in school
Wednesday 2 nd December	PTA Children's Christmas Market
Wednesday 2 nd December	18:30 – PTA Wreath Making
Friday 4 th December	PTA Children's Christmas Market
Wednesday 9 th December	9:15am - Year 1/2 Nativity Performance for Parents
Thursday 10 th December	2:15pm - Year 1/2 Nativity Performance for Parents
Friday 11 th December	2:30pm - Ladybirds Christmas Show
Wednesday 16 th December	Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day
Wednesday 16 th December	2:30pm - Rocksteady Concert
Friday 18 th December	LAST DAY OF TERM
INSET Days	- Monday 4th January 2027 - Monday 22nd February 2027 - Friday 28th May 2027 - Wednesday 21st July 2027
Amazon Wish List	https://amzn.eu/diet9uj

Wishing you all a lovely weekend and I'll look forward to welcoming you back at the gate on Monday.

Rachel Moir

Rachel Moir
Head of School

The Hurst School Open Evening and Mornings

Open Mornings (Year 6 Silchester only)

Hurst Open Mornings, held during the school day, offer a chance to see the school in action, enjoy a prefect-led tour, and speak with a member of our Senior Leadership Team. This will take place on **Wednesday 14th October from 9:15am-10:15am**. You will need to book a place to attend the Open Morning. Please contact the school reception on 0118 981 7474.

If you can't make the Silchester Only one, others are available Tuesday, 6th October – Thursday 8th October. To reserve a space, for you and your child, on an Open Morning session, please follow this link: <https://Book on Y6 Open Morning>. Should you have any queries with booking, please kindly email: admissions@thehurst.school

Any children who attend this will of course receive authorised absence; however, we would be grateful if you'd let the office know so that we don't chase you with phone calls for their whereabouts!

ST GABRIEL'S NEWBURY

Whole School Open Morning - Saturday 3 October

Our open events are a perfect introduction to St Gabriel's and allow you to discover for yourself all that St Gabriel's has to offer.

Meet the staff; explore our facilities and beautiful grounds and speak with our Principal over coffee and home-made cakes. Our admissions team will also be on hand to answer any questions about applying for a place in the different areas of the school.

To book a place please use this link:

[St Gabriel's - Book Your Visit](#)



Applications for children transferring to secondary school in September 2027 are now open.



Applications can be submitted online, at

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/admissions>



The closing date is midnight on 31st October 2026.

Please remember the following:



Name three schools on your application to maximise your chances of being offered a place at one of your preferred schools.



Submit your application on-time, before the 31 October deadline.



Use the County Council's school catchment area finder to check the catchment school for your address.



Read the school's admission policies to find out how many places are available and what criteria will be used to allocate places if the school is oversubscribed.



Think about how your child will get to school. See travel to school to help plan your journey and find out if you are eligible for help with transport.



You must name your catchment school(s) if you have one, as a preference if you wish to apply for travel assistance.



A bright future starts with the right choice!



Drama Class

Would your child enjoy drama but find walking into a brand-new class difficult? StageAbility's free Drama Discovery Experience in Burghfield Common offers an easier way to begin.

On Monday 12 October, children can attend with a parent or carer and watch around 20 minutes of a funny audience participation class, without any pressure to perform or join in. If they enjoy what they see, they can return on Monday 19 October to take part in a fun comedy and pantomime class.

Both sessions are completely free, but advance booking is required. Find out more and reserve a place here:

<https://pbbl.uk/4rsEbdF>



**BURGHFIELD COMMON
DRAMA CLASS**

PART 1: MONDAY 12th OCTOBER

**STAGEABILITY'S
FREE DRAMA DISCOVERY
EXPERIENCE, DESIGNED FOR
KIDS WHO LIKE TO WATCH
FIRST, AND THEIR PARENTS!**

**PART ONE: MONDAY 12TH OCTOBER AT THE WILLINK
6.50PM - 7.15PM**

▲ PARENTS AND CHILDREN ARE INVITED TO COME AND SEE OUR SPACE, WATCH A SHORT CLASS DEMO & MEET THE TEACHERS AND CLASS MEMBERS.

**PART TWO: MONDAY 19TH OCTOBER AT THE WILLINK
5PM - 7.15PM**

CHILDREN, RETURN FOR A FREE TRIAL CLASS

Scan and book today. Just 10 places available
Ages 5-12

<https://pbbl.uk/stageability-dramadiscovery>



WALKTOBER 2026

Let's get moving this Walktober!

Get moving for our wellbeing, our community and our planet

myjourneyhampshire.com/walktober

my journey

Funded by UK Government

Hampshire County Council



Soothing Strokes
baby massage

**Relaxing Baby
Massage Courses**

Discover how to massage your baby in a welcoming and supportive class, for babies from birth to pre-crawling. All classes include light refreshments, handouts, organic oil and an opportunity to weigh your baby.

St Luke's Church, Pamber Heath, RG26 3DZ

9.30am to 11am

Tuesday 10th November
Tuesday 17th November
Tuesday 24th November
Tuesday 1st December
Tuesday 8th December

Only £75 (Booking essential)

Soothing Strokes baby massage is run by Danielle, a certified instructor with the world leading International Association of Infant Massage (IAIM) and an accredited tummy time instructor.

Book online or contact me for more information:

Tel: 07912 658209
Email: soothingstrokesbabymassage@outlook.com
Web: www.soothingstrokesbabymassage.org.uk

