



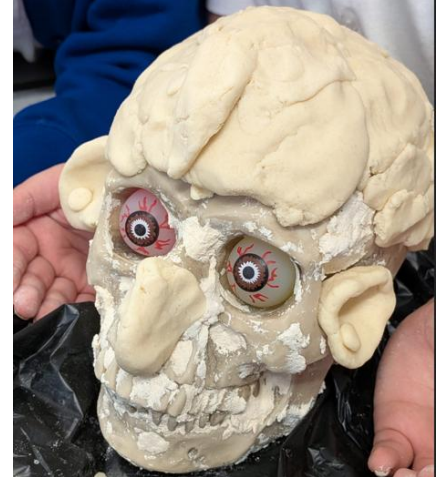
## SILCHESTER CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

*Compassion, Courage & Respect*

Dear Families of Silchester,

We have made it to the end of our first term and what an incredible week it has been! Our **WOW Week to History** has been a tremendous success, and the children have thoroughly enjoyed immersing themselves in the past. Throughout the week, they took part in fascinating workshops led by Aimee, a visiting archaeologist, using enquiry skills and careful observation to investigate real artefacts and discover how historians learn about life long ago.

We were also delighted to welcome several former Silchester pupils, who shared memories of '*our school in their day*', giving the children a wonderful insight into how school life has changed over the years. Classes have been exploring historical photographs and documents from our school's past, comparing and contrasting them with Silchester today and uncovering some fascinating stories along the way.



A huge thank you goes to Mrs Hammill for planning and organising such an inspiring week of learning, and to our fantastic PTA for sponsoring these memorable experiences, helping to bring history to life and create lasting memories for our children.

As ever, with a WOW Week, there is too much to share in this already long newsletter! So please take a moment to look through our WOW Week to History Montage:

### [WOW Week for History - MONTAGE](#)

The week will conclude **this afternoon** with our Living Wax Work History Museum! **From 2:45pm**, you are welcome to come into your child's class to view the 'exhibits!' You are in for a real treat!! Parents are welcome to take their children when they have finished at the museum, but please make sure to sign them out with their class teacher first. Many thanks and we can't wait to welcome you.



### **Wet's Play!**

The rain doesn't stop Silchester!

In our new, true 'Let's Play' style, we have changed the way we run Wet Play times. Now, each classroom is set up with a different style of play and the children can choose and move between rooms. We've had craft, dancing, lego, board games, movies, role play and toys. It has been lovely to see the children excited for rather than dismayed by a Wet Play and all different ages have explored together.

At the end of a term, we send out a 'curriculum newsletter' so that teachers can share some of the highlights of the children's learning from Autumn 1.

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

Gosh, those 8 weeks went quickly! From timid little people on their first days, not knowing where to put their book bag or where to sit-to high flying ladybirds- knowing our routine and already learning



so many sounds and words! We are having a wonderful time getting to know our new ladybird family and have squeezed so much! Some personal highlights was our Brazilian carnival and trying some fruits from the forest and getting 'stuck in the mud' as we reorganised our mud kitchen as a team! We are looking forward to a nice rest and having everyone back ready for new exciting learning!

### **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 (and making rain gauges and windsocks!), learning about our world (continents, the equator, the North and South Poles!), diving into the story of Little Red Riding Hood, practising our place value and addition in maths, and finishing with a full WOW week to History... and the list goes on!

I am incredibly proud of them all and can't wait for another action-packed term after the holidays 😊 There are so many pictures to choose from – as you've seen on Class Dojo(!) – but here are a select few!



### **Mrs Hunter says...**

Hazel Class have really enjoyed our first half term in Year 2. We Have loved our Super Silchester topic learning all about the Geography of our local area. We have been out and about finding physical and human features, making maps, running and jumping to the points of a compass, looking at the aerial view of Silchester and beyond and even went on a mini field trip!

We also loved our art topic this term looking at the painting of the Starry night by Vincent Van Gogh. We tried all sorts of techniques of pencil line drawing, charcoal, pastels, colour mixing and tints and shades until our final painted pieces which were really amazing.

Alongside our own discovery time, English story writing and maths numberwork, we have had a busy eight weeks of learning!



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

What a fantastic first half term we've had in Sycamore! In English, we've set sail with Quentin Blake's *The Green Ship*, developing our descriptive writing using expanded noun phrases and joining our independent clauses together with coordinating conjunctions before heading off to Hogwarts to write some fabulously furious Howlers! In Maths, we've been getting to grips with place value, really taking the time to understand the value of each digit and the different ways we can represent numbers. We're building those all-important foundations before moving on to new mathematical adventures!

In History, we've become archaeologists, exploring our local Roman connections at Calleva Atrebatum and discovering how historians use evidence to piece together the past. This tied in perfectly with Mrs Hamill's WOW Week and helped us understand that history isn't just something we read about; it's something we investigate and interpret! We'll return to the Romans in the Spring to explore the bigger impact they had on Britain. In Science, we've been getting rather animated ourselves, acting out particles in solids, liquids and gases before conducting *The Great Ice Pop Experiment* to investigate how water changes state.

In PE, teamwork has been the name of the game! We've tackled challenges together, practised listening carefully and following instructions, and even become choreographers, creating our own gymnastic sequences. Back in the classroom, we've been busy finding our feet as the new Sycamore family. We've explored our expectations, talked about those sometimes VERY big feelings and started filling our calm and focus toolkits with strategies to help us when things get a little wobbly. We're

learning that mistakes are part of learning, that everyone needs different things to succeed and, above all, that kindness comes first. It's been a half term of hard work, laughter and lots to celebrate. I'm so proud of how far we've come already!



In R.E. Sycamore have found out why Jewish children celebrate the festival of Purim. They enjoyed making graggers (sound makers) which they



then used to good effect to drown out the evil Haman's name in the Story of Esther. They showed brilliant cooking skills making Hamantaschen which they thoroughly enjoyed eating!

### Mrs Cook and Mrs Forrester say...

This term, the children in Beech Class have been focused, enthusiastic and ready to get stuck into their learning, consistently demonstrating a range of Silchester's Learning Behaviours. In English, we have enjoyed writing our very own news reports about the sighting of a magnificent whale and explored a range of biographies about inspirational women, which helped us to create our own biographies. We have also been extremely artistic this term, studying Vincent van Gogh and using watercolours and oil pastels to create artwork inspired by his style. Along the way, we developed our understanding of tone, tint, pattern and texture. To celebrate Black History Month, we learned about influential Black people and their achievements before creating our own commemorative artwork. We finished the term with an exciting WOW Week, where we learned more about the Vikings, exploring where they raided and traded. The children showed great focus and determination as they made their own bracelet or keyring using a cord wheel, an ancient method of creating thread or cord. In PE, the

class explored the school grounds through orienteering, developing their map-making skills, while some children have been working hard to master forward and backward rolls in gymnastics. We are incredibly proud of all the focus, resilience and determination the children have shown throughout the term and look forward to seeing their continued success.



## Miss Dadral says...

Year 6 have had an incredible half term and should be immensely proud of everything they have achieved. During our residential at PGL, the children demonstrated outstanding determination, resilience and independence, embracing every challenge with enthusiasm and confidence. Since returning to school, they have come back with a real spring in their step and a renewed drive to succeed. Their attitude to learning has been exceptional, and they

have worked hard in every lesson, resulting in fantastic progress across all subjects. It has been wonderful to see their confidence grow, and I am incredibly proud of what they have accomplished so far. I am absolutely loving being your teacher and cannot wait to see what exciting successes and opportunities the rest of the year will bring.



## Parents Evenings

We will be holding our first Parents' Evenings during the first week back after half term. There will be two evenings running from **3:30pm – 6pm on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November and Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November**. This is an opportunity for you to meet with your child's class teacher so that we can share how they are getting on

in school and you can ask any questions.

If you would like to and have not yet, please make a booking via the ScoPay app. If you have any trouble booking or would like to arrange an alternative appointment, please don't hesitate to ask at the office or speak directly with the class teachers.

Mrs Pulford (SENCO) will also be available for those evening so should you wish to discuss any SEN provision or concerns, you're welcome to make an additional appointment with her too. As she cannot be set up via ScoPay, please pop-in/phone or email the office should you wish to make a SEN appointment with Mrs Pulford.

## Magical Maths

Our new after school Magical Maths Club will begin on Fridays after half term. It looks incredible and spaces are still available. Should you like any further information, or to book a place for your child, please use the link below.

[www.magicalmathsclub.com](http://www.magicalmathsclub.com)



## Silchester Scarecrow Trail

As half term approaches, why not enjoy some fresh air and family fun by taking part in the **Silchester Scarecrow Trail**?

Maps for the trail are available from both **The Calleva Pub** and the **Pop-Up Café**, making it easy to set off on a village adventure together. Keep your eyes peeled for all the wonderful scarecrow creations along the route. It might even be fairly easy to spot the school's entry: our very own **Little Mermaid** scarecrow! We hope lots of our families will take part and enjoy exploring the trail.

Have fun, happy spotting, and don't forget to share your favourite scarecrows with us!



## PTA Update-23.10.26



### Collection Friday 6th November

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

**Bag2School Collection bags are coming home. Please fill with any unwanted clothes and shoes. Additional plastic bags can also be filled.**

**Filled bags can be put under the right hand end of the bike shed from after half term, ready for collection on Friday 6th November.**

**Please be aware: bags left earlier are often unable to be collected as the contents get damp.**

### Future Events

6<sup>th</sup> November – Bag2School Collection

7<sup>th</sup> November – Silchester Fireworks

20<sup>th</sup> November – Non Uniform Day (for tombola donations)

Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November – Christmas Fair & Market 3-6pm

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December -Christmas Wreath Making Evening

Children's Christmas Market – Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December

Break the  
Rules Day

Made £520 –  
THANK YOU!

Silchester Primary PTA AGM (online)

Wednesday, November 4 • 8:00 – 9:30pm

Google Meet joining info

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/mmf-mddf-wvp>

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.



**Christmas Jumpers Required!**

**Christmas Jumper Sale at The Christmas Fair!**

We are asking for GOOD quality donations!  
From Tiny Elf to LARGE Santa sizes,  
We need them all for our Fundraisers!

**Please contact Bill on 07359162124 with your donation**



**SILCHESTER PTA**

**Christmas FAIR AND MARKET**

**Saturday 28th November**  
**3 - 6pm**

**Silchester School**

Market Stalls, Tombola, Santa's Grotto, School Choir, Christmas Jumper Sale, Games, Refreshments, Mulled Wine, Raffle, Sweet Treats, and much more!

Support our school



**PTA CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS MARKET 2026**

**DONATIONS NEEDED!**

A Much Loved Tradition for the Children of Silchester Primary!

**WEDNESDAY 2ND DECEMBER**  
(During School Day)

**MUM / FEMALE GIFTS**  
**DAD / MALE GIFTS**  
**CHILDREN'S GIFTS (Not Dairy)**  
**PET GIFTS**

Donations: New or Good, Used Condition  
(Be prepared to be gifted what you donated!)

**DROPPING OFF DONATIONS**  
Car Boot open in Staff Carpark  
(By School Office)  
EVERY MON, TUE, THU, FRI  
MORNING from  
**MON 12TH OCT**  
right through to  
**WED 2ND DEC.**  
Please place donations in the boot!

Silchester Primary School

THANKS FOR SUPPORTING THE PTA!



**SILCHESTER PTA**

**CHRISTMAS WREATH MAKING**  
*Evening*

**WEDNESDAY 2ND DECEMBER**  
FROM 7PM AT SILCHESTER SCHOOL

**£45 PER PERSON**  
INCLUDES ALL THE MATERIALS AND  
HOT DRINK & MINCE PIE

TO SHOW INTEREST EMAIL  
silchesterpta.chair@gmail.com

WELCOME TO BRING YOUR OWN  
ALCOHOLIC DRINKS ALONG

LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE

## 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 26 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> October     | HALF TERM                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> and Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> November | Parents Evenings                                                                                                                                                             |
| Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> November                            | PTA AGM online                                                                                                                                                               |
| Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> November                             | 9:00 – 10:30 – Silchester Open Morning                                                                                                                                       |
| Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> November                               | Bags2School Collection                                                                                                                                                       |
| Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> November                             | Silchester Fireworks                                                                                                                                                         |
| Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> November                           | Remembrance Service for Years 5 & 6                                                                                                                                          |
| Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> November  | Year 5 Ufton Court Residential                                                                                                                                               |
| Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> November                             | Drama Workshops in school                                                                                                                                                    |
| Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> November                              | PTA Non-Uniform Day (for tombola donations)<br>JRSOs – Your time to shine!                                                                                                   |
| Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> November                            | PTA Christmas Fair                                                                                                                                                           |
| Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> November                              | Flu Immunisations in school                                                                                                                                                  |
| Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December                            | PTA Children's Christmas Market                                                                                                                                              |
| Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December                            | 18:30 – PTA Wreath Making                                                                                                                                                    |
| Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> December                              | Nativity Dress Rehearsal for the rest of school                                                                                                                              |
| Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> December                            | 9:15am - Year 1/2 Nativity Performance for Parents                                                                                                                           |
| Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> December                            | 2:15pm - Year 1/2 Nativity Performance for Parents                                                                                                                           |
| Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> December                              | 2:30pm - Ladybirds Christmas Show                                                                                                                                            |
| Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December                           | Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day                                                                                                                                    |
| Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December                           | 2:30pm - Rocksteady Concert                                                                                                                                                  |
| Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> December                            | Silchester School Carol Concert – with choir and band                                                                                                                        |
| Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December                              | LAST DAY OF TERM                                                                                                                                                             |
| INSET Days                                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monday 4th January 2027</li> <li>Monday 22nd February 2027</li> <li>Friday 28th May 2027</li> <li>Wednesday 21st July 2027</li> </ul> |
| Amazon Wish List                                              | <a href="https://amzn.eu/diet9uj">https://amzn.eu/diet9uj</a>                                                                                                                |

Wishing you all a really lovely half term full of fun, rest and relaxation. I look forward to welcoming you back to school on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

*Rachel Moir*

Rachel Moir  
Head of School

# AUTUMN WINTER MENU 2026 / 2027



| WEEK ONE                                                                                                         |            | MONDAY                                          |  | TUESDAY                                                 |  | WEDNESDAY                                                        |  | THURSDAY                                                  |  | FRIDAY                                                |  | MENU KEY:<br>whole grain<br>Plant based<br>Added plant protein<br>Vegan<br>(V) Veggie |  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-------------------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------------------------|--|------------------------------------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| 2/11,<br>23/11,<br>14/12,<br>18/1,<br>8/2,<br>8/3                                                                | Option One | Classic Cheese and Tomato Pizza with Wedges (V) |  | Beef Lasagne with Garlic Bread                          |  | Roast Chicken, Stuffing, Roast Potatoes and Gravy                |  | Chicken Tikka Masala with Rice                            |  | Fishfingers with Chips and Tomato Sauce               |  |                                                                                       |  |
|                                                                                                                  | Option Two | Soya Mince Lasagne (V)                          |  | Plant Bolls in Tomato Sauce with Rice (VE)              |  | Vegetarian Wellington with Roast Potatoes and Gravy (VE)         |  | Quorn and Lentil Tikka Masala with Rice (VE)              |  | Cheese and Bean Pasty with Chips and Tomato Sauce (V) |  |                                                                                       |  |
|                                                                                                                  | Sides      | Vegetables of the Day (V/VE)                    |  | Vegetables of the Day (V/VE)                            |  | Vegetables of the Day (V/VE)                                     |  | Vegetables of the Day (V/VE)                              |  | Vegetables of the Day (V/VE)                          |  |                                                                                       |  |
|                                                                                                                  | Dessert    | Cheese and Crackers (V)                         |  | Apple Cake with Custard (V)                             |  | Fruit Medley (VE)                                                |  | Jelly with Mandarins (VE)                                 |  | Syrup Sponge with Custard (V)                         |  |                                                                                       |  |
| WEEK TWO                                                                                                         | Option One | Classic Cheese and Tomato Pizza with Wedges (V) |  | Spaghetti Bolognese                                     |  | BBQ Chicken, Seasoned Potatoes and Sweetcorn Salsa               |  | Chicken and Sweetcorn Meatballs in Tomato Sauce with Rice |  | Breaded Fish with Chips and Tomato Sauce              |  |                                                                                       |  |
|                                                                                                                  | Option Two | Five Bean Chili with Rice (VE)                  |  | Vegan Bolognese with Spaghetti (VE)                     |  | Lemon and Herb Quorn, Seasoned Potatoes and Sweetcorn Salsa (VE) |  | Creamy Chickpea and Coconut Curry with Rice (VE)          |  | Cheese Whrl with Chips and Tomato Sauce (V)           |  |                                                                                       |  |
|                                                                                                                  | Sides      | Vegetables of the Day (V/VE)                    |  | Vegetables of the Day (V/VE)                            |  | Vegetables of the Day (V/VE)                                     |  | Vegetables of the Day (V/VE)                              |  | Vegetables of the Day (V/VE)                          |  |                                                                                       |  |
|                                                                                                                  | Dessert    | Gingerbread Cookie (VE)                         |  | Chocolate and Beetroot Brownie with Chocolate Sauce (V) |  | Fruit Salad (VE)                                                 |  | Sticky Toffee Apple Crumble with Custard (V)              |  | Vanilla Shortbread (VE)                               |  |                                                                                       |  |
| WEEK THREE                                                                                                       | Option One | Macaroni Cheese (V)                             |  | Chicken Enchilada Bake with Paprika Wedges              |  | Sausage with Roast Potatoes and Gravy                            |  | Mild Caribbean Chicken with Golden Rice                   |  | Fishfingers with Chips and Tomato Sauce               |  |                                                                                       |  |
|                                                                                                                  | Option Two | Mexican Bean Roll with New Potatoes (VE)        |  | Tomato Pasta (VE)                                       |  | Vegan Sausage and Roast Potatoes with Gravy (VE)                 |  | Classic Cheese and Tomato Pizza with Wedges (V)           |  | Red Pepper Frittata with Chips and Tomato Sauce (V)   |  |                                                                                       |  |
|                                                                                                                  | Sides      | Vegetables of the Day (V/VE)                    |  | Vegetables of the Day (V/VE)                            |  | Vegetables of the Day (V/VE)                                     |  | Vegetables of the Day (V/VE)                              |  | Vegetables of the Day (V/VE)                          |  |                                                                                       |  |
|                                                                                                                  | Dessert    | Oaty Cookie (VE)                                |  | Pear Crumble with Custard (V)                           |  | Fruit Salad (VE)                                                 |  | Jamaican Ginger Cake with Custard (V)                     |  | Iced Sponge (V)                                       |  |                                                                                       |  |
| AVAILABLE DAILY: 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.