



## SILCHESTER CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

*Compassion, Courage & Respect*

Dear Families of Silchester,

Wow - what a week!

### **Ofsted**

As you are aware, Silchester was visited by two of His Majesty's Inspectors this week who conducted an Ofsted inspection. Whilst we still await the outcomes of the report, I wanted to take this opportunity to share enormous thanks to you all.

The gentlemen spoke with pretty much every child in the school. We are always proud of our children, but they conducted themselves courageously and spoke with the pure truth and transparency of childhood that we so admire!

Our staff work tirelessly and with passion to improve the quality of education and the experience of life at Silchester and, as ever, they go above and beyond so I am immensely proud and grateful to them all.

And finally, I'd like to extend heartfelt thanks to you, our parent community. We know the proverb, "It takes a village to raise a child" and what a village our children have! Thank you for the huge number of you that took the time to contribute your views in the survey, speak with inspectors, send in emails and messages of support and even dropped in pasta bakes and goodies to sustain us! All of your contributions were widely appreciated.

### **Cross Country**

On Tuesday afternoon, 40 of our KS2 children attended the Hampshire Schools Cross Country Championships Competition. All of the children ran their hearts out! They showed courage and resilience to dig deep and draw on their reserves both physically and mentally. As well as all of this, they also showed compassion to each other and respect to the other schools. We are very proud of them all. Congratulations go to Summer Rogers, Olivia Burton and Henry Johnson who all made it into the top 20 of their races which each had to close to 200 children competing.

Many thanks to Miss Dadral for the organisation and for Mrs Rolph, Mrs Ridout and our parent volunteers for enabling this to go ahead.



## Parents Meetings

Many thanks for your understanding in having to cancel the planned parents' meetings this week. I know that the teachers are looking forward to meeting with you to discuss your children and their learning. As we have an INSET the first Monday back, we will rearrange our Parents Meetings for:

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March and Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March

The plan is for everyone to keep to the same slots you had originally booked. We will put the sign-up sheets up again after half term, but if you need to change, please don't hesitate to speak to the class teachers to rearrange. In the future, we will investigate purchasing an electronic booking system to drag us out of the dark ages!

## Curriculum Newsletter

As we have reached the end of our first Spring Term (which amazingly, marks halfway through our academic year), in today's newsletter you will hear from your class teachers who are sharing the learning and curriculum from this term.

### Mrs Dowling says...

Another wonderful term with my wonderful Ladybirds. We have filled it to the brim with trips to the Aquarium and the Library, celebrating Chinese New Year, Zooming into Superhero Day and a Week filled with dinosaurs! These children have just taken everything in their stride, showing off great maths skills, becoming more confident with their writing and demonstrating so many of Silchester's Learning Behaviours. I am once again, a very proud teacher, and look forward to what our next term will bring!



### Miss Dodson says...

This half term has been all about "Habitats" and the world in which we live and 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!) Chestnut Class has also made clay animals for these habitats; explored the countries and capital cities of the UK and the seas that surround it; learnt about The Creation Story in RE; and even danced as different types of animals in different habitats during our PE dance lessons! We have packed it all in along with our exciting trip to Winchester Science Centre. The children were so excited, and we had the best time exploring the exhibitions and even popping into the planetarium! I'm also 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 looking forward to showing you how each of them are getting on at Parents Evening when I see you in the new half term 😊



**Mrs Hunter says...**

Hazel Class have loved their learning about rainforests and habitats this half term. We have found out about the Amazon and where it is in the world. We have thought about the plants and animals in the rainforest. In English, we loved finding out about the work of David Attenborough. We also loved the books Interview with a Tiger and Panda. We wrote our own questions for an animal and answered them too. Thank you for supporting us whilst we raised money to adopt a sloth. We have a certificate in our classroom and a toy Sloth which we have named Ginger to go with Cinnamon. We loved our trip to the Living Rainforest, where we just about spotted her hiding! Everyone did Silchester proud with their respect whilst out and about but also with their massive interest in all the amazing animals that we saw. Have a great break.



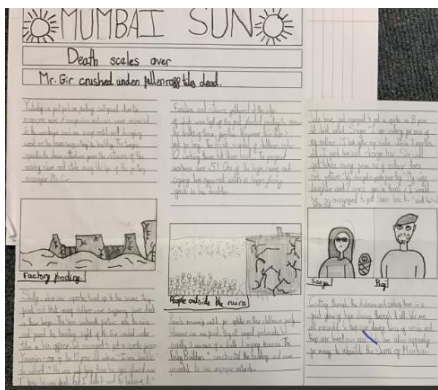


**Mrs Cook and Mrs Forrester say...**

What a busy half term it has been in Year 4. In English we have learnt about first person writing and written diaries from the point of view of Lila the main character from The Firework Maker's daughter by Philip Pullman. We have also developed our descriptive language through describing the firework contest at the end of the story. In DT we have investigated books with moving parts and have enjoyed creating levers to create moving books of our own. When the weather has allowed - we have begun to develop our hockey skills and have started looking at attacking and defensive play. In history, we have further developed our understanding of Roman Britain, as well as focusing on why The Roman Army was so successful. We are looking forward to making our Roman shields and creating our own Roman Army.

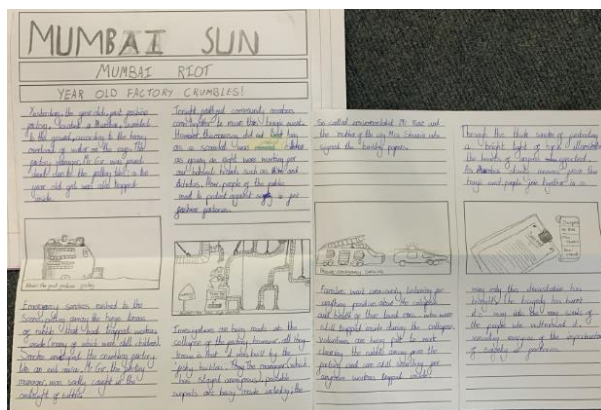
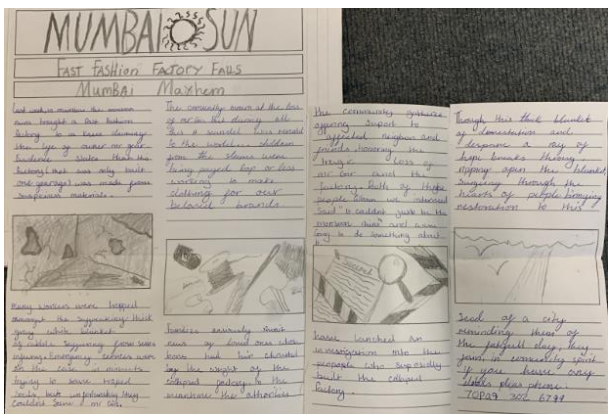
**Mrs Pulford says...**

This half term has really flown by! In Year 5 we have been learning about the night sky, the moon and space as well as some of the astronauts who have visited space. In English, we have designed our own planets and written non-chronological reports about them based on the clip 'Pandora'. We are really proud of them and enjoyed sharing them with Year 4. In Geography, we have learnt about the continents of North and South America and how their position on the Earth means that they have a wide variety of different environments, climates and populations. There are many places we would like to go and visit there, including: the Rocky Mountains, Houston, Costa Rica and Angel Falls in Venezuela. In Maths, we have been busy working on decimals, percentages and fractions whilst in Art, we have created continuous line drawings and our own wire sculptures based on the work of Alexander Calder. We also really enjoyed our visit to the Planetarium in Winchester where we were able to feel like we were flying through space to zoom in on some of the planets. We also found out more about the constellations we can see in the night sky and carried out some space-based experiments.



**Miss Dadral says...**

Year 6 have come on leaps and bounds this half term. It has been wonderful to look back and reflect on how far we have come as a team. The resilience your children show towards their learning is an example to the rest of the school. No matter what the day brings, your children turn up to Silchester full of smiles and happiness. Together, we have created an environment that allows us to be our authentic selves and the support the children have for each other makes me beam with pride. I wish you all the most relaxing and exciting half term and I am already excited to see what Spring 2 brings to Year 6!



SILCHESTER PTA PRESENTS



**1-2-3-4  
WE DECLARE  
A  
COIN WAR**

25th February – 7th March

**Copper Rules & Silver Steals**

Gain points for your class (and fundraise for the PTA) by adding 1p & 2p coins to your class bottle.

**BUT WATCH OUT!!!!!!**

Other classes can steal your points by sneaking silver coins (5p, 10p, 20p & 50p) in your bottle (these will be deducted from your class total).

The competition will run for 2 weeks and the winning class will receive a movie afternoon as a treat.



**Break the Rules Day!**

Great effort today on all clothing, hairstyles and enormous cuddly toys. Whilst we still retain our School Rules at all times – We are Kind, We are Safe, We are Respectful; it has been a joyous delight to see the children enjoying some controlled risk-taking and pushing of boundaries today!

**Coin Wars!**

The PTA are going to be running a coin war at school over the first two weeks back after half-term. Please see the poster for more details in preparation to clear out your copper! Children are welcome to bring in their old pennies during these weeks and let the mayhem commence!

**Upcoming Key Dates**

Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> February	Half Term
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> February	INSET DAY
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> – 7 <sup>th</sup> March	PTA Coin Wars!
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> February	Pre-loved costume sale – in prep for World Book Day
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March and Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	Parents Meetings
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	Quidditch Tournament! – ALL to school in PE kits please
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	Tennis Taster Day – ALL to school in PE kits please
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> March	Hazel Class Stone Age Day
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> March	Cricket Taster Day – ALL to school in PE kits please
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	School Disco run by the PTA
Amazon Wish List	<a href="https://amzn.eu/diet9uj">https://amzn.eu/diet9uj</a>

I hope that you and your families have a really great half term holiday together. Please note that the first day back, **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February is an INSET DAY**. So, I will look forward to seeing you all again the following Tuesday.

*Rachel Moir*

Rachel Moir  
Head of School



# Silchester School PTA

**SAVE THE DATE**

We've got lots going on so don't forget to add these dates to the diary so you can join in the fun!

**14<sup>th</sup> Feb – Break the Rules Day!** Come to school with coloured hair, temporary tattoos or in your pyjamas! £1 donation for each rule broken (up to 5 rules).

**25<sup>th</sup> Feb to 7<sup>th</sup> March – Coin Wars!** Bring in your copper coins and fill up you class bottle to win the battle!

**28<sup>th</sup> March – Easter Discos.** YR, 1, 2 & 3 3:15-5:00. Y4, 5 & 6 5:30-7:00. Tickets available through the PTA website from 7<sup>th</sup> March (volunteers required)

**17<sup>th</sup> May – Family Evening.** Save the date for a family barn dance/disco/music event with BBQ. Stay tuned for more details.

**6<sup>th</sup> June – Silchester's Got Talent.** TBC

**4<sup>th</sup> July – Children's Inflatable Fun Day.** During school hours (no donation required)

**11<sup>th</sup> July – Rainbow Run.** TBC

Keep an eye on our Facebook page and website for more info  
[www.pta-events.co.uk/silchesterschoolpta/index.cfm](http://www.pta-events.co.uk/silchesterschoolpta/index.cfm)  
[www.facebook.com/groups/ptasilchesterschool](http://www.facebook.com/groups/ptasilchesterschool)



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