

SILCHESTER CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Compassion, Courage & Respect

Dear Families of Silchester,

With one more week left to go, Silchester School has been busy with all things Christmas and adventure. This newsletter, we are sharing a little about what we've been up to this week.

Chestnut and Hazel Nativity

Anyone who was lucky enough to see our children from Chestnut and Hazel perform their nativity this week was in for a treat! We were so proud of them all for their courage and confidence. The message of the Christmas story was punctuated with life lessons about overcoming fear, doubt and panic with positivity, encouragement and a 'little faith that it will be ok'. I'm sure that you were all as proud of them as I was!



Ladybirds Christmas Show

Wishing our ladybirds the very best of luck for their own performance at 2:30pm this afternoon! They performed a dress rehearsal to the rest of the school this week and were, clear, confident and put on a great show! They can't wait for their mums and dads to see it later.



Nativity Tableau

We are so grateful to Rob for our incredible nativity scene that sits in its own stable / cycle shelter. He has created the figures out of willow and an awesome team from the church helped to dress them. Our very own year 5's provided the heads! The nativity tableau will stay with us until the end of term, when it will be carefully transferred to St Marys' Church for the rest of the festivities. I'm sure you have all enjoyed seeing them while sampling the delicious hot chocolate. Thank you Reverend Karen! We are so lucky to have such a supportive Church community.



Snowmen for Englefield

We were delighted to have the opportunity again this year, to design and paint two snowmen for the annual Englefield Estate Snowman Trail.

Lucy and Nina were our two winning artists. Their designs were turned into a reality by our Compassionate Research team. The children all showed great teamwork, artist talent and an ability to listen and be kind to each other as they painted. We shall look forward to spotting our Snowmen on the trail!

Many thanks to Rich Edwards for getting us involved with this project.





Ufton Court

Our Year 5s have had an eventful time at Ufton Court! Despite the fact that a burst water main preventing them from the overnight stay on the first night, they have still made the absolute most of their time throughout the days (and last night!)



Taking part in woodland activities, team-building games, obstacles, sunrise football and ultimate frisbee – they have given it their all! The banquet, disco and karaoke were a particular highlight!

It was an absolute joy to hear from the Ufton Staff how impressed they were with the emotional maturity that our children managed their

disappointment and how encouraging and caring they were towards each other. These residentials are such a valuable learning experience made possible by our Silchester staff – I hope that everyone gets a good and long night sleep tonight!

World War 2 Day

As an exciting outcome for their history topic this term, our Year 6's are experiencing a 'World War 2 Day' today. As you can see from the photo – they have embraced the spirit wholeheartedly! They all have their identify papers, have been experiencing rationing, are making evacuation suitcases and all dive under tables in response to the siren at periods throughout the day! Many thanks to Miss Dadral and Mrs Scott for providing them with this experience.



Carol Concert

We would love for as many of you as possible to join us for our annual Carol Concert which this year will be held **on Tuesday 17th December at 6pm**. Helen Bristow and our school choir have been practicing their performances and all will be invited to sing heartily! We will be serving mulled wine and mince pies to get you all in a Christmassy mood!



Christmas Dinner & Christmas Jumpers!

On **Wednesday** we will be holding our annual Christmas Dinner for our children. The menu (red = roast turkey & trimmings, green = sweet potato, cranberry and red onion tagine) has already been sent out and children can order on the day as normal. To make the occasion particularly festive, please feel free to send your child into school on Wednesday wearing a Christmas Jumper, or alternative as suits! Many thanks to our PTA for funding the crackers for this event.



Christmas Cards

As many children would like to send in Christmas Cards to their friends at school, there is now a post-box set up in school. Should your child wish to post any cards, please can you ask them to write the recipient's name and class on the envelope? We will sort these cards to distribute on the last day of term.



Pick Up Arrangements

Just a reminder about picking up children from school. Children in Year 5 and 6 may be free leavers if preapproved via the office. All other children must be picked up by a parent (or preapproved adult) – NOT older siblings. Many thanks for your understanding.

Upcoming Key Dates

Monday 16 th December	PTA Christmas Quiz at The Calleva – see their FaceBook page
Tuesday 17 th December	6pm – 7pm Christmas Carol Concert
Wednesday 18 th December	Christmas Dinner at School – Christmas Jumper Day!
Thursday 19 th December	Chestnut and Hazel Class – Nativity Trail with the church
Friday 20 th December	Last Day of Autumn Term and break up for Christmas Holidays

I hope that you and your families have a great weekend, and I'll look forward to welcoming you back to school on Monday.

Rachel Moir

Rachel Moir
Head of School