



SILCHESTER CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Compassion, Courage & Respect

Dear Families of Silchester,

Well, this newsletter could not fail to begin with a grateful celebration of our PTA Christmas Fair. It was such a successful event, attended by many and full of Christmas spirit, love and cheer! An army of wonderful PTAers, elves and stall holders worked tirelessly to make it happen. They managed to raise an amazing amount nearing £2000 – all of which goes directly into enhancing the provision and experiences we're able to offer our Silchester children. I am incredibly thankful to you all. I am also exceptionally proud of the children who participated, volunteered and sang at the fair. Hearing comments about how polite, confident, kind and helpful you were, is such a testament to you. Well done everyone!



Children's Christmas Market – Message from the PTA

Thank you for the generous donations for the Children's Christmas Market that we have already received. This is an appeal for more please!

*We are **still in need** of lots of gifts. We are looking for further donations for all categories -particularly items for males/dads/pets/festive food – (except books - we have lots of books!) please keep sending them in. Children can take their donations to the collection boxes in Maple Class.*

On the day, Friday 6th December, each class will go to the hall to make their 'surprise' purchases for family, friends and pets. We have asked that you send your child with a maximum of £3 - in a named purse that can be stored safely until the afternoon. It is also useful to send them with a bag to put their purchases in.

We are in need of volunteers who could help set up from 12.45/1pm, and man a stall during the afternoon. It is a lovely event to be a part of as the children are always so excited to be purchasing! If you are able to offer your help please let a member of the PTA know via the office, the PTA Facebook page or in person.

We often continue to sell after the end of the school day, so please do pop to the hall after pick up to support this event if you can.

Upcoming Nativities

The children in Chestnut and Hazel Class have already begun practicing for their nativity performances. They will be doing a dress rehearsal to the whole school and local nurseries on Tuesday 10th December. We will then be holding non-ticketed open performances for parents, grandparents and others on:

- Wednesday 11th December at 2:15pm
- Thursday 12th December at 9:15am

This year, our Ladybirds Class (Year R) are doing their own nativity Christmas show for parents on:

- Friday 13th December at 2:30pm

We will be serving teas, coffees and mince pies and collecting donations for the resources purchased for the nativity.

Nativity Tableau

Folks from our church are planning to set up a nativity tableau outside of school. Some of our worship ambassadors are getting busy papier-mâché-ing to make this a combined project between church and school. We hope you enjoy it! After school on Wednesday 12th December, Reverend Karen and Reverend Rob will be making some hot chocolate for you to enjoy on your way out from school.

Stranger Danger!

I just wanted to thank you all for your measured and helpful response to Mr Golding's email earlier in the week. Many people contacted school to offer information and even check local CCTV. This alone is a testament to you as a caring community. It does appear that nothing sinister occurred and therefore the event was seemingly innocent. However, the action taken demonstrates our safeguarding philosophy of "The best thing to do is get it right, the next best thing is to get it wrong, the worst thing to do is nothing." We will never ignore a child's concerns, always be vigilant and never be too cautious where children's safety is concerned. Thank you all for your support.

Ufton Court

Our year 5s are gearing up towards their upcoming residential to Ufton Court. More information about the venue can be found at: [Parent Hub | Information for Parents](#) and Mrs Pulford will be holding an information/Q&A session for parents in the classroom after school on Tuesday 3rd December.



Christingle Toy Service

Our very own lovely Reverend Karen would like to invite you all to the Christingle and Toy Service at St Mary's Church on Sunday 1st December.

During this service, they collect presents to give to local children. This year, they have a list of nearly 1000 children in need who live in and around our area.

Should you wish to contribute a new gift that can be passed on, we have a collection box in the office at school.

Lunchtime Supervisor

Should you, or anyone you know, be interesting in joining our team of lunchtime supervisors, please contact the office or see the job advert on the following link:

hampshire.education-jobs.org.uk

CAMHS Events for Parents

The Hampshire Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service offer some information events for parents, so we wanted to flag these to you in case they are of interest:

PACE events (Free) – Alton, 23 Jan 2025

<https://hampshirecamhs.nhs.uk/events/p-a-c-e-21-nov-copy/>

Or Basingstoke 27 Feb 2025 (may be better for Silchester parents) – flyer below

<https://hampshirecamhs.nhs.uk/events/p-a-c-e-21-nov-copy-copy/>

You have to book on and select individual sessions:

P.A.C.E. 2025
PARENT & CARER EVENTS

NHS
Hampshire Child and Adolescent
Mental Health Services

A **free** mental health & wellbeing event for all parents and carers who support or work with young people

THURSDAY, 27TH FEBRUARY 2025
QUEEN MARY'S COLLEGE, CLIDOLEN RD,
BASINGSTOKE, HAMPSHIRE RG24 3HF

WHAT CAN I EXPECT?
PACE events consist of two main components:

1. A number of introductory sessions on young people's emotional health and wellbeing.
2. Information stands from local organisations.

Attendees can choose which sessions they would like to attend; select as many or as few as you would like to attend.

To find out more and booking scan this QR code

BOOK YOUR SESSION SPACE AT:
hampshirecamhs.nhs.uk/events

60 minute sessions include:

- Eating Difficulties including ARFID
- Trauma Recovery
- Introduction to Managing ADHD
- YP in Crisis & Managing Self-Harm
- Coping and Resilience Strategies to Support Children & Young People

- Introduction to Autism
- YP with Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD)
- Looking After Yourself to Support Your Child
- Connecting with your Child
- Managing Anxiety
- Artificial Intelligence and Safeguarding

135 minutes sessions include:

- Understanding ADHD
- Supporting your Autistic Child to Thrive

St Mary-the-Virgin, Silchester, RG7 2HH

Christingle and Toy Service

We'll be collecting new, unwrapped, toys at the service for the Salvation Army Toy Appeal

(Toys can be left, ahead of the service, at the back of the church, at Silchester School, or in the Village Hall. Thank you.)

Sunday 1st December, 10am

St Mary-the-Virgin
Silchester

Furthermore, there is a full day session on **How to cope when your child can't** - Thurs 30 Jan 2025 (Basingstoke) Cost £25 – more information available at:

[How To Cope When Your Child Can't Event – Basingstoke 2025 – CAMHS](#)

Upcoming Key Dates

From 25 th November	Receiving donations for the Christmas Market
Sunday 1 st December	Christingle and Toy Service at St Mary's
Friday 6 th December	Year R Theatre Trip – funded by our PTA
Friday 6 th December	PTA Children's Christmas Market
Monday 9 th December – 5:45pm	Loddon Valley Lions Santa starting at The Calleva
Wednesday 11 th December – 2:15pm Thursday 12 th December – 9:15pm	Nativity Performances – Chestnut and Hazel Class (Year 1,2,3)
Friday 13 th December – 2:30pm	Nativity Christmas Show – Ladybirds Class (Year R)
Wednesday 11 th – Friday 13 th December	Year 5 residential to Ufton Court
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
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