



SILCHESTER CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Compassion, Courage & Respect

Dear Families of Silchester,

Happy New School Year and a warm welcome back in the most torrential of days! Well done for wading your way through the school run this morning. I hope that you've all had a wonderful summer break, filled with fun and relaxation. It's been fantastic to see our school buzzing with excitement once again as we begin another year of learning together.

I'd like to kick off our newsletter by expressing my gratitude to our awesome Silchester team. Our dedicated teachers and learning support assistants have already put so much hard work into preparing their classroom environments and planning for engaging learning. We really are lucky to have such a great bunch of staff. I'd also like to thank our very own 'Nana Ju', Julie Reynolds, our Site Manager, for all the additional hard work she put in to improving our school building over the summer holidays. And another big thank you to Tracey and Sandra, our wonderful office team, for their hard work behind the scenes. They've been busy updating registrations, implementing new systems, and managing countless other tasks that keep our school running smoothly.

I'm delighted to share that our children have settled back into their routines remarkably well. The school has been alive with smiles and an eagerness to learn, which is truly heartening to see. It's a testament to the resilience and adaptability of our young learners, and I couldn't be prouder of how they've embraced the new term, new class and new teacher.

It has also been so lovely to welcome our new Ladybirds to school! Both the children and the parents have been really brave in taking their first steps into primary school life. I very much look forward to watching them grow and develop as they journey through the school.

Learning Overviews, Home Learning Grids and Spelling Overviews

Attached with this newsletter are the Autumn 1 Learning Overviews, Spelling Overview and Home Learning Grids for the whole school. We hope that it will be useful to have everything in one place and they are also available on our website. Please do have a look through to find out what your children are learning about in school this term and discover some ways in which you can support their learning at home. The Spelling overview is quite an intense document! It shows the coverage for spelling for the whole school for the whole year. Class teachers will send home weekly spellings with the children, but if you want a heads up as to which spellings they'll be learning, then this overview contains all the word lists. The document refers to the year groups as 'stages' (i.e. Stage 1 = Year 1) and each week as a 'step' (i.e. Step 1 = Week 1). Please feel free to ask class teachers for further clarification as necessary.

Class Names

In keeping with our learning behaviour 'Animals of Silchester Forest' and our beloved vision mural of 'The Tree of Hearts', we have also decided to name our classrooms on a woodland theme. We hope that this will help to increase the children's sense of belonging and be a clearer way to distinguish the classes other than by year group. The class names are as follows and are referred to on the Learning Overviews and Home Learning Grids.



Ladybirds Class (YrR)
Chestnut Class (Yr1/2)
Hazel Class (Yr2/3)
Sycamore Class (Yr4)
Beech Class (Yr5)
Oak Class (Yr6)

Timings of the School Day

We shared this information initially back in April, so just a little reminder that the timings of the school day have now changed to an earlier start time.

8:30am – early starters welcome as prearranged with class teachers

8:40am – school gates open for all of the children (close at 8:50am)

8:45am – register opens

8:55am – register closes and lessons begin

3:15pm – end of school day

PE kits

Another reminder that our PE T-Shirts are changing for September. We will be switching from the royal blue polo shirts to a round neck coloured t-shirt that corresponds to their house colour: **Chichester**, **York**, **Salisbury**, **Winchester**. Ones with the school logo printed on them are available from Skoolkit from £6.50 but these are not essential, and any non-logoed round neck t-shirt (amazon/supermarket) equivalent is also fine.

PE will start next week and the PE Days are as follows:

Class	PE Days
Ladybirds Class (YrR)	Wednesday
Chestnut Class (Yr1/2)	Monday and Friday
Hazel Class (Yr2/3)	Tuesday and Friday
Sycamore Class (Yr4)	Monday and Thursday
Beech Class (Yr5)	Wednesday and Friday
Oak Class (Yr6)	Monday and Friday

House Captain Elections

On Thursday of next week we will be holding our elections for our new House Captains. Each house, **Chichester**, **York**, **Salisbury**, **Winchester** will come together to listen to the speeches and vote for their new captains. Children in Year 6 who would like to nominate themselves have already started writing their speeches in school! Good luck to all of those who stand up and put themselves forward. We will share the results with you next week.

School Dinner Menu

We have transferred the company responsible for catering at Silchester and this week the children have been enjoying the new menu:

Central Autumn Winter Menu 2024 2025		MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
WEEK ONE 2/09 23/09 14/10 11/11 2/12 6/01 27/01	Jacket Potato available daily with a choice of Tuna Mayonnaise or Cheese & Beans Why not try a packed lunch Cheese or ham sandwich	NEW Tomato & Vegetable Pasta	Cottage Pie with Gravy	CHICKEN SHACK BBQ Chicken or Quorn with Diced Seasoned Potatoes & Sweetcorn Salsa	Meatballs in Tomato Sauce with Rice	Fishfingers with Chips & Tomato Sauce
		Mexican Fajitas with Rice	Cheese and Tomato Pizza	Vegetables of the Day	NEW Cheese and Broccoli Pasta with Garlic Bread	Mexican Bean Roll with Chips & Tomato Sauce
		Vegetables of the Day	Vegetables of the Day	Vegetables of the Day	Vegetables of the Day	Vegetables of the Day
WEEK TWO 9/9 30/09 21/10 18/11 9/12 13/01 3/02	Jacket Potato available daily with a choice of Tuna Mayonnaise or Cheese & Beans Why not try a packed lunch Cheese or ham sandwich	Classic Cheese and Tomato Pizza Or Rainbow Pizza With Potato Wedges	NEW Chicken Pasta Bake with Garlic Bread	Sausage and Mash with Gravy	Chicken Tikka Masala with Rice	Fishfingers with Chips & Tomato Sauce
		Vegetables of the Day	Chinese Vegetable Curry with Rice	Vegan Sausage and Mash with Gravy	NEW Mild Mexican Chili with Rice	Cheese and Tomato Quiche with Chips & Tomato Sauce
		Marble Sponge Cake with Custard	Vegetables of the Day	Vegetables of the Day	Vegetables of the Day	Vegetables of the Day
WEEK THREE 16/09 7/10 4/11 25/11 16/12 20/01 10/02	Jacket Potato available daily with a choice of Tuna Mayonnaise or Cheese & Beans Why not try a packed lunch Cheese or ham sandwich	Macaroni Cheese	NEW Mild Caribbean Chicken with Rice and Peas	Roast of the Day with Stuffing, Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Spaghetti Bolognese	Breaded Fish with Chips & Tomato Sauce
		Plant Balls in Tomato Sauce with Rice	Classic Cheese and Tomato Pizza	Cottage Pie with Gravy	NEW Hot Pot Baked Bean Casserole with Rice	Cheese and Pepper Omelette with Chips & Tomato Sauce
		Vegetables of the Day	Vegetables of the Day	Vegetables of the Day	Vegetables of the Day	Vegetables of the Day
MENU KEY		Added Plant Power	Wholemeal	Vegan	ALLERGY INFORMATION: 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 cross contamination.	
Available Daily: Fresh Bread – Salad Selection – Fresh Fruit and Yoghurt						

Scopay

As shared previously, we are transferring our school management information system from Arbor and over to SIMS and Tucasi. Hopefully this will be mostly seamless! All communications will still be sent to you via email. The only difference for parents is that we are now using the SCOPAY app for all school payments. Hopefully you have all received the reissued code sent out to you this week (please do check junk folders if you haven't found it). Any problems at all with set up or payment, please do contact the school office who will happily help you and iron out any teething problems. Many thanks.

Silchester Fete & School Choir

Rain does not dampen community spirit and The Silchester Fete Committee have decided to go ahead tomorrow, but at a reduced capability and the fete will now be based in the Village Hall. We are delighted that our very special Silchester School Choir have been invited to perform with the Silchester Community Choir. If your child is able to join the choir for the performance, please read the details below:

Date: Saturday 7th September

Place: Marquee in the village hall carpark

Time: Please arrive with your child at **10:45am**, singing starts at **11am** until approximately 11:15am.

Uniform: School uniform. Year 6 members can wear their new Secondary School uniform.

Note: Children will be escorted into the arena by the leader of Silchester Community Choir but will **not** be signed over to a school member of staff, therefore please note that **parents/carers will remain responsible for their children throughout the performance and are asked to stay on the edge of the arena** (to watch and sing along please!)

The children will sing a few songs with the adult choir for approximately 15 minutes and then will be led out of the arena. It is then the parents/carers responsibility to collect their child immediately after the performance.

St Mary-the-Virgin, Silchester



Songs of Praise on the Village Green

Sunday 8th September

10.30am



Come and join us

as we celebrate with some of your favourite
hymns and songs of praise.

The Village Green, Silchester, RG7 2ND

We very much look forward to being able to take part in this exciting community event and hope to see your children attending choir again in 2024/25!

Songs of Praise on the Village Green

Our lovely Revered Karen and the congregation of St Mary's Silchester invite you to join them with a special service on the green this Sunday, please see the poster for further information.

PTA Christmas Fair

I am told that in times gone by there used to be a great big Christmas Fair held at the school. I am pleased to share that our wonderful PTA are planning to resurrect this once again and this year the school will host this special occasion. Please **SAVE THE DATE** for the PTA Christmas Fair on the 23rd November (in the afternoon; time TBC).

We will have market stalls, games, crafts, raffle, 2nd hand Christmas jumper sale, hot drinks, winter BBQ and sweet treats, Father Christmas in his grotto and much more (maybe even reindeers)! More details coming soon! 🎅 🌲

If you are a small business or know anyone who would like to hold a stall at the market please message us!



STALL HOLDERS WANTED

for the
Silchester PTA
Christmas Fair
on

Sat 23rd November 2024

for more details email

silchesterpta.chair@gmail.com

subject "Xmas Market"

Upcoming Key Dates

Saturday 7 th September	Silchester Village Fete and Dog Show School Choir performing with Silchester Community Choir at 11am
Sunday 8 th September	Songs of Praise on the Village Green at 10:30am
Tuesday 1 st October	Parents information meeting – 3:15pm
Friday 4 th October	Harvest – receiving donations for Basingstoke Food Bank
Friday 4 th October	Year 2/3 visit to St Mary’s to decorate for Harvest
Sunday 6 th October	Harvest Festival at St Mary’s Festival
Monday 7 th October – Friday 11 th October	Year 6 PGL Residential
Tuesday 15 th October	Year 4/5/6 Pilgrimage to St Mary’s (wellies and waterproofs!)
Thursday 10 th October	5pm – 6pm Phonics Workshop for parents
Tuesday 15 th October Wednesday 23 rd October Thursday 14 th October	9am – 10:30am Open Mornings for prospective Year R parents – 25/26 intake
Thursday 17 th October Friday 18 th October	9am – 9:30am Year R parents welcome to Ladybirds Phonics Teaching
Monday 21 st October Wednesday 23 rd October	Parents Evenings
Wednesday 11 th October Thursday 12 th October	Nativity
Friday 25 th October	INSET DAY
Monday 28 th October – Friday 1 st November	HALF TERM
Saturday 23 rd November	PTA Christmas Fair
Friday 6 th December	PTA Christmas Market
Tuesday 17 th December	6pm – 7pm Christmas Carol Concert
Friday 20 th December	Last Day of Autumn Term and break up for Christmas Holidays
Monday 6 th January 2025	First day back at school for Spring Term
Monday 24 th February 2025	INSET DAY
Monday 21 st July 2025	INSET DAY
Tuesday 22 nd July 2025	INSET DAY

Here's to a fantastic year ahead at Silchester School! Have a great weekend and I'll look forward to welcoming you on the gate next week.

Rachel Moir

Rachel Moir
Head of School