



SILCHESTER CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Compassion, Courage & Respect

Dear Families of Silchester,

Welcome back! It has been so nice to see the children again and to catch up with their news. Our first week back has been both busy and lovely at Silchester School and the appearance of a shimmer of sunshine has made all the difference!

Learning Overviews and Home Learning Grids

Attached with this newsletter are the Summer 1 Learning Overviews and Home Learning Grids. This term, we have also included an advanced list of the spellings that the children will be learning (Year 1-6). 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.

Learning Behaviours

Teaching the children how to learn is such an important aspect of school life. The vehicle we use to do this at Silchester is through 'The Animals of Silchester Forest'. This week, the children have learnt the story of 'Barnaby the Resilient Badger'. Next week we will be introducing the story of 'Felicity the Independent Fox'. If your child comes home wearing one of our learning behaviour stickers it means that they have notably shown one of these qualities. Please ask why they got them and praise accordingly – thank you!



Astronaut & Wonderdome

We are excited to announce that the children of Silchester will be visited by an astronaut **this afternoon!** Meganne Christian will be giving a presentation to the children entitled 'From Antarctica to Space'. Meganne is a scientist and engineer who has led expeditions in Antarctica, founded a company cultivating technologies for the benefit of humankind and is a reserve astronaut for the European Space Agency hoping to travel into space next year. Some of Meganne's lovely family live in Silchester and have facilitated this inspirational experience for the children. We really hope that your children come home enthused from this event and we will share some photos and information with you next week.

To enhance this experience further, our wonderful PTA have provided the funding for us to book a Wonderdome Day at school! On Wednesday 24th April, a mobile planetarium will be going up in the school hall. Every class will have a session in the dome where they will experience a captivating presenter-led show to spark a desire to learn more about the sciences whilst exploring our planet and beyond!

Please note - As the Wonderdome will be up in the hall all day, the school kitchen will be providing an alternative menu of Pizza (vegetarian) and Hot Dogs (meat) available in picnic bags so that the children can eat outside of the dinner hall.

Year 1 and Year 5 Trip to Silchester Farm

The children in Year 1 and Year 5 brought the sunshine to our trip to Silchester Farm this week. Every child got the chance to plant their very own tree! We also learnt about the kitchen garden, sewed wildflower seeds, met the farm animals and were treated to a beautiful fruit salad banquet. We cannot overemphasise how important diverse and enriching experiences like this are for both child development and building positive memories. Enormous thanks to the parent volunteers, school staff and staff from Silchester Farm for enabling this exciting trip to happen. As you can see from the photos – a wonderful time was had by all!



School Day Timings and INSETs for academic year 24/25

You may already be aware (as other local schools are making similar adjustments) that the government have set the minimum expectation for the length of the school week to be 32.5 hours. At Silchester, we currently fall short of this and hence there is a need to adjust the timings of the school day. Therefore, from September 2024 the timings for school will be:

8:40am – school gates open
8:45am – register opens
8:55am – register closes
3:15pm – end of school day

We appreciate the impact this may have on some families so wanted to share this decision with you with plenty of warning.

And in the spirit of advance warning, below are the INSET days that we plan to take during the academic year 24/25 – so a good excuse to get planning your holidays!

- Monday 2nd September 2024
- Friday 25th October 2024
- Monday 24th February 2025
- Monday 21st July 2025
- Tuesday 22nd July 2025

Message about PE Clothes from our PE Lead Ms Robson

Thank you all so much for your adaptation to children coming into school in their PE kits on PE days. It has made for a much smoother transition and more time spent learning. The PE days are listed again below for ease of reference.

PE Timetable	
Year Group	PE Day
Year R	Wednesday
Year 1	Monday and Thursday
Year 2	Thursday and Friday
Year 3	Tuesday and Friday
Year 4	Monday and Friday
Year 5	Monday and Wednesday
Year 6	Tuesday and Wednesday

Judo

For those of you who have signed up to attend our new Judo Club – this will begin on Wednesday 24th April starting at 8:00am. If you would like to register your child to attend or for all enquiries and more information please contact Judo Paul on 07867962627 or judosouthernschools@gmail.com

Maths Events

You will have already received emails about a couple of Maths events coming up. On Friday 10th May there will be a workshop for parents of children in Year 4 and 5 aimed at supporting children with their maths at home. There is also a Maths Games Night planned for Friday 17th May – 3:30pm – 5:30pm which will be a fun occasion for all the family to play together. Both events are free and sign ups are available via Arbor.

PTA Family Quiz

Huge thanks to the PTA for running a family quiz night to raise funds for the school. It promises to be a fun night for everyone so please do grab your teams together and book a table via their website. There will be a bar and tuck school available to buy snacks and drinks for your table.



Silchester PTA Family
Quiz Night
Friday 10th May
School Hall
6-8pm (doors open at 5:30pm)
£10 PER TABLE (8-10 PEOPLE)
RAFFLE
BAR & TUCK SHOP
OPEN FROM 5:30pm
TICKETS AVAILABLE TO BOOK VIA
THE PTA WEBSITE

Workshop for parents of looked after or adopted children – Monday 20th May – 9:00am – 10:30am

We have asked Sara Freitag to lead a session for parents of looked after and adopted children. This will take the form of information about the impact of trauma and attachments difficulties as well as strategies for supporting regulation and promoting emotional development. We will offer time to problem solve challenging behaviours and hope that it might provide a networking opportunity for parents as well. Please do invite anyone who you think may find this useful – all are welcome whether attached to Silchester School or not.

Upcoming Key Dates

Friday 19 th April	Astronaut visit to the school.
Wednesday 24 th April	Wonderdome Day! – Mobile Planetarium Workshop for all children (kindly sponsored by The PTA) School Kitchen serving picnic bags only this day.
Friday 10 th May	9:15 – 11:15 = Helping with Maths Homework - workshop for Year 4/5 Parents
Friday 10 th May	PTA Family Quiz – booking via PTA Facebook Page
Friday 17 th May	Maths Games Night - 3:30pm – 5:30pm – booking via Arbor
Monday 20 th May	Workshop for parents of looked after or adopted children – 9:00am – 10:30am
Thursday 23 rd May	6pm – Welcome Meeting for new Year R Parents
Friday 24 th May	Non-School Uniform Day – donations for the PTA
w/c Monday 3 rd June	WOW Week to Nature
Friday 6 th June	PTA Silchester’s Got Talent – 3:30pm – 5:30pm
Thursday 13 th June	Year 3 and 4 Sustainability Trip to Englefield Estate
Friday 14 th June	Sports Day
Friday 21 st June	Reserve Sports Day (in case of weather delay)
Thursday 20 th June	Year 6 Leavers Service at Winchester Cathedral
Saturday 22 nd June	Robin Scott Band Concert – tickets available via PTA website
Thursday 27 th June – Friday 28 th June	Year 5 Residential to Ufton Court
Wednesday 3 rd and Thursday 4 th July	Year 5/6 Production Performances
Friday 5 th July	PTA Rainbow Run
Tuesday 9 th July	KS1 Pilgrimage to St Mary’s Church
Thursday 18 th July	Travelling Theatre Company Production of Oliver Trist for the whole school sponsored by the PTA
Friday 19 th July	Last Day of School before the Summer Holidays
Monday 2 nd September	INSET DAY
Tuesday 3 rd September	First Day of Autumn Term

I really hope that you and your families have a wonderful weekend together and I look forward to welcoming you at the gate on Monday.

Rachel Moir

Rachel Moir
Head of School