



SILCHESTER CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Compassion, Courage & Respect

Dear Families of Silchester,

Our Spring Term has come to an end which means we'll be launching into our Summer Term after the Easter break – please will somebody notify the weather to do the same! An end of term is always time for reflection, and I would like to share how immeasurably proud I am of our school community. Children, staff, parents, church and wider all play such an important part, and I am grateful to you all for your support and contribution to our special, little school.

Please read on to hear some updates from this week, some information about events and changes occurring after the holidays and an overview of Key Dates.

WOW Week to The Arts

This week has been our second WOW Week at Silchester – this week it was Wow to The Arts. It has been a joyous week with lots of additional curricular experiences for the children. We have done painting, sculpting, drawing, singing, drumming, dance, and drama. And if this wasn't enough... Year 3 and 4 have also wowed us with their dramatic and fantastic Easter Worship. As ever with a WOW Week, there is too much to share in a newsletter, so we have attached an additional photo montage that celebrates and shares what we've been up to.

Astronaut & Wonderdome

We are excited to announce that the children of Silchester will soon be visited by an astronaut! On Friday 19th April, 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.

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!

Message about PE Clothes from our PE Lead Ms Robson

After Easter, we would like for children to come into school already dressed in their PE kits on their PE days, rather than keeping their kits in school. We anticipate that this will have a multitude of benefits, including having more time spent doing PE, less time changing back and forth, and reducing lost or forgotten kit.

As stated in our uniform policy, for PE the children should be wearing:

- *Plain blue/black tracksuit bottoms or blue/black shorts.*
- *Royal blue school polo shirt.*
- *Plain white or black trainers.*
- *Grey or white socks (no tights).*
- *Rugby shirt (royal blue with white collar) – optional.*

From September, we will be moving to coloured t-shirts according to their House, so please don't spend lots of money on new t-shirts – the PTA may have some second-hand uniform that fits.

Please find the days below when the children will be doing PE after Easter.

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

Staffing Updates

Mrs Newman – After 12 years of loyal dedication and support to our school, Mrs Newman will be leaving us for pastures new. During her time at our school, she has made an invaluable contribution, supporting many children in both academic and emotional development. We would like to take this opportunity to thank her for her service and to wish Mrs Newman all her very best in her new chapter.

Mrs Mitchell – We would also like to share some exciting news that our lovely Mrs Mitchell and her husband are expecting their first baby! She is always glowing, but if you've noticed her being even more radiant than always – this is the reason! Mrs Mitchell's baby is due in the summer, so she is hoping to remain teaching Year 1 until the end of term. We all wish her and her husband the greatest of congratulations!

Workshops for Parents – future ideas

We were delighted that so many parents were able to join us for our Anxiety Workshop this week. It was so helpful to have some time to think about how we can support our children with their worries and anxiety. As a school, we care greatly about our parental community and are keen to offer similar opportunities in the future. Should you have any suggestions or requests for events that you may find useful, please do feel free to either drop us an email or let me know on the gate and we will do our best to accommodate.

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.

Lunchtime Supervisory Assistant Positions

We have recently put out an advert to recruit additional staff for a lunchtime supervisory assistant and learning support role. This position will take the form of term time only, Monday-Friday 11:45am – 1:15pm. Should you, or anyone you know, wish to apply for the role, please refer to the advert on Education Jobs Hampshire Hantsweb website or use the link below for more information.

hampshire.education-jobs.org.uk/Vacancy/Details/116559/L1ZHy2FuY3kvU2VhcmNoUmVzdWx0cz9yZXRYaWV2ZUZpbHRlcj10cnVI

Upcoming Key Dates

Monday 15th April	First day back to school after Easter Holidays
Friday 19 th April	Astronaut visit to the school.
Thursday 18 th April	Year 1 & Year 5 trip to Silchester Farm
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	PTA Family Quiz – booking via PTA Facebook Page
Friday 17 th May	Maths Games Night - 3:30pm – 5:30pm
Monday 20 th May	Workshop for parents of looked after or adopted children – 9:00am – 10:30am
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
Thursday 27 th June – Friday 28 th June	Year 5 Residential to Ufton Court
Friday 5 th July	PTA Rainbow Run

I really hope that you and your families have a wonderful Easter together and I look forward to welcoming you back in a couple of weeks.

Rachel Moir

Rachel Moir
Head of School