



SILCHESTER CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Compassion, Courage & Respect

Dear Families of Silchester,

As well as a few key notices at the end, this newsletter serves to share some of the engaging learning each class has experienced as part of our curriculum this term. We hope that you enjoy hearing about what your lovely children (and our wonderful team) have been up to!

Mrs Dowling says...

Well, another amazing half term has just flown by! The ladybirds continue to amaze me daily with their passion for learning and taking everything in their stride. I am still one very proud teacher! Several highlights for me have been getting out in our mud kitchen and exploring new equipment, as well as seeing how well the children are doing with their handwriting sessions which we enjoy in our 'handwriting rainbow' 🌈.

Well done Ladybirds 😊



Mrs Mitchell says...

We have enjoyed learning about animals this half term. We started off reading Mr Tiger Goes Wild and then we wrote letters to our buddies about our adventures going wild. We loved sharing them with our buddies on world book day. Now we are writing a non-chronological report all about Tigers.



In Geography we have learnt all about the weather. We created a weather diary and recorded the weather. We also made our own wind streamers.

In DT we have been learning to join materials in different ways. We made our own finger puppets using a stapler and hand puppets using glue. Next week we are going to sew our own animal puppet.

On Red Nose Day KS1 got together and had a talent show. Mrs Mitchell was very impressed with our talents we had singing, dancing, break dancing and much more. We showed courage to stand up and perform in front of our friends and we were a very respectful audience.

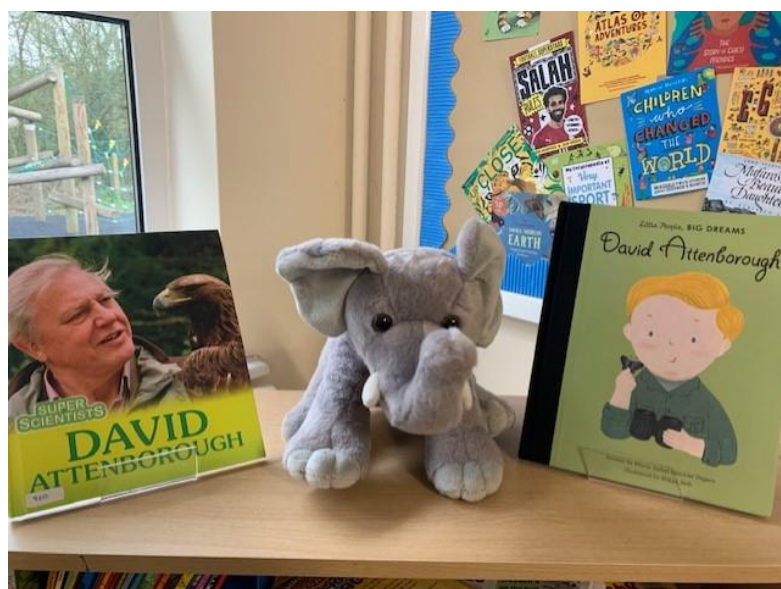


Miss Dodson says...

Can you believe it's the nearly the end of Spring term 2 already?! We have loved our Adventures topic and I have been so impressed with the children's story writing based on "Adventures are the Pits" and their use of expanded noun phrases and similes. What creative writers they are becoming!

We have also particularly enjoyed our history topic discovering all about how we have learnt to fly. We've enjoyed learning about The Wright Brothers, Bessie Coleman, Amelia Earhart and Neil Armstrong!

All this learning inspired us to make our own "gliders" and rockets... Can't wait to make paper mâché hot air balloons next week!!



Miss Ouazzani and Mrs Webb say...

This half-term, Year 3 have enjoyed learning about David Attenborough. They've written their very own biographies of him. They have also enjoyed reading different poems and learning about the use of imagery in writing. In Design Technology, the children loved creating their own Pneumatic device - it was such a joy to see the children making their moveable monster (thank you all for bringing in so many boxes). During the last few weeks, the children have been working hard on learning the songs and the dance for the Easter Performance - we are all very excited for you to see it next week.



Ms Robson says...

As a class, Year 4 have agreed that these were our favourite events this term:

We have loved reading *The Iron Man* as it's scary and funny. We wrote a newspaper report about the capture of the metal monster, and we have been so inspired by our Silchester Sport Superstars this term, that we wrote newspaper reports about them too. Additionally, we learnt about Antarctica and wrote some excellent descriptions about the awe and wonder of the continent.

We went for a fun trip to Queen Mary's College and learnt about rocks and soils. One of our favourite experiments was making mud 'sausages' out of different soils. We also really enjoyed testing the acidity of different soils with red cabbage water - which when poured through the soil, turned either blue, purple or green, depending on the acidity! Of course, we are in the midst of practicing for our Easter Worship, which we can't wait to show you next week!



Mrs Pulford says...

This term has been an especially busy term in Year 5. In English, we have extended our vocabulary of space and have used this to create our own planets. We have used this to inspire our writing and write non-chronological reports about space using a variety of sentence starters. We have also learnt how to use figurative language to create our own poems based on 'Planet Nine'. In Maths, we have continued to build on our knowledge of fractions and deepened our understanding of multiplication and division; including patterns of numbers and being able to make statements about numbers that are outside of the 12 x 12 times tables. In History, we have enjoyed learning about Ancient Greece and have linked this to our

reading text 'Who let the Gods Out'. We have been learning about electricity and circuits in science and have learnt how to create PowerPoint presentations in ICT.



Mrs Forrester says...

It's been another busy half term in Year 6 - we've enjoyed reading *The Nowhere Emporium* by Ross MacKenzie and we are looking forward to using our descriptive language to write our own 'Wonders'. In P.E. we have been choreographing our own dances to different genres of music - we have discovered we are better at dancing to pop rather than classical! Our art sessions have been based around the Maya civilization - we researched Ancient Maya sculpture and then designed our own versions. We then made our designs out of clay. In P.S.H.E. we have had visits from both the fire service and police to help us remember how to stay safe in a variety of situations.



Thanks from and to The PTA

Huge thanks to everyone involved in organising and volunteering the Easter Disco this evening. There are a lot of excited children (and teachers!) ready to strut their stuff! Please wait outside the front entrance to collect your children this evening. Also, a massive thanks to those that have organised the awesome prizes for the Easter Raffle – congratulations to all of the winners! We really do appreciate our parent community supporting the school the way that you do – it makes an important difference for our children.

WOW Week to The Arts

Next week we will be having our second WOW Week, this time it is in homage to The Arts. The whole school will be taking part in additional music, drama, dance and art-based activities. Some of these will be as a collaborative project for the school and others individual to the year group. It will culminate with a drumming workshop for every child on Thursday. We really hope that your child enjoys this opportunity to express themselves creatively through art and I can't wait to show you what they've been up to in next week's newsletter!

Workshops for Parents

As part of the collaboration, we are extremely grateful to benefit from the expertise of our Educational Psychologist, Dr Sara Freitag. We have asked her to run a couple of workshops for our Silchester community, details below. These events needed by exclusive for Silchester parents, so should you have any

friends or family who may find them helpful, please do invite them to join us. Should you like to attend, please feel free to just turn up and we will welcome you with tea and biscuits!

- **Anxiety Workshop – Monday 25th March – 6pm – 7pm**

We can all suffer with worry and anxiety at times. If your child often struggles with anxiety and you'd like to learn a little more about this, as well as to discuss and share strategies that may support both you and them, please do come along. Dr Sara Freitag will lead the session and provide a forum to problem solve so that we can expand our parent toolkit for helping.

- **Workshop for parents of looked after or adopted children – Monday 20th May – 9am – 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.

School Reminders

Just a couple of polite reminders that tend to come out from school every now and then.

- **Name Labels:** Please can you ensure that all uniform is named (especially coats and jumpers). As the weather improves (hopefully!) the children tend to take off their jumpers and leave them around. It's really easy to return those named but there are often lots left around that are hard to place.
- **Snacks:** Also, the children are welcome to bring in healthy snacks for break time if you wish. These include items like fruit of any variety, cereal bars, rice cakes, crackers, bread sticks etc. Please no chocolate or sweets. We have some children with nut allergies, so this has to be a definite no.
- **Phones:** We wrote recently to explain the 'no phones' policy for children whilst they are at school. If children in year 6 are bringing their phones into school, they must be switched off and stored in the office until they are collected at the end of the day. For us to safeguard the children properly, it is also important that children know that they mustn't take photos or use their phones on the school premises at all. This includes when they are leaving school at the end of the day. We have explained this to children and ask that you reiterate this to them also.

Many thanks for your understanding and support in the above.

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/L1ZhY2FuY3kvU2VhcmNoUmVzdWx0cz9yZXRyaWV2ZUZpbHRlcj10cnVl](https://jobs.org.uk/Vacancy/Details/116559/L1ZhY2FuY3kvU2VhcmNoUmVzdWx0cz9yZXRyaWV2ZUZpbHRlcj10cnVl)

Upcoming Key Dates

Monday 25 th March	Anxiety Workshop for parents – 6pm – 7pm
Monday 25 th – Thursday 28 th March	WOW Week to The Arts Thursday 28 th March – all children will attend a drumming workshop

Wednesday 27 th March at 1.30pm and Thursday 28 th March at 9.30am	Easter Worships for parents – Year 3/4
Wednesday 27 th March	Farm animals visiting Year R
Thursday 28 th March	DEADLINE for ordering Year 6 Leavers Hoodies
Thursday 28 th March	Last Day of Term – Break up for Easter Holidays.
Monday 15 th April	First day back to school after Easter Holidays
Friday 19 th April	Astronaut visit to the school – more details to follow!
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
Monday 20 th May	Workshop for parents of looked after or adopted children – 9am – 10:30am

I really hope that you and your families have a lovely weekend together and I look forward to welcoming you back to school on Monday.

Rachel Moir

Rachel Moir
Head of School