

3<sup>rd</sup> May 2024

# Weekly Newsletter



Dear parents and carers,

This week is National Gardening Week and so it seems fitting that this is the week our Forest School Area has seen its next stage of development. We have taken receipt of 300 hedging plants and 12 trees! We are tremendously grateful to all our volunteers who have helped, in rather inclement weather, to plant the hedges and trees; we are very fortunate to have such a supportive community of parents and grandparents, a huge thanks to all who gave up their time. Our Eco Council members were also hard at work and helped to plant some of the hedges. We are delighted to see the Forest School area developing into such a wonderful natural space for the children. We hope that over the coming weeks and months the hedges and trees will establish themselves and flourish. We are also looking forward to planting some more plants in our woodland area and look forward to a splash of colour and attracting more butterflies, insects and birds. We are looking for particular plants to improve the area further and would welcome any donations, please see our wish list in the Forest School news section below.

I wish you all a lovely Bank Holiday weekend, hopefully the weather will be glorious and we can enjoy time outside in our own gardens, visiting an allotment or a local woodland or park.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'S. Boyle'.

Mrs S Boyle  
Headteacher

Silsoe VC Lower School, Chestnut Avenue, Silsoe, Bedford MK45 4GP

[www.silsoeschool.co.uk](http://www.silsoeschool.co.uk)

01525 860 247

## Reception Classes – Acorn and Chestnut

In Reception this week we have been continuing our work on animals. We enjoyed looking at reptiles and exploring where they live. The children completed some amazing writing labelling a picture of a tortoise.

In maths we have been identifying odd and even numbers, the children used each other to work out if the groups were odd or even.

We had lots of fun in art using the clay. The children have started to make an animal of their choice, which we will leave to dry before painting.



## Year 1 – Hawthorn and Willow

In Maths, we have continued looking at multiplication and introduced ‘arrays’ as well as doubling and sharing.

In RE we were fortunate to have a visitor, (Miss Inskip) who is a practising Muslim, to talk to both classes about different aspects of her religion. The children were particularly interested in the 99 names of Allah and the traditional dress she wears. In Geography, we learnt about how aerial photographs are taken and also talked about the human and physical features of the seaside.



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## Year 2 – Maple and Sycamore

This week Year 2 have made pinch pots in art using clay, they have learnt how to use the glue to attach decorations.

The children have written amazing stories from the point of view of the troll in the 3 Billy Goats Gruff. In PSHE this week the children have been learning about money.



## Year 3 – Palm and Pine

This week in our Maths lesson pupils have been learning to recognise coins and notes. The children have been learning to identify different denominations of coins and notes commonly used in the UK currency, including £1, £2, 50p, 20p, 10p, 5p, 2p, and 1p. They have also practiced counting money using a variety of coins and notes, including both single coins/notes and mixed amounts. The children have been working hard to understand the value of each coin/note and select appropriate combinations to reach a given total.

## Year 4 – Elm and Oak

This week in Year 4 we have continued our work on the digestion system in Science. We have found it super interesting to learn all about what goes on inside our bodies! Ask us about it at home to find out more....

In Art we have been continuing our work on patterns. This week we explored the work of artist William Morris and created our own traced patterns. We will be using these to create our very own fabric designs over the next few weeks.

Our reading text is still keeping us on the edge of our seats! The main character Varjak Paw has just escaped into the Outside and is now in search of help from a dog! Varjak must master the three 'Ways of Jalal'... Moving Circles, Slow Time and Shadow Walking! Will he be successful on his quest, slow the vanishings and save his family?

### **Conifer class**

The children have continued to access their personalised curriculum in English and Maths whilst building and strengthening relationships with their peers and adults. Some of the children continue to access some mainstream lessons in the afternoons.

In our Hamish and Milo sessions, we continue to think more deeply about friendship and what 'friendship' means. We have been thinking about how it feels when our friendships hurt and what we can do about it.

Some children have continued to learn about our senses and have carried out experiments into different smells and tastes! Other children have continued to access many of their lessons with their mainstream class. We have also made junk model musical instruments!

### **Attendance for this week**

|          |       |          |       |
|----------|-------|----------|-------|
| Acorn    | 97.6% | Chestnut | 99%   |
| Hawthorn | 99%   | Willow   | 99%   |
| Maple    | 100%  | Sycamore | 98.1% |
| Palm     | 96.2% | Pine     | 98.3% |
| Elm      | 100%  | Oak      | 98.4% |
| Conifer  | 97%   |          |       |

Please find the link to the NHS website regarding 'Is my child well enough to be in school'  
<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

If your child has a temperature for more than 2 days please take them to the doctor to get them checked for an infection.

Being late for school can affect your child's attendance, anyone arriving after 8.55 and entering through the front doors will be marked as late and anyone arriving after 9.15 will be marked as an unauthorised absence which will affect their attendance (unless there is an acceptable explanation).

### **Star and Leaves awards**

We are proud of the hard work the children make with their academic work, their resilience and positive attitude to learning in addition to the efforts they make to follow our school values. Each week in our celebration assembly we congratulate children who have gone above and beyond and have demonstrated a positive attitude to learning and thus achieved the Behaviour for Learning Star. We are also very proud of the children who demonstrate our school values to a high standard and are awarded the Values Leaf. All children who are recognised for their hard work in our celebration assembly will enjoy a hot chocolate with Mrs Boyle, our Headteacher.

## This week we are celebrating:

| Class    | Stars    | Leaves   |
|----------|----------|----------|
| Acorn    | Jack     | Martha   |
| Chestnut | Ruby D   | Shea     |
| Hawthorn | Evie     | Jacob    |
| Willow   | Raewyn   | Mahveen  |
| Maple    | Alfie    | Mabel    |
| Sycamore | Rosie    | Max      |
| Palm     | Harry    | Angeline |
| Pine     | Sienna   | Grace    |
| Elm      | Ashleigh | Zach M   |
| Oak      | Robyn    | Edward   |
| Conifer  | Tyrell   |          |



## General Information

### Freddie one of our Eco Council members

Freddie in reception has become a member of our Eco Council this year. Freddie has been really inspired by the Eco Council. This week he went home and asked if he could start growing his own fruit and vegetables. He has been talking all week about eco council and how he'd like to have a go at growing his own!

His parents took him to the garden centre over the weekend and here is what he chose.

We are so proud of you Freddie and cannot wait to hear and see what you produce from these.



### Thank you for your support for planting

On Thursday and Friday of this week we have been so lucky to have the help of some parents, grandparents and friends of the school who have given up their time to help us plant. We have attached some photos of how they have progressed the work so quickly and we are delighted with how everything is looking.

Thank you to Hazel (who was here for both days), Chris, Veronique, Astrid, Michael, Nick, Roy, Emma and Nikita, we really do appreciate all of your hard work. Also to Mr Pearson, Tommy, Mrs Boyle, Mrs Taylor and Mr Wilkinson for all of your hard work.

## Planting with the Eco Council Day 1



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## Planting with the ECO Council Day 2



## **We are seeking donations of non-toxic plants for our Forest School woodland area and planters.**

Plants on our desired list include:

If you are able to help with any of the below we would be incredibly grateful. We would also love to hear suggestions of any other plants you may be able to donate.

- Non-toxic ferns e.g. maidenhair fern (adiantum pedatum)
- Cosmos
- Lilac
- Jacob's Ladder (Polemonium caeruleum)
- Evening Primrose (Oenothera biennis)
- California Poppy (Eschscholzia)
- Heuchera

If you are able to make any donations of these please bring them to the school office next week.

## **The Scholastic Book Fair**

The Scholastic Book Fair is coming back to Silsoe on the **16<sup>th</sup> May – 21<sup>st</sup> May**. Children from Years R, 1 and 2 will be welcome to attend on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> and Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May. Children from Years 3 and 4 will be welcome to attend on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May. No cash will be accepted but we will have a card machine available for card and contactless payments.

For this fair only, an exclusive offer has been awarded to us with all books included in a **3 for 2 deal!** Buy 3 books and get the cheapest one free! All books sold will earn our school points which can be spent on buying our own books for classrooms, the library and the reading stages.

We hope to see you there!

## **PTA's Uniformly (Online Preloved uniform)**

We'd like to remind everyone that the PTA's Uniformly (online preloved uniform) shop is live and well stocked. Buying preloved uniform saves you money, recycles items (thus keeping more out of landfill), and raises money for the PTA, and therefore school, to enhance the children's education.

Please visit the shop here: [Silsoe VC Lower School Uniformly listings](#)

Whether you are in need of summer uniform (e.g. gingham dresses and grey shorts) as we (hopefully) move properly into Spring, or are looking to stock up on bigger sizes for September, it is worth taking a look.

There's no need to trawl the pages of items listed - It's easy to find what you are looking for using the '**search**' feature. If we don't have the size / item you are after, create an **alert** to be notified when it is added so you are first in line to buy.

To search, use a combination of the size (e.g. 6 or 7/8) and item term (e.g. trousers, pinafore, polo, branded) to reduce the items in view.

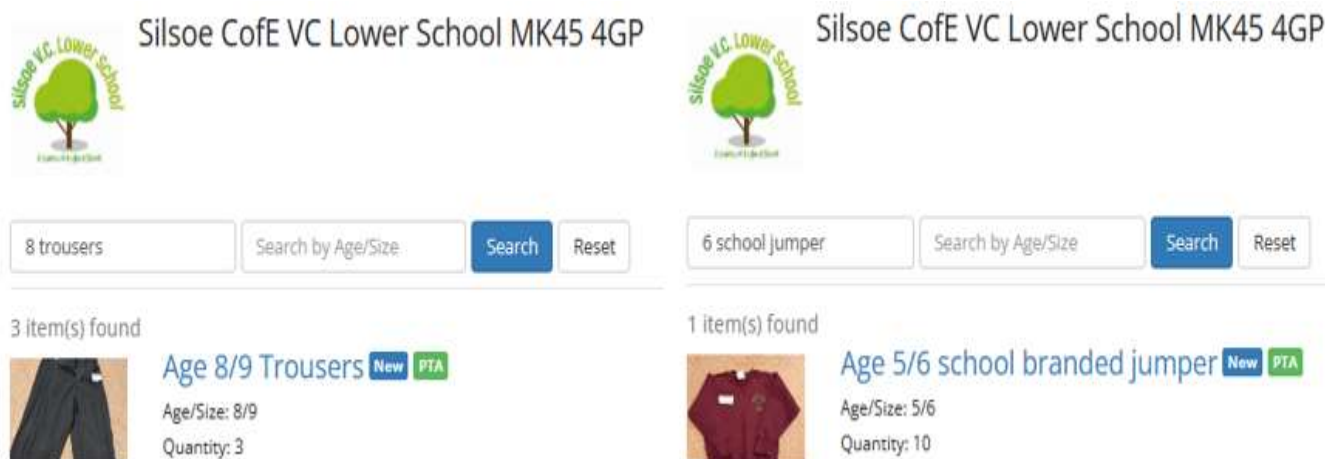
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For example:



It's quick and easy to register to make a purchase. Payments are made via Paypal straight to the PTA and orders will be sent home with your child within a week.

All items are in excellent condition: they are clean, with no marks, no holes, no fading and very limited bobbling. If we wouldn't be happy receiving any particular item for our own children to wear, we haven't put it in the shop.

Prices are currently:

£3 - Branded jumpers/cardigans, PE fleeces, PE tops

£1.50 – branded polo's, summer dresses, pinafores, trousers, shorts, skirts, plain jumpers/cardigans, black hoodies

50p – plain polo's

If you would like to donate your preloved items to the PTA, please drop these into reception. Please do ensure that they are washed and in great resalable condition. A box to receive these will be appearing next week.

If you have any questions at all, please let us know.

Silsoe PTA Team.

### **Thank you to the PTA for our Disco**

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend our PTA School disco last week, we are delighted to let you know that this raised £788.37. Thank you to our PTA for organising another fun event.

### **PTA Autumn School Fair**

We are excited to announce the date of our 2024 Autumn Fair. More details on how you can get involved in this will follow, so keep eyes peeled



**Silsoe PTA**  
**Autumn Fair**  
At Silsoe VC Lower School  
**12 - 3pm**  
**Saturday 21 September**  
Save the date!  
More details to follow...

 [silsoepta@gmail.com](mailto:silsoepta@gmail.com)  Friends of Silsoe Lower School  [friendsofsilsoelower](https://www.instagram.com/friendsofsilsoelower)  
Fundraising for Silsoe VC Lower School PTA, charity 1040277

### Message from the Pre School



#### **SPACES AVAILABLE FOR SEPTEMBER 2024**

**\*15 FUNDED HOURS NOW AVAILABLE FOR ELIGIBLE 2 YEAR OLDS\***

Silsoe Pre-School is an OFSTED OUTSTANDING Pre-School offering a caring and nurturing environment for children aged 2.5 to 5 years. Please get in touch for an application form or to arrange a visit.

01525 864938 / [silsoepreschool@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:silsoepreschool@yahoo.co.uk)  
[www.silsoepreschool.org](http://www.silsoepreschool.org)



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## Diary Dates

Please find below dates for the rest of this school year. Please note dates which have changed or added have been highlighted.

|            |                            |  |
|------------|----------------------------|--|
| 13/05/2024 | All Day                    | Y4 Grafham Water Trip  |
| 14/05/2024 | All Day                    | Y4 Grafham Water Trip  |
| 15/05/2024 | All Day                    | Y4 Grafham Water Trip  |
| 16/05/2024 | 3.30pm to 4.30pm           | Scholastic Book Fair YR, Y1 and Y2   |
| 17/05/2024 | 3.30pm to 4.30pm           | Scholastic Book Fair Y3 and Y4   |
| 18/05/2024 | 7pm                        | PTA Quiz Night <a href="#">Book your table by clicking this link</a>                               |
| 22/05/2024 | All Day                    | Reception trip to Standalone Farm  |
| 07/06/2024 | All Day                    | Y2 Herrings Green trip   |
| 08/06/2024 | All Day                    | Silsoe Lower School Football Tournament  |
| 12/06/2024 | Morning                    | School Photographer – Class Portraits  |
| 24/06/2024 | 9.15am                     | Y4 Moving up assembly/workshop   |
| 26/06/2024 | 3.45pm to 5.45pm           | Book look & meet your new Teacher for 2024 to 2025   |
| 27/06/2024 | All Day                    | Transition Day   |
| 28/06/2023 | All Day                    | Y1 Mount Fitchett Trip   |
| 01/07/2024 | All Week                   | Sports Week – details to follow nearer the time  |
| 04/07/2024 | PM details sent to parents | Singing Superstars concert – Details to be confirmed   |
| 05/07/2024 | TBC                        | Y4 Leaf Walk in Silsoe   |
| 08/07/2024 | All Week                   | Back up Sports Week (for events cancelled during w/c 01/07/2024 due to adverse weather conditions) |
| 10/07/2024 | TBC                        | Y4 Visit to Silsoe Parks   |
| 19/07/2024 | 9.30am                     | Y4 Leavers Assembly  |

***OUR CURRENT VALUE IS:***

***Simplicity***

*‘For God is not a God of confusion, but of peace.’*

*I Corinthians 14:33*

**Welcome to Flitwick and District Children's  
Centre.**



**Please scan this QR code to complete our Access to Services  
Request Form or follow this link -**

**<https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/xfp/form/479>**

**0300 300 8111**

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