

17th May 2024

Weekly Newsletter



Dear parents and carers,

This week I have had the privilege of joining the year 4 children for their visit to Grafham Water Centre.

Grafham Water is a stunning location and we had an amazing 3 days enjoying all the water sports activities as well as having so much fun on dry land.

There were many challenges and steep learning curves but the children used their Silsoe values and growth mindset throughout and were enthusiastic, brave and resilient learning so many new skills. It was incredible to watch them learn to sail, kayak, canoe, climb, become archers, undertake team pioneering and become bushcraft experts. We look forward to sharing the photographs with you.

The children were awesome and were a credit to the school and their parents.

Thank you to the staff team (Mrs McCarthy, Miss Bishopp, Miss Rowswell, Mrs Ashwell, Mrs Gwilt and Mr Wilkinson) who accompanied me and the children.

I am also very proud of the children who remained at school who had a fabulous time. They worked as members of a team, developed individual skills and had lots of fun improving their cooking skills!

Well done to all of year 4!



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

01525 860 247

Reception Classes – Acorn and Chestnut

This week in Reception the children have enjoyed learning about animals and creatures that live in the sea. We have read stories, explored photographs and made our own sea creatures from junk modelling.

The children explored the seaside too and compared photos of what it looked like in the past to today. It was great hearing all their own seaside tales from family adventures.

The children also enjoyed painting their clay animals and will be bringing these home next week.



Year 1 – Hawthorn and Willow

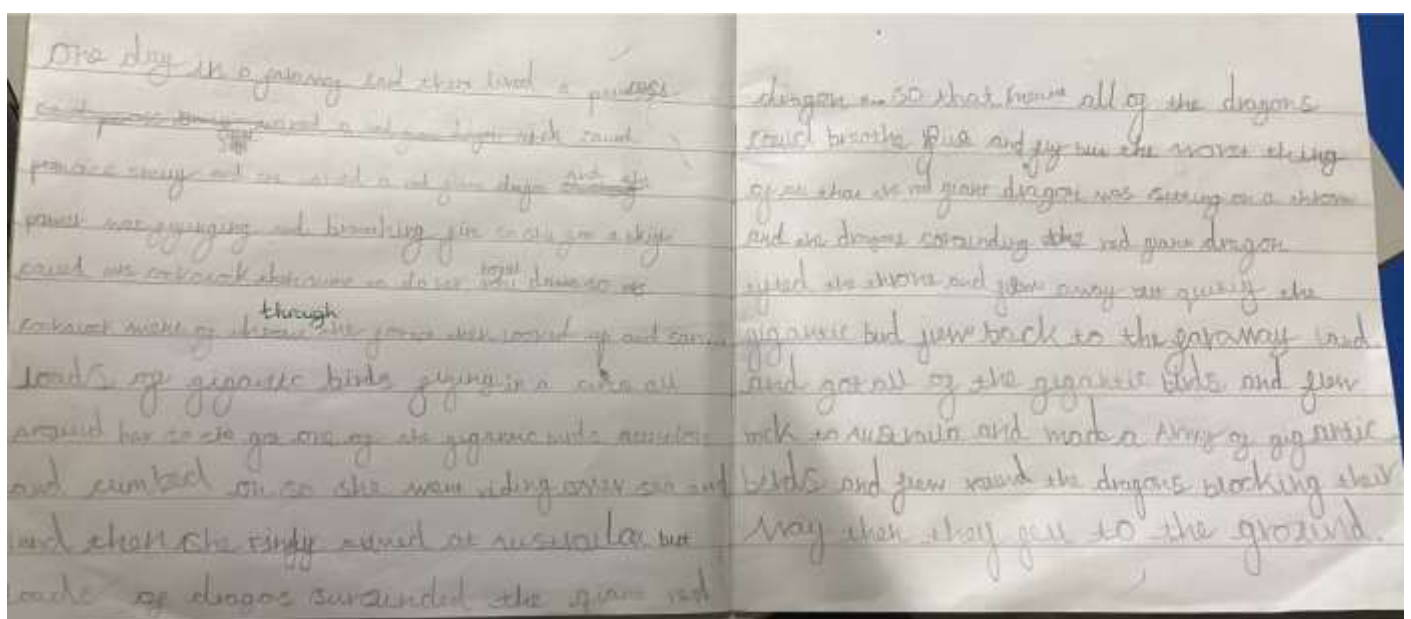
In English the children have been working on their fantasy stories. They have had some really interesting ideas!

In Maths Year 1 have been learning about quarters and how each quarter needs to be equal.

The children have really enjoyed the Art lesson this week, learning about weaving.

In P.E. they have been learning how to throw a ball from the chest, using control.

During our Science lesson this week, they have been thinking about where food comes from and deciding whether foods originate from plants or humans.



Year 2 – Maple and Sycamore

This week Year 2 have been busy writing stories using pictures as a stimulus. They have followed a bunny through an enchanted hole in the hedge and flown with a dragon on an adventure! They have been using their knowledge of adjectives to make their sentences more exciting.

In Science the children explored the microhabitats that can be found in our school. Both classes had great fun going out and exploring the bugs and insects found around the school. Sycamore LOVED the massive slugs they discovered on the field.

Lastly, they have been testing their agility and balance using the ladders in PE. It was great to see so many combinations of movements that challenged the children and kept everyone active.

Year 3 – Palm and Pine

In Year 3 this week the children have been practising their time-telling skills. Practical activities using clocks have supported the children in understanding the concept of hours, minutes, and seconds, and they have applied these units to measure time accurately. The children also enjoyed learning about roman numerals and discussing how they are still used in modern day life.

Year 4 – Elm and Oak

This week has been a super exciting week in Year 4!

The rain held off (mostly!) for our residential trip to Grafham Water. We learnt to canoe, kayak, sail, climb, build fires and shoot a bow and arrow.

All of the children showed incredible teamwork, bravery and determination (Watch this space – pictures to follow!).

Children who did not attend Grafham Water had a great time at school completing lots of fun activities including craft, sports and cooking!

It certainly has been a week to remember!

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.

Some of us have been learning about fractions in maths or using the column method for addition.

Some children have been learning about animals and classifying animals into groups in our science lessons. Other children have continued to access many of their lessons with their mainstream class. We have also measured our sunflowers!

Attendance for this week

Acorn	99%	Chestnut	99%
Hawthorn	98%	Willow	100%

Maple	96.6%	Sycamore	97.7%
Palm	94.4%	Pine	95%
Elm	97%	Oak	96.4%
Conifer	96%		

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	Alfie	Onagh
Chestnut	Olivia	Braulio
Hawthorn	Arabella	Isabel
Willow	Alyth	Mason
Maple	Chloe J	Kyran
Sycamore	Isaac	Eva
Palm	Savanna and Joshua	Oscar
Pine	William	Delphine
Elm	Whole Class	Grace B
Oak	Whole Class	Laila
Conifer	Edward	



A special extra 2 stars have been awarded this week to Frankie and Alani by Mrs Gates.

General Information

Gymnastic Competition

We want to say a big well done to Chloe who took part in her first National gymnastics competition where there were over 50 gymnasts competing. Chloe had a great time and won 2 Gold medals and a bronze medal.

Well done Chloe what an amazing achievement.



Reminder regarding school drop off and pick up

Please can all parents when dropping off and collecting at school, ensure they are with their child at the classroom door, this is for Care club and normal school times.

Please be aware that dogs are not allowed on site.

We ask that Cars are not parked on the Zig Zag lines. When dropping your child to school or to Care club, please park in one of the parking spaces on the road or at the sports centre.

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

Plants on our wish 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.

Thank you very much for those that have donated so far, we are extremely grateful and we look forward to planting them with your children.

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Care Club requests for September 2024

We will shortly be sending out information regarding requests for Care Club for September 2024. Any bookings that are already held will finish at the end of this school year and will need a new request for September 2024.

Please note the following dates that will be relevant for all families that would like to make a booking for next year. **The waiting list for next year has now closed and we will start a new one from the 1st July 2024.**

Silsoe Lower School families already attending the club will be sent a booking form for return by the **3rd June 2024**, sessions will be processed on a first come first served basis and will be confirmed by the **10th June 2024**

Silsoe lower school families and children starting school in September 2024 who are on the waiting list will be sent a booking form by **Monday 10th June** and from return by **Monday 17th June 2024**. Sessions bookings will be processed on a first come first served basis and sessions will be confirmed by **Monday 24th June 2024**.

Children starting Silsoe Lower School in September 2024 and children currently attending Silsoe Lower School (but not on the waiting list) will be sent a booking form by **Monday 24th June 2024**. Sessions will be processed on a first come first served basis and sessions will be confirmed by **Wednesday 1st July 2024**.

Payment terms

Please note that due to ongoing issues with late and non-payment by some users of the club, we will be changing our policy from the start of the new academic year and payments must be made in advance. Statements will be issued a month in advance of sessions booked and payments should be made within 14 days.

The Short Tail Trail

We have been busy decorating and designing our Hare for the Keech Hospice Care's '[The Short Tail Trail Luton 2024](#)'. We are thrilled to be involved in this event and to be raising money for Keech Hospice at the same time. Our children have helped to design and decorate our Hare.

On Friday 24th May we will be holding a non-uniform day. All children are invited to donate to Keech Hospice (suggested donation £1 but please feel free to donate more if you wish and feel able to) if they would like to wear non uniform. For this special fundraising event we are happy for children to wear sports team kits if they wish. We will trial this and hope that everyone will maintain our school ethos and values, wearing their team kits in good spirit and being kind to others.

Other fundraising events are planned and further information will follow.



Walk to School Week



Our school is taking part in Walk to School Week (20-24 May). The nationwide event is organised by walking charity Living Streets and designed to help pupils experience first-hand the importance of walking to school. Children will be well on their way to reaching their recommended minimum 60 minutes of physical activity per day before even reaching the school gates! Not only will it set them up for a positive day in the classroom, but it will also help create healthy habits for life.

This year's challenge, The Magic of Walking, encourages children to travel actively to school every day of the week. Meeting various magical beings along the way, they'll learn about the important reasons to walk and the difference it can make for individuals, communities and the planet! Each pupil will be challenged to travel sustainably (walk, wheel, scoot, cycle or Park and Stride) to school every day for one week using the wallchart and stickers to log their journeys. Each class will work collectively to make as many active journeys to school as possible across the week. Individual activity diaries, daily stickers and end of week pupil rewards will complement this activity, reinforcing the benefits and keeping children engaged.

What do I need to do as a parent/carer? We would ask, if possible, to make arrangements so that your child/children can travel actively to school on week commencing 20th May, helping our school reduce congestion and pollution around the school gates. In return, your child will earn special stickers and a reward trophy! Walking, wheeling, scooting and cycling all count! If you live far away from school and need to drive or take public transport, try parking the car or hopping off the bus ten minutes away and walking the rest of the journey. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.
Mrs Gates – PE Lead

The Scholastic Book Fair

The Scholastic Book Fair is coming back to Silsoe on the **16th May – 21st May**. Children from Years R, 1 and 2 will be welcome to attend on Thursday 16th and Monday 20th May. Children from Years 3 and 4 will be welcome to attend on Friday 17th and Tuesday 21st 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!

Thank you PTA

Thank you to the PTA for providing the amazing caterpillar kits for the reception class – the children have loved learning about the life cycle of a butterfly.

We have also purchased a small range of books for free readers for our library – thank you again to the PTA for funding these.

Message from the PTA



Do you own or work for a local business?

Would you like to promote your business while supporting the village school?

We want to hear from you!

- Raffle prize donations
- Stall to sell your products

**Silsoe PTA
Autumn Fair
Saturday 21
September
12 - 3pm
At Silsoe VC
Lower School**

 silsoept@gmail.com  Friends of Silsoe Lower School  friendsofsilsoelower
Fundraising for Silsoe VC Lower School PTA, charity 1040277

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 Summer, 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.

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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.

For example:

The screenshot shows two search results for the Silsoe VC Lower School PTA. The left search is for '8 trousers' and shows 3 items found, including 'Age 8/9 Trousers' (New PTA) with a quantity of 3. The right search is for '6 school jumper' and shows 1 item found, 'Age 5/6 school branded jumper' (New PTA) with a quantity of 10. Both searches include a search bar with 'Search by Age/Size', a 'Search' button, and a 'Reset' button.

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.

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
www.silsoepreschool.org



Diary Dates

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

20/05/2024	3.30pm to 4.30pm	Scholastic Book Fair YR, Y1 and Y2
21/05/2024	3.30pm to 4.30pm	Scholastic Book Fair Y3 and Y4
20/05/2024	All week	Walk to school week
22/05/2024	All Day	Reception trip to Standalone Farm
24/05/2024	All Day	Non uniform day for Keech Hospice Care- Donations via Scopay
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
13/06/2024	Afternoon	Year 4 toasting marshmallows
24/06/2024	9.15am	Y4 Moving up assembly/workshop
25/06/2024	All Day	French Day
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

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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:

Understanding

Psalm 119:130

*The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding
to the simple*

**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