

24th May 2024

Weekly Newsletter



Dear parents and carers,

It may have been the last week of the half term but the children have continued to work hard across the curriculum. Some year groups have been exceptionally busy completing assessments to show the teachers what they understand and can achieve independently.

Children in year 1 have been busy preparing for their phonics screening checks which are taking place after half term. We are delighted with the progress they have made in their phonics understanding this year and are pleased to see the children applying this phonics knowledge to their reading. We hope they continue to enjoy their developing reading skills so that they can access and enjoy many more books.

We are particularly proud of our year 2 children who have been working hard on their Reading, Writing and Maths assessments. Well done children! It's wonderful to see you apply your learning and demonstrate your knowledge and skills so confidently.

As part of our maths curriculum children learn their times tables. This is a skill that children begin in KS1 and embed in KS2. Children in year 4 are expected to have a secure knowledge of all their times tables and should be able to recall them at speed. Children in year 4 have practised their times tables regularly, mostly using the Times Tables Rockstar App, and have been competing with their friends, family members and staff to achieve the highest scores! They are all looking forward to completing the year 4 Multiplication Check after half term and showcasing their skills.

All year groups will be completing end of unit and end of year assessments during the next half term. We look forward to seeing the children shine and demonstrate their growing independence knowledge and skills.

I wish you all an enjoyable half term holiday and hope that the weather is kind to us. We look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday 3rd June.

Best wishes,

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 the Reception children continued their learning about animals. We have revisited all the different animals we have looked at over the half term and explored the importance of bees on Monday for National Bee Day.

On Wednesday we visited Standalone Farm, although it was very wet the children had a great day. We explored all the animals on the farm including pigs, sheep, cows and a very big horse! The children were able to feed pygmy goats too which they enjoyed.

We embraced the weather and the children thoroughly enjoyed jumping in muddy puddles and playing in the new water play area.

All the children were very well behaved throughout the day and were a true credit to Silsoe Lower School. Mrs McCracken, Mrs Gates and all the staff were proud of them all. Mrs McCracken, Mrs Gates and the early years team would like to thank all the parent helpers for coming along and braving the weather. Without you trips like this would not be possible.



Year 1 – Hawthorn and Willow

In Maths we have started learning about position and direction. We have been playing some fun games using left and right, forwards and backwards.

In RE, we have been thinking about how we respect holy books, such as the Bible and the Quran.

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In Science this week, we have been looking at the difference between deciduous and evergreen trees. We have been thinking about how deciduous trees change through the seasons.

Year 2 – Maple and Sycamore

This week year 2 have created their own micro climates in science and have enjoyed watching different insects coming to visit.

They have started learning to tell the time and have been asked to keep practicing this at home over the half term.

In RE the children have created pledge trees and thought of pledges of how we can look after the world and how we can look after the people of the world.

Year 3 – Palm and Pine

During science lessons in year 3 this week, the children have been learning about the functions of different plant parts, such as roots, stems, leaves, and flowers, and their roles in growth and reproduction. During the unit, they have explored the requirements for plant growth, including light, water, air, nutrients, and space. Pupils have also learnt about processes like photosynthesis, respiration, and transpiration and have enjoyed exploring the life cycle of plants, covering germination, pollination, fertilisation, and seed dispersal. Over the past few weeks the children have grown their own plants under varying conditions and have recorded their growth.



Year 4 – Elm and Oak

Written by Cameron

On Monday in Oak class, we did art and made repeated patterns. Our inspiration was William Morris.

On Tuesday we did music and I played my clarinet. We were writing rhythms and making them into a melody. We learnt about decimals in maths.

In English we are reading a book about the boy who banned the dark and we were planning a balanced argument for and against.

In French we practiced asking which animals we all have.

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. We are watching our sunflowers and hoping that they grow some more soon!

Some children have continued to learn about animals and classifying into carnivores, herbivores and omnivores. Other children have continued to access many of their lessons with their mainstream class. We have also made lovely cupcakes!

Attendance for this week

Acorn	98.1%	Chestnut	94.5%
Hawthorn	96.6%	Willow	92.9%
Maple	97.4%	Sycamore	98.8%
Palm	94.6%	Pine	99.4%
Elm	93.6%	Oak	95.2%
Conifer	95.8%		

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	Whole Class	Channing-Kye
Chestnut	Whole Class	Shiven
Hawthorn	Charlie B	Jacob
Willow	Chloe	Casey
Maple	Isabel	Rorie
Sycamore	Luca	Jessica
Palm	Riley	Alfie
Pine	Rory	Patrick
Elm	Rory	Sienna
Oak	Darcy	Ed
Conifer	Mikah	



General Information

Inspired by Eco Council

Thank you to Cam in Year 4 who has sent in a photo of him with one of the butterflies that he has hatched.



Congratulations to Ava for you first Feis

We would like to say a big well done to Ava in Year 1 who took part in her first Irish dancing Feis (competition) this weekend. We are so proud of you!

Scholastic Book fayre

A huge thank you to everyone who attended the Scholastic Book Fair over the past week. We sold a record number of books and have consequently earned a huge **£900.13** in rewards for our school. Below are a collection of the stories we have already purchased for our reading stages



with many more still to come. The rewards we earn through running the book fairs allow us to keep purchasing new, varied and up to date reading books for the children to enjoy, so thank you again for your continued support in helping us to instil a passion for reading in our children.

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Medicines in school

Medicines should only be administered in school when it would be detrimental to a child's health or school attendance not to. Medicines should be left at the school office where parents will be asked to give their consent for medication to be administered by completing a Medicine Record Form.

Prescribed medicines

Where clinically possible, medicines are generally prescribed in dose frequencies, which enable them to be taken outside of school hours. For example, antibiotics prescribed to be taken 3 times a day could be given before school, after school and before bed and would not need to be administered in school.

Schools can only accept prescribed medicines that are in-date, labelled, provided in the original container as dispensed by a pharmacist and include instructions for administration, dosage and storage. The exception to this is insulin, which must still be in date, but will generally be available to schools inside an insulin pen or a pump, rather than in its original container.

Non-prescribed medicines

Non-prescribed medicines such as Calpol and Piriton will only be administered in exceptional circumstances and where there is a clear and genuine medical need.

Eco Council

A big thank you goes to the Eco Council, who have been working incredibly hard so far this year to try and gain Green Flag status for the school. A huge thank you also goes to all the parents who have also supported us. We have now completed and submitted the application. We will keep you informed of any news.

Year 4 walking to school

For the remainder of this school year and to aid their preparation for joining middle school in September, we are happy to authorise Year 4 only pupils **walking to school** unsupervised. If your child has additional needs, please carefully consider if they are safe to walk to school unsupervised.

We would however ask that parents/carers continue to **collect** their child at the end of the school day to ensure they do arrive home safely.

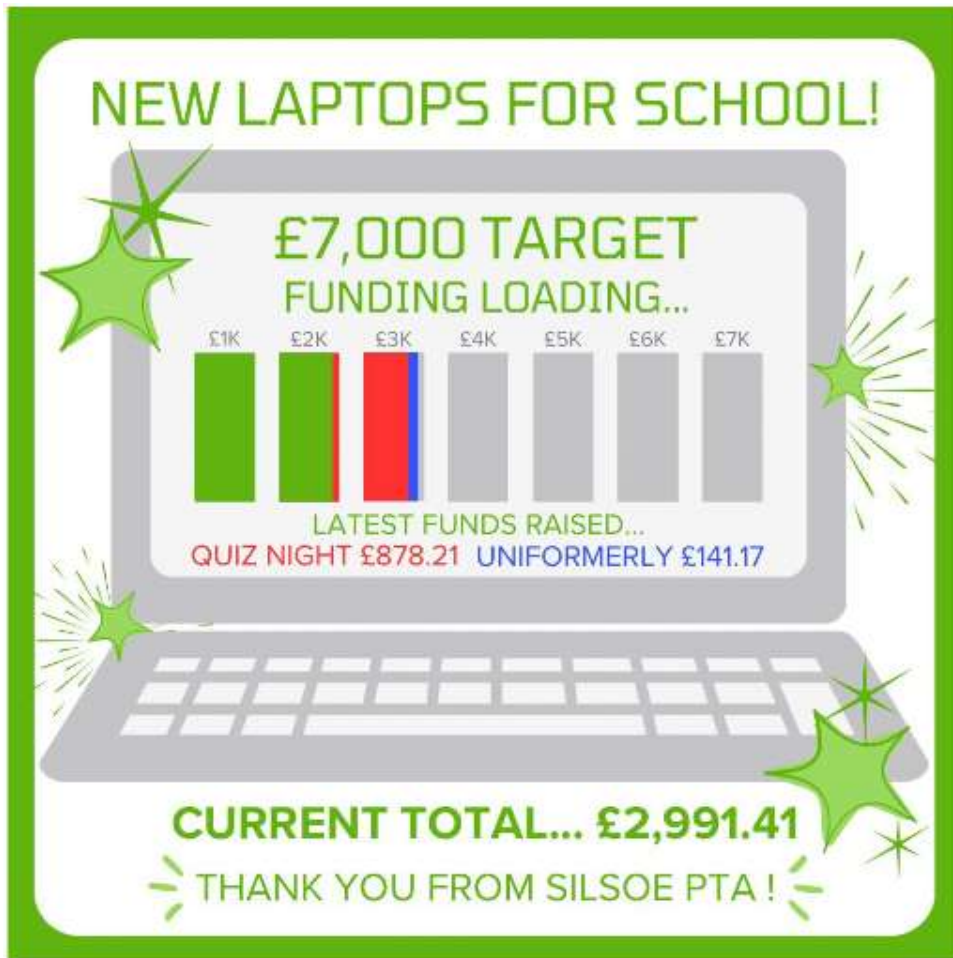
Please let us know if your child is not attending school as early as possible, we will follow our normal safeguarding procedures following up on any absence immediately after registration closes at 9am.

The Dance Studio Lunch time club

We are very excited to be working with Karen at 'The Dance Studio' to offer lunchtime dance lessons on a Friday. Karen and Emma will teach the children a routine over the half term, which they can then perform within school. The children will be selected by teachers and this is not a club that needs to be signed up for by parents. A new group of children will be selected by teachers each half term. Information about the dance school is further down the newsletter.

Karen is also providing dance lessons for our sports week- More information to follow.

PTA update



The children have been sent home with smarties or skittles today for the next PTA challenge, please see the leaflet below. This will continue our fundraising for laptops.

Before and after school clubs by external providers

Please find details below of our clubs which are available after half term by external providers.

Monday morning Performing Arts Collective Years 1 - 2 [Performing arts collective Year 1-2](#)

Tuesday PM Premier Education Dodgeball Years Reception – Year 2 [Premier-education](#)

Tuesday PM Choir This the existing choir but will not be held on the 4th June or 16th July.

Wednesday AM Premier Education Gymnastics club Years 1-4 [Premier-education](#)

Wednesday PM Jam Coding Years 1-4 [Jamcoding](#)

Thursday PM Performing Arts Collective Years 3 – 4 [Performing arts collective Year 3-4](#)

Friday PM Tennis Club Years 2-4 Sign up via SCOpay.

Ofsted - The Big Listen – we want to hear your views!

The National Centre for Social Research (NatCen) is carrying out a short survey on behalf of Ofsted. They want to hear from parents/carers of children who are under 18 years old. It should only take around 10 minutes to complete. They are interested in views of, and any experiences with, Ofsted, including Ofsted's inspection, regulation and reporting practices. They really want to hear from a wide range of parents and carers, even if you don't have strong opinions about Ofsted, or haven't had any experience of Ofsted. The survey findings will be used to help Ofsted improve the way it works in the future.

Please click on the following link to find out more or take part in the survey:

survey.natcen.ac.uk/TheBigListen

You can look at their [Taking Part webpage](#) for more information about the research, and their [Privacy Notice](#) for what will happen to any information you give. Links to these webpages are also included in the survey.

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 when we return from the half term break.

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.

Care Club requests for September 2024

The first email has been sent for those children that already use Care club this year to make requests. Please find below the following dates when we will contact anyone else regarding places in Care Club 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 VC Lower School, Chestnut Avenue, Silsoe, Bedford MK45 4GP

www.silsoeschool.co.uk

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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.

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

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PTA's Uniformly (Online Preloved uniform)

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 and pop them into the box located in the schools reception.

Please find the QR code for a quick link to the Uniformly website.



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



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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.

06/06/2024	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
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*

Prize
for the class
and individual
that raises the
most!

SILSOE PTA

Don't forget
to add your
NAME on the
tube!



Please
return by
Friday 7th
June

CHALLENGE

Silsoe PTA would like to give you a yummy treat
So we're sending these colourful smarties to eat

Keep the tube, don't throw it away

Do tasks and good deeds to earn your pay

Fill your tube with coins right to the top

To help raise funds for the
PTA laptop pot!

Fundraising
towards new
school
Laptops!



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Messy Sunday

Sunday 26th May 4pm-5.30pm

Pulloxhill Church Hall

A lively fun and creative time together for families,
children and people of all ages.

Songs, stories, puppets, crafts and creative prayers,
ending with tea together.

Numbers Limited so Book on

revsimon@3churches.uk

Voluntary Donations

All Welcome





The dance
STUDIO

**FIRST CLASS
IS FREE!**

**LET'S GET
GROOVING!**

Freestyle Disco | Slow/Lyrical | Rock n Roll

**ALL CLASSES HELD IN
Barton-le-Clay**


Preschool & Primary Classes

Tuesday • Thursday • Saturday
for 2 - 9 years

Junior & Senior Classes

Monday • Tuesday • Saturday
for 10 Years and above

 thedancestudiokg  thedancestudiokmhb

 Karen Gregory LIDTA - 07841 193740

 thedancestudiokg@outlook.com

IDTA



**IDTA and ADFP
Trained Teachers**

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

www.silsoeschool.co.uk

01525 860 247

FREE



SNAP PARENT CARER FORUM
CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE

Therapeutic Thinking Information Sessions

ONLINE VIA TEAMS



Did you know there are at least 66 local schools being trained on this? Want to find out more then please attend either the daytime or evening session:

3rd of June 1.00pm -2.30pm or
3rd of June 7.00pm - 8.30pm

BOOK NOW!

Book your place by emailing
admin@snappcf.org.uk

Please email stating
Therapeutic Thinking with
your preferred time and your
name, for your Teams Link to
your session.

Thank you

AIMS OF THERAPEUTIC THINKING:

- ✓ Develop a common language and joint approach that is followed by all professionals in Central Bedfordshire, thereby supporting consistency within and across services
- ✓ Support schools and settings with developing a therapeutic approach to behaviour
- ✓ Improve staff confidence and safety
- ✓ Reduce suspensions and exclusions by considering more inclusive alternatives



Visit Our Website
www.snappcf.org.uk

Central
Bedfordshire

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Central
Bedfordshire

EHCP



SNAP PARENT CARER FORUM
CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE

ANNUAL

FREE ONLINE SESSIONS

REVIEWS

Find out about
EHCP Annual
Review process
specific to Central
Bedfordshire

Be supported in
understanding what
should happen before,
during and after the
meeting

Explore Central
Bedfordshire's EHCP
Annual Review
Toolkit that is given to
schools/settings

To book your place, please
email stating 'EHCP Annual
Reviews' with your
preferred workshop date
and time, and your name,
to: admin@snappcf.org.uk

Understand how parent
carers can ensure that all
the up to date, important
information is shared and
used

Learn how Central
Bedfordshire supports
in ensuring your and
your child/young
person's views are
recorded and heard

Dates and Times

Tuesday 25th June 1.30-2.30 pm
or
Monday 8th July 12.45-1.45 pm

Sessions will be led by
staff from Central
Bedfordshire Council

FREE

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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