

8th December 2023

Weekly Newsletter



Dear Parents/Carers,

Well, what a busy week we have had once again! The children have been working hard rehearsing for the Christmas performances and the singing echoing around the corridors has been fabulous.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming you to school next week to share in the real meaning of Christmas through the Christmas story being retold by the children. We hope that you will enjoy the performances.

As the festivities draw closer the children are getting more and more excited and it is our privilege at school to be able to share in their excitement and joy. I am really pleased that the children have continued to work hard and engage with their lessons in addition to rehearsing for the Christmas performance.

Mrs S Boyle
Headteacher

Class updates

Reception classes Acorn and Chestnut



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

www.silsoeschool.co.uk

01525 860 247

Reception classes have been rehearsing and preparing for the Christmas performance this week. They have also been role playing being Father Christmas and being elves in Santa's workshop.

Year 1 Willow and Hawthorn

In DT, year 1 have been learning about different mechanisms they could use to make moving parts in stories. They enjoyed it so much, some of them decided to make their own mechanisms at home to show what they had learnt and bring them to school to show their teachers and friends. The stories they thought about included The Gingerbread Man, Rapunzel, The Three Billy Goats Gruff as well as making up their own! Well done Year 1!





Year 2 Sycamore and Maple

Year 2 have been busy this week rehearsing songs for the Christmas performance. They have also finished making their puppets which are now out on display for everyone to see.

Year 3 Pine and Palm

Year 3 have been exploring multiplication in their maths lessons this week. They have worked hard to build up their fluency with reciting the 2,3,4,5,8 and 10 times tables. We have used counters to create arrays to represent multiplication number sentences and have used sorting circles to show division number sentences. Although the 4s and 8s are new times tables for the children this year, they have impressed us with their recall and resilience when working in maths lessons. Lots of children have noticed patterns within the numbers that help them to remember their times tables and have made links to the times tables they already know e.g. (when multiplying by 4 you double the number you are multiplying twice to find the answer). Well done Year 3!

Year 4 Oak and Elm

In Year 4 this week, we have planned and written an alternative ending to our detective penguin story. We have investigated how sound changes and we now know this the 'pitch' and this can be high or low. We have continued to decorate our light boxes ready to insert the electrical circuit next week.

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 have been thinking and learning about friendships this week; how to solve disagreements kindly and how to work together.

We cooked manger mince pies and made 'Santa hats' this week in cooking – getting ready for Christmas!

Staffing

Unfortunately Mrs Long will be leaving Silsoe Lower School at the end of this term as she finishes her maternity cover contract. We are extremely grateful for all her hard work, care and diligence as teacher and SENCO throughout the last year and she will be sorely missed. We would like to wish her all the best for the future in her new school.

We are delighted to say that we have Ms Wright returning to school following her maternity leave and she will be a class teacher in Oak class, teaching 3 days a week (Monday, Tuesday and Wednesdays), working alongside Mrs McCarthy. I am sure you will join me in welcoming her back.

I am delighted to announce that we have appointed 2 teachers for Elm class. Mrs Roy will be joining the team as Miss Curtis's Maternity cover on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. We are very pleased to welcome Mrs Roy to the school and looking forward to her joining our Year 4 team.

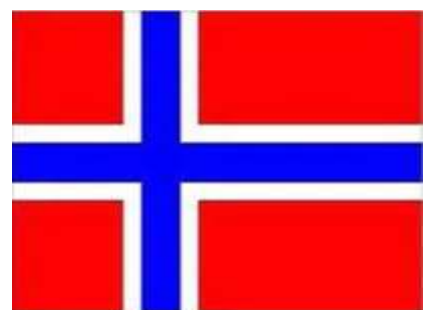
Miss Bishopp, who most of you will remember as being part of our Year 4 team last year, will be returning to Silsoe Lower School. Miss Bishopp will be teaching on Mondays and Tuesdays in Elm class and we are delighted that she is coming back to join our teaching team.

Miss Bishopp will also be taking on the SENCo role from January (working Wednesday and Thursdays as SENCo). We have arranged a handover period between Mrs Long and Miss Bishopp where all children on the SENCo register will be discussed in detail in addition to time to discuss Senco provision across the school.

General information

Languages in school

Currently our focus language is Norwegian and so the children will be saying phrases such as 'God morgen' (good morning) 'Hallo' (hello) and 'Hat det bra' (goodbye).



Little Princess Trust

Last week Mabel and Keevie in Year 2 both cut their hair for The Little Princess Trust. They have raised over £2000 for the charity to be able to make the wigs they have provided the hair for.

The Little Princess Trust provides **free** real hair wigs to children and young people, up to 24 years, who have lost their own hair through cancer treatment or other conditions. The charity also fund childhood cancer research searching to find kinder and more effective treatments.

Well done girls what an amazing thing to do, we are very proud of you both!



Christmas Window

Our staff have been busy creating our Christmas window for this year, it will be on display from tonight. I think you will agree it looks beautiful!

The Big Ambition by the Children's Commissioner of England

The Children's Commissioner for England, Dame Rachel de Souza, has launched **The Big Ambition**, a national survey of children and young people across England.

The Big Ambition aims to hear from children across England on what they think is important! In the lead up to the next General Election, the Children's Commissioner wants to take children's thoughts, opinions and ideas to decision-makers, to make sure that the Government hears young people's voices on what they think needs to be done to make children's lives better in England.

The Big Ambition survey will be open until Friday 15th December.

Children or parents can complete the survey here: www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigambition. Further resources are available on our [website](http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigambition).

I must reiterate that it is vital that all children have their voice heard through this survey because, as Children's Commissioner for England, I have a statutory duty to protect and promote the views and interests of children. The Big Ambition provides a much-needed opportunity for the children of England to tell political decision makers what is important to them ahead of the General Election. I will be sharing their responses with Government to ensure that children's voices are heard.

Letter from Sienna in Year 4



Dear Parents,

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Sienna recently had a 4 day stay in Luton and Dunstable hospital children's ward after emergency surgery for a ruptured appendix. She would like to thank them and give something back this Christmas.

As well as doing a sponsored swim to raise money, Sienna is creating a Christmas toy hamper to take in, with toys and activities they can give out to children who are staying in like she did, to brighten up their stay over the Christmas period.

We understand it is a busy and expensive time for everyone, but if anybody had anything big or small (new) they would be happy to donate, she would be so very grateful to add it to her hamper to deliver to them just before Christmas. E.g, colouring sets, jigsaws, art kits, activity books.

If you feel you can help at all, school have kindly agreed for a box to be left in reception on Wednesday morning and all items will be collected on Thursday afternoon.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and if you can help at all, we are sure the Luton and Dunstable hospital children's ward would be so happy.

They were fantastic when Sienna needed their help.

Kindest regards,

Sienna - Year 4

Salvation Army Toy appeal



A message sent on behalf of Jenna who collected the gifts for the Salvation Army.

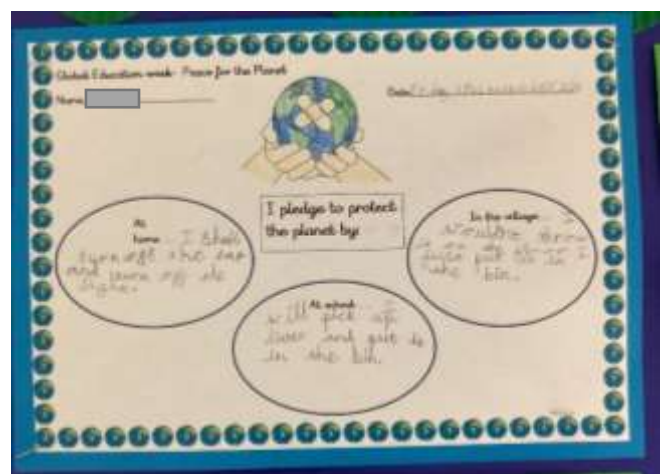
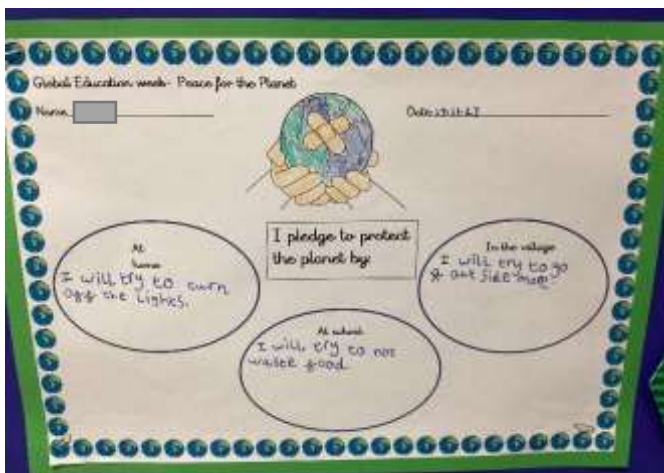
"Yesterday my Daughters and I delivered 356 toys to the Salvation Army. I know some Parents may have sent directly to the SA from the Amazon link too so the total would be even more than that I am sure.

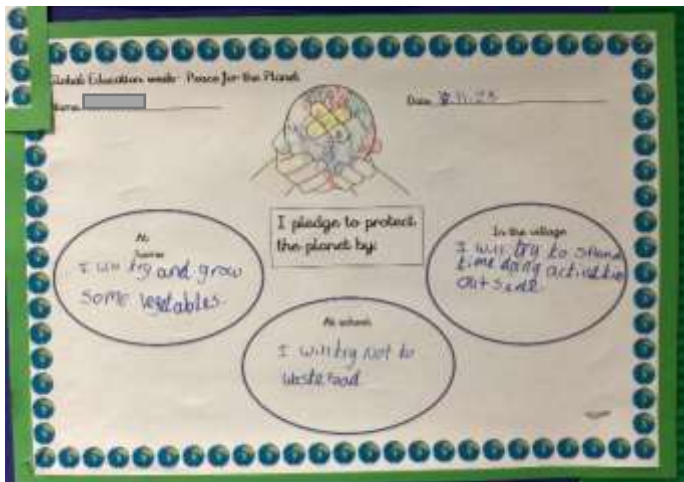
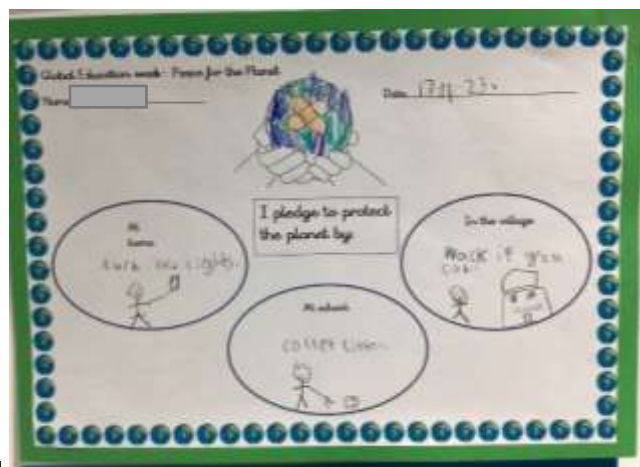
It means a lot to have your support and hopefully next year we can do the same and provide more gifts for vulnerable children.

Thanks again"

Global Education

As part of Global education week, the children thought about their role as global citizens and how they could help the environment so there is peace for the planet. Children discussed issues facing the world due to climate change. They then thought about and wrote pledges that they would keep to help make changes to the environment in school, at home and in the village.





School Meals

We are unfortunately having an increasing number of meals being requested by children at lunchtime without orders being placed by their parents/carers through School Grid.

Our catering provider tries hard to minimise waste in order to keep costs down and so does not produce high numbers of spare meals each day. If your child does not have a meal ordered and we are unable to provide a meal as we have run out, we may need to call you to bring in a packed lunch.

Please could we therefore ask for your co-operation to ensure that if you would like your child to have a school meal that you place an order before 8.55am each day. Meals can also be ordered weekly or monthly.

Head lice

We have had a large number of cases of head lice reported to school recently and we are reaching out to all parents to try to help support to reduce the number of cases in school. Please can we ask that you check your child's hair on a regular basis and treat as appropriate. It is advisable to check each member of the family too. The Christmas holidays will hopefully give us the opportunity to get rid of them and for all families to be able to have a full check of all of the children's hair and treat as required. Thank you for your support.

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Flu Vaccination catch up clinic

If your child was absent for the flu vaccination, please contact the flu immunisation team on 03007900594 to book in for the catch up clinic.

Supporting Santa and being one of his helpers

We are once again walking alongside the Santa float this year and need volunteers to help us collect donations.

We also need a Santa if anyone fancies riding in a sleigh.....

The date is Tuesday 12th Dec - meeting at 5.15pm with an aim to start at 5.30pm.

Please meet outside the Coop at 5.15pm.

Please sign up by clicking the link below

<https://volunteersignup.org/DQJW3>



Diary Dates

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

12/12/2023	9.30am to 10.30am	Christmas performance – Acorn, Hawthorn, Maple, Palm & Elm
12/12/2023	2.15pm to 3.15pm	Christmas performance – Chestnut, Willow, Sycamore, Pine & Oak
12/12/2023	5.30pm	PTA Walk with Santa Float
13/12/2023	9.30am to 10.30am	Christmas performance – Chestnut, Willow, Sycamore, Pine & Oak
13/12/2023	2.15pm to 3.15pm	Christmas performance – Acorn, Hawthorn, Maple, Palm & Elm
14/12/2023	Morning	The Christmas Journey at the Church – Elm then Acorn (children only)
14/12/2023	Afternoon	The Christmas Journey at the Church – Chestnut (children only)
15/12/2023	Morning	The Christmas Journey at the Church – Oak then Willow (children only)
15/12/2023	Afternoon	The Christmas Journey at the Church – Hawthorn (children only)
18/12/2023	Afternoon	Christmas parties – Children can wear party/Christmas clothes
19/12/2023	Lunchtime	Christmas dinner day – please order via School Grid
19/12/2023	9.30am	Christmas service at the Church – children to wear uniform or uniform with a Christmas top or Christmas hat (children only)



Silsoe CofE Lower School | YEAR 2-4

MINECRAFT HACKERS Afterschool Club_

At Jam Coding, our goal is to help improve children's digital creativity skills. Is your child ready to take their Minecraft experience to the next level? In our **Minecraft Hackers** workshop, children learn how to harness the power of text commands to become fire resistant, teleport, create potions and intricate chain reactions using command blocks and pressure plates. Working in teams, children will have fun whilst improving their computational thinking skills to enhance their gaming experience! At the end of the course, all children will receive a certificate and one team will receive a trophy!



DATES :

10th Jan - 14th Feb

TIME :

Every Wednesday

3:30 - 4:30 PM

PRICE :

6 WEEKS OF FUN LEARNING
FOR JUST £45!

BOOK HERE : <https://portal.jamcoding.franscape.io/class-overview/2319>

Click the link above to view course details OR visit our website and head to the booking tab. Enter your postcode in the locations field and click search to view courses. Then select the school or venue you require. N.B. You can only attend courses held at the school that your child attends. You can also search by the school postcode.

For more information, contact your Area Manager on:

MiltonKeynes@jamcoding.co.uk

“ Coding helps with maths and logical problem solving! ”

WIN A FREE PLACE!

Follow us on social media for the chance to win a free place.



www.jamcoding.co.uk

OUR CURRENT VALUE IS:

Peace

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."

Matthew 5:9

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