

23rd November 2023

Weekly Newsletter



Dear Parents/Carers,

It was wonderful to welcome Impact who are part of Bedford Area Schools Christian Support Trust into school this week to work with the children in Year 3 and 4. The children enjoyed learning more about different ways that we can pray and had lots of fabulous questions to ask the ladies.

It has been lovely to welcome families into the Scholastic Book Fair after school for the last two days and we look forward to continuing with this on Monday and Tuesday next week.

We are looking forward to the first of our PTA Christmas activities next week with the PTA Santa shop, we hope you have had the opportunity to place your orders.

Hope you all have a restful weekend

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

Mrs S Boyle
Headteacher

Class updates

Reception classes Acorn and Chestnut

This week Reception classes have been reading the story of 'Goldilocks and the 3 Bears', they have completed some writing and also created their own bears.



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Year 1 Willow and Hawthorn

This week Year 1 have been learning about Linda Brown Buck (the Scientist) who discovered how our noses detect different smells. The children had lots of fun trying to identify the different smells like lemon, mint and vinegar.



Year 2 Sycamore and Maple

This week in Year 2 they have been making our finger puppets based on a fairy-tale characters, the children have experimented with different textures, materials and colours. They have had lots of fun!



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Year 3 Pine and Palm

Year 3 have been learning about Poems this week and have been performing them, making sure to use the right tone and pitch to enhance the meaning of the Poem.

Year 3 took part in the Creative Prayer Workshop and learnt lots about different ways we can pray.

Year 4 Oak and Elm

In Maths this week Year 4 have been learning their 3, 6 and 9 times tables. They have been learning about the division facts and multiplication facts.

They have also been creating museum labels for different artefacts.

Year 4 also took part in the Creative Prayer workshops this 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 showing empathy to others in our Hamish and Milo sessions.

General information

Mascot at Wembley

Last week Louie in Year 3 was given the opportunity to be a Mascot at the England Vs Malta football match. Louie walked onto the pitch at Wembley with the Captain of the Malta team Steve Borg.

Wow what an experience, we are all so proud of you!



Creative Prayer

On Wednesday, Year 3 and 4 had an exciting Creative Prayer workshop with the Impact (Bedford Area Schools Christian Support Trust). The children listened enraptured as they learnt about the power of prayer and the incredible connection it gives us with God. They explored the different ways that we can pray, the reasons why we might pray and when we might decide to pray. The children took part in various activities to support and develop their knowledge of prayer including: colouring prayer spinners with colours that represent the different things we are thankful for; writing thank you prayers for all the animals we love in the world; creating a list of the people who walk with us through our lives, who love us and guide us; and creating a list of positive things about ourselves, starting with each letter of our name. The children left the workshop inspired by the power of creative prayer.



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Blue Peter Badge Winner

Isla in Year 1 has won a Blue Peter Badge and received a lovely letter from the Blue Peter Team. She has read 'Unicorn and the Rainbow Poop' and completed a book review for them.

We can see how proud you are of your badge and we are so proud of you!



Winner of our Pudsey Teddy

Last week for Children in Need we had a game of guess the name of the Pudsey Teddy and Luca was the lucky winner of our Giant Pudsey bear. Well done Luca!

Christmas lunch menu

Please see our menu (near the bottom of this Newsletter) for the Christmas Lunch which will be on the 19th December, please remember to place your child's order via Schoolgrid.

Scholastic Book Fair

We have our Scholastic Book Fair taking place on the 22nd & 27th November for YR, Y1 and Y2 and 23rd & 28th November for YR 3 and 4.

Alongside the book fair we will have a stall for a selection of brand new toys which are available for £3 each. These toys are being sold by our PTA to raise money for outdoor play equipment for breaks and lunch times. To purchase these we will have a QR code or they can be purchased via contactless payment.



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.

Healthy food for snacks and lunches and Nut Free

We have had a few children recently who have brought sweets into school as part of their lunch box and also energy drinks or fizzy drinks. Please be aware that the children are not allowed to bring any fizzy or energy drinks into school or sweets. We are also a **nut free** school so please do not send children any snacks which contain nuts, we do have children with allergies in the school and this can pose a risk to life if they come into contact with nuts.

Update regarding Childcare Choices and Help with Payments

Childcare Choices: Get the help that fits your family, so you can juggle work and life

Thousands of families could be saving money on their childcare costs. But some simply don't know what support they might be eligible for.

The [Childcare Choices Website](#) brings together all the existing childcare offers in one place, so parents can get the help that fits their family. This could be through Tax-Free Childcare, 30 Hours Childcare, or Universal Credit Childcare. Some families might be eligible to use more than one childcare schemes together and get the most out of it.

And from next year even more help is on the way:

From **April 2024**, eligible working parents in England with children aged 2 will have access to 15 hours childcare.

From **September 2024**, the 15 hours childcare offer will be expanded to eligible working parents in England with children between 9 and 23 months old.

From **September 2025**, eligible working parents in England with children between 9 months up to school age will have access to 30 hours childcare.

Support is also expanding for primary-school aged children – from September 2024, parents are expected to see an expansion in the availability of childcare in their local area before and after school, between 8am and 6pm, also known as '**wraparound care**'.

Don't miss out on getting the support you are entitled to. Visit the [Childcare Choices Website](#) to check what offer you might be eligible for and sign up to our newsletter to get the latest updates about the childcare support expansion.

Newspapers Required

If you have any unwanted newspapers between now Christmas, please could you send them into school. Year 1 need newspapers for a project they will be working on in the new year.

Salvation Army Christmas Appeal

This year we will once again be taking part in the Salvation Army Christmas Appeal, this is to help children who would otherwise not receive a gift on Christmas morning.

Please can we ask if you would like to donate any toys for this cause that the toys are brand new and unwrapped alternatively there is an Amazon wish list which has been created and these items can be sent directly to the Salvation Army. Please see link for the [Salvation Army wish list](#). If you do chose this option please can you let the school know, so we can pass on the details to the Salvation Army so they are aware to expect them.



If you would like to take part and donate a toy for Christmas, please can these donations be made on the 30th November to the school office. Thank you.

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.

The route and meeting point is yet to be arranged.

Please sign up by clicking the link below

<https://volunteersignup.org/DQJW3>



Message from the PTA

Dear parents/carers,

Xmas is fast approaching and there are some great events the PTA are organising - see details below:

Santa Shop - ORDERS IN BY MONDAY 27th NOV

This is a lovely opportunity for the children to buy their families and loved ones a Xmas present which they choose all by themselves.

The shop will be running on Thursday 30th November and Friday 1st December during the school day.

Please click the link below to place your orders

[Order gifts here](#)

Xmas Quiz Night (adults only) - - BOOK YOUR TABLE BY THURSDAY 23rd NOVEMBER

Saturday 9th December 7pm (Silsoe Village Hall)

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

www.silsoeschool.co.uk

01525 860 247

This is always a fun event where teams can get together to test their knowledge.
Booking is now open and you can sign up below

[Quiz Booking Here](#)

Letters from Santa – Orders in by Friday 24th November

Would you like to surprise your little one with a special letter from Santa?

If so, please click on the link below and fill in the details.

[Santa Letter](#)

There will then be a personalised letter from Santa landing on your doorstep.

There is no charge for this letter it's just a little something from the PTA.

If you have any queries or questions then please get in touch by emailing silsoepta@gmail.com

Thanks

PTA Team

Diary Dates

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

27/11/2023	All day	Y4 Trip to Hazard Alley
27/11/2023	All day	Flu immunisation day YR, Y1, Y2, Y3
27/11/2023	2.45pm to 3.15pm	Scholastic Book Fair – Parents/Carers only
	3.30pm to 4.00pm	Scholastic Book Fair YR, Y1 and Y2
28/11/2023	3.30pm to 4.00pm	Scholastic Y3 and Y4
30/11/2023	During the day	PTA Santa Shop
01/12/2023	During the day	PTA Santa Shop
01/12/2023	All day	Christmas around the world
05/12/2023	11.30am	Choir singing at the Beehive
07/12/2023	2.00pm	Choir singing at Taymer Nursing Home
09/12/2023	7pm	PTA Xmas Quiz night (Silsoe Village Hall) Adults only
12/12/2023	9.30am to 10.30am	Christmas performance – Acorn, Hawthorn, Maple, Palm & Elm – details to follow
12/12/2023	2.15pm to 3.15pm	Christmas performance – Chestnut, Willow, Sycamore, Pine & Oak – details to follow
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 – details to follow
13/12/2023	2.15pm to 3.15pm	Christmas performance – Acorn, Hawthorn, Maple, Palm & Elm – details to follow

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14/12/2023	Morning	1 st Century Palestine visit to the Church – Elm then Acorn (children only)
14/12/2023	Afternoon	1 st Century Palestine visit to the Church – Chestnut (children only)
15/12/2023	Morning	1 st Century Palestine visit to the Church – Oak then Willow (children only)
15/12/2023	Afternoon	1 st Century Palestine visit to the Church – Hawthorn (children only)
18/12/2023	Afternoon	Christmas parties – Children can wear party/Xmas 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 Xmas top (children only)



COMPUTING WORKSHOPS

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.franscope.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



CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Sliced Turkey Breast with Chipolata Sausage

Sage and Onion Stuffing

Gravy

Or

Quorn Fillet (v)

Veggie Sausage (v)

Sage and Onion Stuffing

Gravy

Roast Potatoes

With a Choice of Seasonal Vegetables



Choice of Christmas Dessert



OUR CURRENT VALUE IS:

Peace

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

Matthew 5:9

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