

3rd February 2023

Newsletter



Dear Parents and Carers,

We have only been back in school after the Christmas holiday for a few weeks and there has been such a wealth of inspiring learning and enrichment opportunities taking place. You can read about a few of the highlights below.

Next half term looks to be extremely busy too, the children are so fortunate to have such a vast range of opportunities before, during and after the school day.

We are grateful for all the support our community gives us and we would like to further strengthen the work we do together. Please do consider how you may be able to get more involved in the life of our school.

I look forward to welcoming you to the next Headteacher's coffee morning and seeing you at parent consultation evenings.

Just a reminder that we break up for half term on Friday 10th February, I wish you all a restful and relaxing holiday with your family.

Best Wishes,

Sarah Boyle

Headteacher

KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE ONLINE

On Wednesday 1st February we invited all parents to a presentation by Bedfordshire Police about how to keep your children safe in our digital world. We'd like to thank Bedfordshire Police for their time and support in delivering an extremely informative and valuable meeting.

If you were unable to attend we encourage you to look at the NSPCC website for further support and information about how to keep your children safe online.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

If you have any concerns about your child and their online safety please don't hesitate to speak to a member of staff.

The NSPCC logo consists of the letters 'NSPCC' in a large, bold, green, sans-serif font.

IT'S A GIRL!

We are delighted to announce that Mrs Wright has given birth to a beautiful little girl. Mum and daughter are doing very well and are at home, enjoying time together as a family.



MEET A GOVERNOR



My name is Jen Shields and I am the Local Authority Governor with responsibility for Safeguarding and English. This is my 8th year as a governor at Silsoe Lower, I started as a parent governor when my eldest child was in year 2 - this year he's started at Harlington Upper School! I currently sit on the Pupils and Curriculum Committee but have previously chaired the Strategic Resources and Personnel Committee, as well as being previously responsible for Pupil Premium. I find the role of governor really rewarding, it's great to be able to actively contribute to the school and our community

NATIONAL CAREERS WEEK 6TH - 11TH MARCH 2023

We are aspirational for all of our pupils and we want to empower all of our children to be ambitious for themselves. Through our curriculum children develop their knowledge, skills, self-confidence and determination. To be truly ambitious our children need to be aware of all the opportunities available to them and to have an understanding of some of the careers and jobs that could be achievable for them, if they work hard.

We need your help please! It would be wonderful to welcome parents into school to talk and share about a diverse range of professions.

If you are able to offer your time to come and talk to the children please email the school office admin@silsoelower.co.uk we'd love to hear from you.



THEATRE VISIT

Before Christmas children from Year 1 and Maple Class enjoyed a trip to the theatre to see 'By the Light of the Moon' at the Hat Factory in Luton. They had a wonderful experience visiting the theatre and watching the production.

Children in Year R and Sycamore unfortunately missed their theatre visit in December due to the heavy snow however the theatre company came to us last week! All the children thoroughly enjoyed the experience.



ATTENDANCE

Thank you to everyone who has made a special effort to be punctual to school this term, it really does help the children to have a positive start to the school day.

We understand that sometimes things happen at home or on the way to school that can cause a child to become upset, if this happens please just let us know, being aware of any problems helps us to help your child have a positive day.

Every child deserves to be on time to school and to attend every day. At lower school age it is the parent's responsibility to ensure that the children are on time. If children are persistently late to school it can impact on their learning and their self-esteem. Please support us in ensuring that every child starts their day at school in a positive manner by arriving on time.

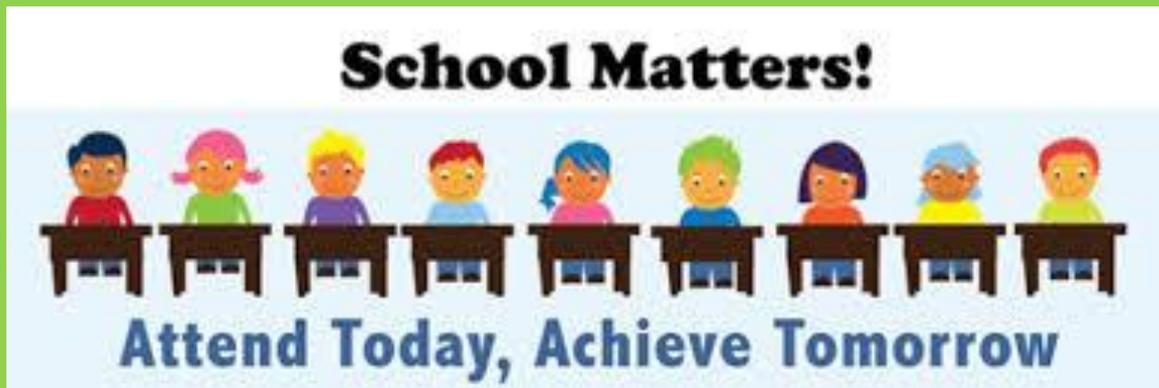
As you are already aware, we monitor children's attendance regularly and robustly and we do the same with punctuality. Our attendance data is also shared with Central Bedfordshire Council Access and Inclusion Team and the Department for Education.

School starts at **8.45am** and we expect children to be in their classrooms, ready to start learning **by 8.55am** at the latest. The playground gates are locked at 8.55am so as a reminder; if your child



arrives at school after this time, you will need to go to Reception to sign in. If this is after 9am, this will be recorded as a 'late' in the register and you will be asked to provide a reason for the lateness. If your child is late into school they may miss the early morning task during registration and the main teaching input in the first lesson and this could impact upon your child's understanding and attainment, so please ensure your child is at school on time every day! Persistent lateness or absence will result in further action being taken.

We really appreciate your support in raising the importance of good school attendance and punctuality with your children. If you need any support with this please speak to the class teacher or make an appointment to see Mrs Shires or Mrs Boyle.



SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS COORDINATOR (SENCO)

Over the last few weeks our new SENCO, Mrs Long, has visited each class to get to know the children. She has worked with a number of children and met with quite a few parents. She will be available at the parent consultation evenings (Thursday 23rd February and Tuesday 28th February) and welcomes anyone, particularly if you are a parent of a child with SEND, to say hello and introduce yourselves to her.

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

Each day of every week we champion children's mental health in school as we understand what a huge barrier to learning poor mental health and well-being can potentially be. Next week there will be a particular focus on mental health throughout the school as part of national 'Children's Mental Health Week'.

We are proud to have our own fully qualified and DfE approved Senior Mental Health Lead, Mrs Shires.

We also value the work that Mrs Brown does with and for our children in her role as mental health and well-being practitioner.

Two members of staff have recently trained in 'Drawing Therapy' which we hope will support a number of children across the school.



We see the positive impact of the mental health and well-being support that we offer in school and are grateful that we have such a highly skilled team of professionals to support our children's needs.

HEADTEACHER'S COFFEE MORNING



You are invited to join Mrs Boyle for coffee, tea and biscuits on Friday 10th February at 9.00am-9.45am.

Drop your children to school and come inside to warm up and have a coffee before you head home.

Mrs Boyle looks forward to talking to you.

HOT CHOCOLATE FRIDAY

I have the privilege of enjoying time with a group of our wonderful pupils each Friday afternoon. Children who have demonstrated a positive attitude and superb behaviour for learning join me for hot chocolate and marshmallows. Occasionally we have a whole class who have gone above and beyond expectations and have demonstrated determination and resilience and a super attitude to learning!

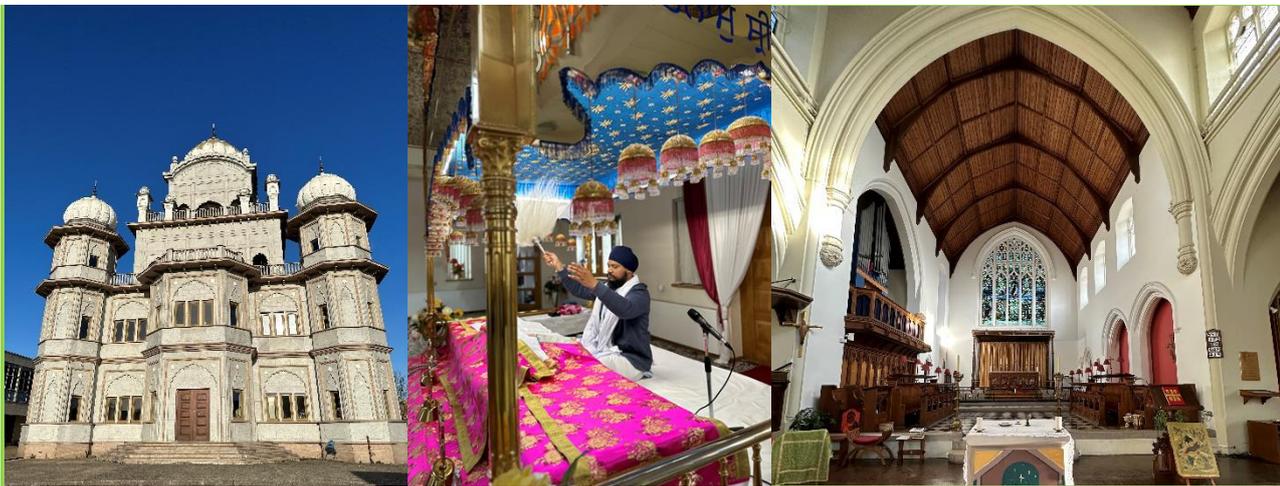
Well done to all those children who have earned their behaviour for learning star so far. I look forward to celebrating and sharing a hot chocolate with more of you as the year progresses.



YEAR 3 FAITH TOUR

The children in Year 3 had a wonderful experience on their Faith Tour earlier this week. They visited All Saints Parish Church, Guru Nanak Gurdwara and Jamia Masjid Gulshane Baghdad Mosque. They dressed appropriately and respectfully for each place of worship.

They were in awe of the buildings, each one having something unique and special. They furthered their learning from their RE lessons and listened about the different religions and how they worship in each place. It was very special to be able to see things first hand and really secure their understanding of each faith.



AFTER SCHOOL AND LUNCHTIME ENRICHMENT CLUBS

We would like to further expand our after school and lunchtime enrichment clubs. Are you or do you know a member of our village who is a keen gardener, photographer or artist? We'd love to hear from members of our community, young or old, who would like to be involved with our school and would like to share their passion for a hobby with our young people.

Please get in touch with our school office if you would like to talk to us about this. We'd love to hear from you! admin@silsoelower.co.uk

SCHOOL CHOIR

Singing is good for the soul, singing with friends is even better! We are delighted to announce that our school choir will resume after half term, after a short pause. Please look out for a letter going out next week with all the details. I look forward to hearing joyful singing around the school at the end of the day.



SPRING TERM DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

WB: 6 th February	Children's Mental Health Week
Tuesday 7 th February	On-line Safety Day
Friday 10 th February	PTA non-uniform day Headteacher's Coffee Morning Last day of term before half term holiday
Monday 20 th February	Children return to school
Thursday 23 rd February	Parent Consultations, 4-7pm Bookings to open on 5 th February
Tuesday 28 th February	Parent Consultations, 4-7pm Bookings to open on 5 th February
Thursday 2 nd March	World Book Day
WB: 6 th March	National Careers Week (More information to follow)

WB: 13 th March	National Science week (More information to follow)
Friday 17 th March	Scoutability for Year 1
Saturday 25 th March	Joint Silsoe Lower and Silsoe Pre-School Well Being Event. Further information to follow
Wednesday 29 th March	Easter Church Services 9.30am and 2.00pm
Thursday 30 th March	PTA Easter Disco
Friday 31 st March	Last day of term before Easter holiday
Monday 17 th April	INSET
Tuesday 18 th April	Children return to school

OUR CURRENT VALUE IS:

Positivity

positive thoughts
generate
positive feelings
and attract
positive life
experiences