

1st March 2024

Weekly Newsletter



Dear Parents/Carers,

Spring has arrived, or so I am told! We still seem to be experiencing some gloomy and wet days and look forward to the Spring sunshine with anticipation. I hope that you all had a restful and enjoyable half term with your family and are refreshed and ready for the half term ahead.

This week has been incredibly busy and a real treat to have two Olympic athletes visiting the school. Mrs Gates shares more information below but I would like to add my thanks to her for organising the fabulous event. The visit was a huge success and children had a very energetic and energising morning. Both athletes were incredibly inspiring and motivating, we'll certainly be supporting Frederick in his pursuit of an Olympic medal and we hope that one day they may come back to visit us again and continue to encourage the children to "never give up, keep on trying and believe in yourself".

Next week, on Thursday 7th March, we look forward to celebrating World Book Day together. Sharing a book with a child or class is a real privilege and a joy, whether that be delving into a story book together or learning new facts from a non-fiction book. Escaping and spending time with a book can bring so much pleasure. We look forward to hearing about your child's favourite book and reading both new texts and old favourites with the children on Thursday.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Boyle'.

Mrs S Boyle
Headteacher

Reception Classes – Acorn and Chestnut

Acorn and Chestnut have started their new topic – Come Outside. They will be exploring the change in season and all that spring brings. They enjoyed their new role play areas of a farm shop and a garden centre. The children have also painted spring flowers and watched some daffodils bloom.

Year 1 – Hawthorn and Willow

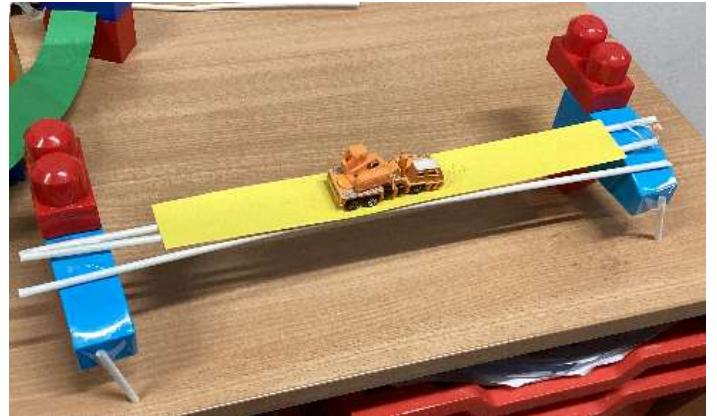
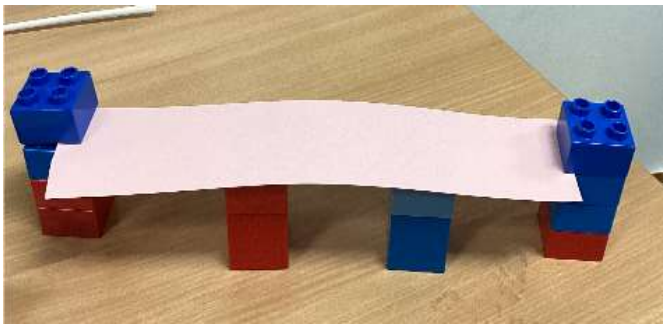
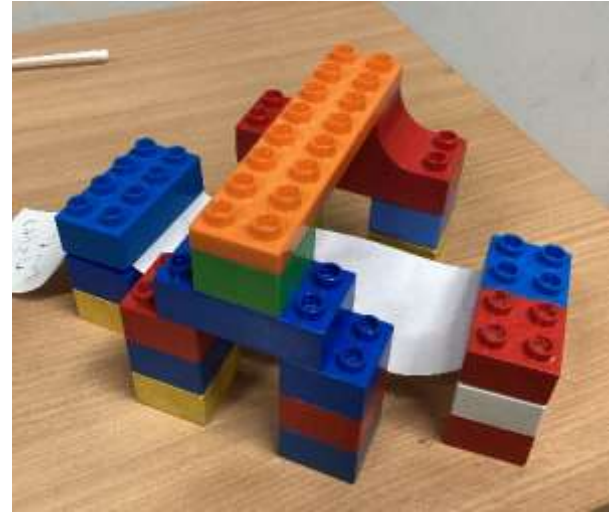
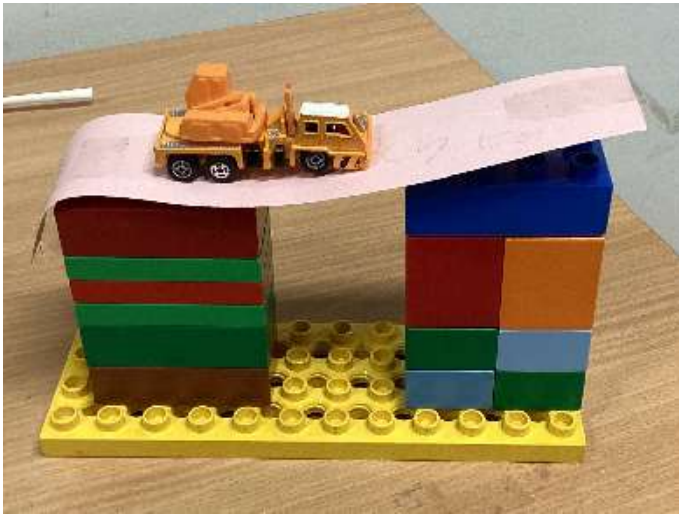
In Maths year 1 have been working on number lines to 50 and estimating where the missing numbers will go. In RE, they have begun to talk about Easter and how important it is to

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Christians. In Science, they have been learning about how bridges are built and what makes them strong structures. All the children have been exploring how they could make a bridge to hold a toy car. Some of them needed to adapt their work by adding extra pillars to their bridges to increase their strength.



Year 2 – Maple and Sycamore

This week Year 2 have been learning about Samuel Pepys and how he kept a diary during the Great Fire of London. He used a code to write his diary and all of the children have tried using the code to write their own names.

In Science this week the children have started a new topic about plants and they have been looking at seeds and bulbs and learning about the difference between the two. They have cut a bulb in half and looked at the inside of a bulb and examined both seeds and bulbs under microscopes and drew pictures of these.

Year 3 – Palm and Pine

Year 3 were really excited to start their DT topic this week. We are designing and making pencil cases! The children have been talking about the design features that a pencil case should have and have looked at a variety of different styles, materials, shapes and colours. We have practised some simple sewing skills and had a go at a line of running stitch, back stitch and whip stitch on a piece of felt. Some children found this very easy and others found it very challenging but everyone showed excellent patience and resilience. Well done Year 3!

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Reminder for Year 3 Faith tour, Children will need to bring a vegetarian packed lunch for the Faith tour, all children should also bring a head covering to wear.

Year 4 – Elm and Oak

In year 4 this week, we have begun our new topic in Geography- All around the UK. The children found out about cities in the UK and located them on maps. In Science, the children learnt about the water cycle and created their own on a paper plate using wool, card and other materials. In Maths, we have begun to calculate the perimeter of rectangles.

On the Year 4 class pages, we have uploaded the children's instructional writing on how to catch a dragon that has been terrorising Silsoe! Their ideas were very imaginative. Please scroll right to the bottom and click on the links to see your children's work.



Multiplication Table Focus – Year 4.

Spring 2

Each week in our times table lesson we will start by reviewing the previous weeks focus before moving on to the new weekly focus.

Week Beginning	26.02.24	04.03.24	11.03.24	18.03.24
Review	12x	6x	3x	4x
New Focus	6x	3x	4x	8x

For children who are confident with these – it is also really important to explore the division facts too!

We also work on these during our review and new focus sessions.

E.g. $4 \times 6 = 36$ and $6 \times 4 = 36$ $36 \div 6 = 4$ and $36 \div 4 = 6$

The 'JAMMING' game on TT Rockstars gives you questions for both multiplication and division facts so is a great place to practise!



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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.

In our Hamish and Milo sessions, we have continued to think and learn about the feeling of anger. We used instruments to create an 'angry and then calm rhythm' and thought about the things we can do when we feel angry that would help to release the feelings (ripping paper, shouting out loud, stamping) which we did outside! We have started designing and making a volcano out of papier mache which we will add to each week.

Some children have started to learn about the history of toys in our history lessons. Other children have continued to access many of their lessons with their mainstream class.

Attendance for this week

Acorn	96.2%	Chestnut	98.9%
Hawthorn	95.4%	Willow	89.4%
Maple	100%	Sycamore	93.5%
Palm	95.0%	Pine	95.3%
Elm	93.8%	Oak	92.7%
Conifer	92.2%		

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	Izzy	Penny
Chestnut	Brannan	Bea
Hawthorn	Olivia	Charlie B
Willow	Charles	Mason
Maple	Jasmine	Chloe J
Sycamore	Malakai	Layla SB
Palm	Anna C	Adelyn P
Pine	Louie	Harry
Elm	Frankie	Ashleigh
Oak	Ben	Mason
Conifer	Tyrell	



General Information

Olympian Visit – Steve Frew

What an exciting, active and inspirational morning we had when Steve Frew and Frederick Afrifa (aspiring GB Olympic sprinter) joined us on Wednesday.

Every class undertook the four different exercises of spotty dogs, leg drives, push-ups and star jumps encouraging each other and being encouraged by Steve, Fred and the adults in their classes. The music was pumping, the exercises were fun and the children gave it their all.

Steve then gave a motivational worship to the whole school, detailing his journey to winning his Commonwealth gold. Steve explained that he started gymnastics at the age of 5 and won his gold medal at the age of 28 years old, trying and taking part in several different Olympics before he finally achieved his dream.

Steve spoke about always trying, never giving up and believing in yourself, his three golden rules. During his worship, Steve performed a handstand and by the request of the children, a backflip! Steve then proceeded to complete a running dive roll over two children and myself. All very exciting!

The children then got to ask both Steve and Fred questions. Sponsorship money can still be donated on-line until Wednesday 6th March and at present the total raised is £4,065.50. This is a fantastic amount raised which our school will partly benefit from. Prizes for donations will be received within two weeks.

Such an exhilarating morning, thank you for all of your support.

Mrs Gates





Languages week Reminder

On Friday 22nd March, we would like the children to come into school dressed in the colours of the flag that represents their family heritage. Children are welcome to come into school simply in their flag colours (no football kits) or they can go that extra mile and enter our competition for the most creative flag outfit and winners will receive a prize.

During the day, children will be invited to share words, phrases and facts about cultural events that they celebrate at home related to the country that is linked to their family.

World Book Day Reminder

At Silsoe Lower School, we value reading very highly and we are all going to take part in this special day to celebrate the joy of books and reading. During the day we will celebrate the children's reading successes and they will be taking part in a range of different activities to promote this. As part of the day we have decided to focus our theme around the joy of bedtime stories. Therefore, children are invited to come to school wearing either their pyjamas or a costume of their favourite bedtime story character. It is important to remember that World Book Day is a celebration of books and the pleasure that comes from reading. There is no obligation to purchase any costumes; many popular characters can be created using clothes you have at home or your child may enjoy coming to school in their favourite pair of pyjamas.

Parents Evening

Final parents evening sessions are available for next Tuesday, please contact the school office if you would like to book an appointment and have not already got a booking.

Parking

Please can we remind all parents the school Car Park is for staff and visitors only, parents should not park in there unless they have spoken to the office and have permission to park. We have an increasing number of parents who are using the staff car park and also parents and children are walking across the car park which is not safe at this busy time. Please walk on the perimeter paths.

There are parking spaces at the sports centre and the local area if you need to park close to the school. Thank you for your understanding.

Diary Dates

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

05/03/2024	4pm to 7pm	Parent consultations
06/03/2024	All Day	Y3 Faith Tour
07/03/2024	All Day	World Book Day
11/03/2024	All Week	National Science Week
22/03/2024	All Day	Home Languages Day
26/03/2024	3pm	Y4 Grafham parents meeting

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27/03/2024	9.30am	Easter Service at the Church – parents invited – Y1, Y3 & Oak Class
27/03/2024	2pm	Easter Service at the Church – parents invited Reception, Year 2 & Elm
18/04/2024	TBC	Y4 Transfer Festival at Arnold Academy
25/04/2024	All Day	Y4 Bikeability – children to bring in bikes & cycle helmets
13/05/2024	All Day	Y4 Grafham Water Trip
14/05/2024	All Day	Y4 Grafham Water Trip
15/05/2024	All Day	Y4 Grafham Water Trip
16/05/2024	3.30pm to 4.30pm	Scolastic Book Fair YR, Y1 and Y2
17/05/2024	3.30pm to 4.30pm	Scolastic Book Fair Y3 and Y4
07/06/2024	All Day	Y2 Herrings Green trip
12/06/2024	Morning	School Photographer – Class Portraits
24/06/2024	9.15am	Y4 Moving up assembly/workshop
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
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:

Patience

‘But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.’

Romans 8:25