

1<sup>st</sup> December 2023

# Weekly Newsletter



Dear Parents/Carers,

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King!  
Let every heart prepare Him room,  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.*



The joy of Christmas has already been spread throughout the school as children enjoy singing the Christmas carols and preparing for their Christmas performances. Today we have started the Advent season with a special 'Christmas around the World Day', classrooms are decorated with festive delights and the children have been able to undertake their Christmas shopping at the PTA Christmas shop. We look forward with anticipation to the next few weeks as the Christmas excitement builds.

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

Mrs S Boyle  
Headteacher

## Class updates

### Reception classes Acorn and Chestnut

Reception classes have enjoyed starting to make Christmas crafts, which involved the children having to paint their feet, they found this very funny.

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

[www.silsoeschool.co.uk](http://www.silsoeschool.co.uk)

01525 860 247

They have thought about the Christmas story and read different versions. The children enjoyed putting pictures into the correct order from this story in their RE work.

### **Year 1 Willow and Hawthorn**

This week Year 1 have enjoyed their walk around the village for Geography. In Art they have been learning about colour mixing and in English they have started to read the story 'Get Well Santa'.

They have also been learning about 3D shapes, the name of properties of each 3D shape, and that they are the same shape no matter which way they are orientated. They have been set the challenge of looking for different 3D shapes this weekend at home.



### **Year 2 Sycamore and Maple**

In RE this week Year 2 have been trying Latkes as part of their learning about the celebration of Hanukkah. They have thought about Latkes, what they are and what they signified.



### **Year 3 Pine and Palm**

In Year 3, the children have been developing some exciting new skills in their Design Technology lessons. Over the past few weeks, they have been designing and beginning to make a 'moving toy' for a small child. They have learnt about how mechanisms work and the role that cams play in

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

[www.silsoeschool.co.uk](http://www.silsoeschool.co.uk)

01525 860 247

the movement of an object. Their toys feature either an egg-shaped cam, a snail cam or an ellipse cam depending on each child's design. This week, they have been using new tools to construct the toys. They have used hot glue guns (with adult support) to secure the tabs of the box and to fix the designed background onto the box. They have also used small hack saws to cut a measured piece off of a metre long wooden dowel. This will be an integral part of the moving toys and the children took great care when using these tools. They are all very proud of the new skills they have gained and they are all very excited to see the finished products over the coming weeks.



### **Year 4 Oak and Elm**

As part of their History lessons the children in Year 4 have role played being archaeologists to find clues to reveal who was buried at Sutton Hoo in Suffolk and looking at a variety of sources to discover how Anglo Saxons lived in their villages. In English, the children wrote newspaper articles about the amazing discovery of a Victorian coin on our very own school field by Mr Pearson.



### **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.

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

[www.silsoeschool.co.uk](http://www.silsoeschool.co.uk)

01525 860 247

We read the story of The Red Beast this week which helped them to think about our anger; what can make our anger 'grow' and what helps it to reduce. The children really liked the story and thought very carefully about how their bodies feel when they are angry so that they can recognise this feeling and use one of their strategies to help them to regulate.

We made apple and raspberry smoothies in our cooking session this week, although some of the children were not very keen to try it despite it looking delicious!

## **General information**

### **Christmas Round the World**

Today the children in all classes have been learning about an international country they are focussing on and have spent time learning about how they celebrate Christmas in each location.

Reception: Africa

Year 1: Mexico

Year 2: Italy

Year 3: China

Year 4: Norway.



The children have discovered how the Christmas celebrations compare to their own. They have completed a whole range of activities such as making Christmas baubles and decorations in the style of the country, learning how to say 'Happy Christmas' in the language and finding out what children eat for Christmas dinner in these countries. The children are all now feeling very festive for the countdown to Christmas!

## **PTA Christmas shop**

Wow what fun our children had visiting the Santa shop and picking gifts for their loved ones! Thank you to our amazing PTA for this, it is starting to feel very Christmassy in school!



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

[www.silsoeschool.co.uk](http://www.silsoeschool.co.uk)

01525 860 247



### **Xmas4schools organised by the PTA**



Our delivery has arrived from Xmas4Schools and has been distributed to the classes, thank you so much for the PTA for organising this. What a great fundraising opportunity for the school and the artwork is looking amazing! This has helped to raise over £100 for the school thank you!

### **Children in Need**

We are pleased to share that our fundraising page online for Children in Need raised £62, we are still waiting to hear how much we raised through the merchandise but know how generous people were and predict that the Silsoe school community will have donated a significant amount in total. Thank you!

## **Salvation Army Toy appeal**



Thank you to everyone who has donated toys to the Salvation Army appeal, they were so grateful for our support and will make a big difference to some children this Christmas.

## **PTA Vouchers for Classes**

The PTA delivered vouchers for each class teacher this week. These will be used to purchase special resources for each classroom.

Thank you to our PTA.

## **Christmas lunch menu**

Christmas Lunch will be on the 19<sup>th</sup> December, please remember to place your child's order via Schoolgrid.

## **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.

## **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.



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

[www.silsoeschool.co.uk](http://www.silsoeschool.co.uk)

01525 860 247

## **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.

## **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>



## **Protect Your Festive Season From Flu and COVID Message from the NHS**

As we gear up for the festive period, we would like to request support in ensuring the health and wellbeing of our school community, families, and young people.

The NHS are urgently calling on eligible individuals to get vaccinated against flu and COVID in preparation for the festive season.

With the vaccination taking two weeks to become effective, there is still time to have the vaccination and be protected in time for Christmas and the New Year celebrations.

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

[www.silsoeschool.co.uk](http://www.silsoeschool.co.uk)

01525 860 247

## Who is eligible for the free flu and COVID vaccination?

- those who are aged 65 and over
- people with certain health conditions or a learning disability
- pregnant people
- people who live with someone with a weakened immune system
- those in long stay residential care
- frontline health or social care workers
- carers

Most children can get the [children's flu vaccine](#). This includes children who were aged 2 or 3 years on 31 August 2023, school-aged children (Reception to Year 11) and children with certain health conditions.

Further information can be found via the [NHS website](#), where people can find a local vaccination provider.

## Diary Dates

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

05/12/2023	10.15am	Choir singing at the Beehive Invited Year 3 children only
07/12/2023	11.30am	Choir singing at Taymer Nursing Home Invited Year 4 children only
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	1 <sup>st</sup> Century Palestine visit to the Church – Elm then Acorn (children only)
14/12/2023	Afternoon	1 <sup>st</sup> Century Palestine visit to the Church – Chestnut (children only)
15/12/2023	Morning	1 <sup>st</sup> Century Palestine visit to the Church – Oak then Willow (children only)
15/12/2023	Afternoon	1 <sup>st</sup> 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 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](mailto: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](http://www.jamcoding.co.uk)

*OUR CURRENT VALUE IS:*

*Peace*

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

**Matthew 5:9**

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

[www.silsoeschool.co.uk](http://www.silsoeschool.co.uk)

01525 860 247