

15th September 2023

Weekly Newsletter



Dear Parents/Carers,

We've had another exciting week in school, the highlight of the week has been Rev. Louise leading worship assembly on Wednesday and bringing her guinea pigs with her! Rev. Louise explained to the children that her guinea pigs, Heidi and Evie, are good friends and support each other. We also learned about the church photography competition, with the theme of 'Friendship'. All children are encouraged to take a photograph to demonstrate friendship e.g. this could be of them and their pet or a photograph of them undertaking an activity with a friend and enter the competition. We look forward to seeing the entries in the church.

Mrs Boyle
Headteacher

SILSOE PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION



**There's still time
to enter
this year's competition**

The theme is **FRIENDSHIP**

(see www.3churches.uk/silsoe-photography-competition-2023-theme-suggestions/ for ideas)

The 3 age groups in the Competition are:

12 years and under

13 years to 17 years

18 years and over

Revs Simon & Louise Moore will be the judges.

**Closing date 30 September
(or 20 September if you want us to print your photos)**

How to enter photos:

- Leave your photo(s) together with a completed form and the entry fee in the Collection Box at Silsoe Lower School Reception by 4pm on 30 September
- Drop your photo(s), entry form and entry fee to Gillian Chapple, 7 Vicarage Road, Silsoe, MK45 4ED by 6:30pm on 30 September or to the Church between 4:30 & 6:30pm on 30 September.
- If you want us to print your photo(s) for you:
 - Put them on a data stick (which will be returned to you) and drop them in the Collection Box at Silsoe Lower School Reception by 4pm on 20 September, together with a digital entry form, the entry fee and the printing fee. (Or drop them round to Gillian Chapple at 7 Vicarage Road)
 - Email the photo(s) and the digital entry form to SilsoeTreasurer@3churches.uk and pay the fees online, by 20 September.

**All entries will be on display at the
Silsoe Photography Exhibition on 7 October
from 10am to 4pm in Silsoe Church
when the winners will be announced.**

Organised by Silsoe Parochial Church Council
All profits will go towards the upkeep and maintenance of services of Silsoe Church and Churchyard.

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Class updates

Reception classes Acorn and Chestnut

This week reception classes have learnt the sounds of S, A, T and P through phonemes.

They have also had lots of fun taking part in their first PE lesson in the hall and learning about space and movement.

Year 1 Willow and Hawthorn

In maths this week year 1 have been learning about representation of numbers using counters.

In English they have started to read the book 'How to catch a monster' and had lots of fun recreating sections by acting it out.

Year 2 Sycamore and Maple

This week year 2 have started a new topic in RE about 'How do we show care to others' and learning through discussions and other activities

In History they have been looking at the history of Wrest Park and building our knowledge about our local historical site.

Year 3 Pine and Palm

In English they have been washing dinosaurs, this has helped them to generate adverbs like scrub, rub and dip.

In History they have been learning more about hunter gatherers and in maths focusing on place values.

Year 4 Oak and Elm

In year 4's English lessons they have been looking at poems and comparing the techniques in the poems which use metaphors and similes.

In Art they were drawing with scissors which the classes really enjoyed and in PE they started to learn how to play Tag rugby and will continue with these lessons next week.

Conifer Class

In Conifer class they have enjoyed cooking this week, making cheese and tomatoes scrolls following on from their fruit kebabs last week.

Some of the children in the class have joined in with the mainstream classes and really enjoyed taking part in their class activities.

They have also enjoyed taking part in sunshine circles and learning more about phonics.

General information

My Family Coach

My Family Coach are offering a free online course about 'Building Stronger Communication With Your Child' - Free Class Thursday, 21st September 2023, to register for this course please click on this link [Building Stronger Communication with Your Child](#)

Absence

All at Silsoe Lower School are committed to maximising attendance for all pupils in order for them to reach their potential within a secure and friendly environment in which all children are valued. With this in mind the Chief medical officer Professor Christopher Whitty has written to schools alongside other medical professions, to send clear guidelines as to which illness children should stay at home with and which are fine to attend school. Please click on the following link for further guidance [NHS guidance](#)

If your child is unwell please call the school office and either leave a message on the voicemail or speak to one of the team to let us know on 01525860247 before 9.30am.

PTA Autumn Fair

We are looking forward to the Autumn Fair that is being held on Saturday 23rd September, and hope many of you will join us as we come together as a school community.

On the day there will be lots of fun activities to take part in, with a raffle, tombola, games, stalls and more.

The fair will run from 12-3 but will also offer a SEN half hour from 11.30, if you would like to attend the earlier session then please email silsoepta@gmail.com so they will know approximate numbers in advance.

Entry to the fair is £1 per adult and children are free. Just a reminder that all children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

We are very excited to have our school choir perform on the day and also some dance performances as well as Amptill Town Band who will be playing for us.

If anyone would like any further information and are able to help please contact silsoepta@gmail.com for more information.

French

KS2 French

Year 3 taught by Mrs Ashwell

Year 4 taught by Mrs McCarthy

Year 3 are beginning their language journey by learning French so that by the end of year 6 they will have achieved all the 12 targets in the National Curriculum. We focus on all 4 skills- Speaking, Listening, Reading and Writing. We play lots of games and try to speak as much French as possible.



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We have a new special French bear in each Year 3 class called 'Camembert'. Each week, Mrs Ashwell will choose a child who has worked hard and put lots of effort into their French. They will take Camembert's special book home and in their next French lesson they will have the honour of looking after 'Camembert'. The children are learning this half term about France, how to greet each other, how to say their name, numbers 1-10 and their colours.

In Year 4, the children are continuing to increase the amount of French they know. This half term, they will be practising their greetings, saying and writing where they live, how old they are as well as their nationality. Each week, Mrs McCarthy will award a child from each Year 4 class with a French badge for excellent effort with their French. They will be able to wear the badge all week and in the following lesson they can, if they wish, wear a red or blue beret.



Climbing frame

We have noticed a number of children are using the climbing frame in the playground while waiting for drop off or collection of siblings. Please can you ensure your children are not using the climbing frame at these times. The climbing frame is for children to use during school hours whilst being supervised by staff members

Parking around the school site

Please can we remind you that the school car park is for the use of staff only, please can parents/carers please find a parking space in the local area for drop off and collection. When finding an alternative parking space please be mindful of our neighbours and do not park on their driveways or blocking their access.

Year 4 transition to middle school

Parents can now make an application for a Transfer to Middle School 2024 online via the Central Bedfordshire website www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/admissions or via a paper application (available on Central Bedfordshire website).

Please see the attached details that we have been sent for the upcoming open evenings being held in some of our local schools.

Transfer to Middle Open Events

Location	School	Dates and times of open events
Ampthill	Alameda Middle	<p>Thursday 9th November 2023</p> <p>Headteacher's Welcome in the school hall: 5:30pm – Russell Lower School and non-feeder schools</p> <p>7:15pm- Firs and Maulden Lower Schools</p> <p>8pm- Evening Concludes</p>
Arlsey	Etonbury Academy	<p>Thursday 5th October 2023</p> <p>4 presentations followed by a tour of the school. 5:00pm, 5:30pm, 6:00pm, 6:30pm</p>
	Pix Brook Academy	<p>Thursday 2nd November 2023</p> <p>4pm – 8pm</p>
Barton-le-clay	Arnold Academy	<p>Wednesday 1st November 2023</p> <p>5:00pm – 7:30pm</p> <p>In addition to our Open Evening, morning tours will be available to see the school in action. These will be available to book in the Autumn term via our website or by phoning the main office.</p>

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Diary Dates

Please find below details of trips and events for this academic year. Further details will be sent nearer the time. Some class trips and events are still to be confirmed and will be added over the coming weeks.

Pupils with their teaching staff and volunteer helpers will attend children only events

19/09/2023	4.30pm	Young Voices parent information meeting for children in the choir
23/09/2023	12pm to 3pm	Autumn Fair
25/09/2023	All week	Cycle to School Week
26/09/2023	3pm	Y4 Grafham Water parent information meeting – details to follow
27/09/2023	All Day	Y3 Celtic Harmony trip
29/09/2023	All Day	Conifer Class closed
02/10/2023	All Day	Y2 Wrest Park History visit – details to follow
04/10/2023	9.30am	Harvest Festival (approx. 1 hour) – parents invited Reception, Year 2 & Elm Class. More details to follow
04/10/2023	2pm	Harvest Festival (approx. 1 hour) – parents invited Year 1, Year 3 & Oak Class. More details to follow
11/10/2023	All day	School Photographs – pupil portraits
12/10/2023	4pm to 7pm	Parent consultations – More details to follow
13/10/2023	Morning	Y4 Arnold Academy taster session – More details to follow
17/10/2023	4pm to 7pm	Parent consultations – More details to follow
02/11/2023	4pm to 5pm	Open Evening for children starting school September 2024
02/11/2023	6pm to 7pm	Open Evening for children starting school September 2024
06/11/2023	9am	Y2 Watch Me Learn (approx. 45 mins) Parents invited to classrooms
07/11/2023	9am	Y1 Watch Me Learn (approx. 45 mins) Parents invited to classrooms
07/11/2023	4pm to 5pm	Open Evening for children starting school September 2024
07/11/2023	6pm to 7pm	Open Evening for children starting school September 2024
08/11/2023	9am	Y3 Watch Me Learn (approx. 45 mins) Parents invited to classrooms
09/11/2023	9am	Y4 Watch Me Learn (approx. 45 mins) Parents invited to classrooms
10/11/2023	10.45am	Remembrance service at the Church (Children only) Children can wear organisation uniforms e.g. rainbows & brownies, beavers & cubs uniforms
13/11/2023	9am	Reception class Watch Me Learn (approx. 45 mins) Parents invited to classrooms
27/11/2023	All day	Y4 Trip to Hazard Alley – details to follow
05/12/2023	TBC	Choir singing at the Beehive – details to follow
07/12/2023	Afternoon	Choir singing at Taymer Nursing Home – details to follow
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

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
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)
18/01/2024	All Day	Young Voices event for the Choir leaving school at 10am
01/02/2024	6pm	Key stage 1 Maths parent information evening (Y1 & K2)
05/02/2024	All week	Children’s mental health week
16/02/2024	All Day	Y4 Viking Day – Details to be provided nearer the time
29/02/2024	4pm to 7pm	Parent consultations – More details to follow
05/03/2024	4pm to 7pm	Parent consultations – More details to follow
07/03/2024	All Day	World Book Day
11/03/2024	All Week	National Science Week
26/03/2024	3pm	Y4 Grafham parents meeting
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
24/04/2024	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
07/06/2024	All Day	Y2 Herrings Green trip
12/06/2024	Morning	School Photographer – Class Portraits
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
08/07/2024	All Week	Back up Sports Week (for events cancelled during w/c 01/07/2024 due to adverse weather conditions)
19/07/2024	9.30am	Y4 Leavers Assembly



Messy Sunday

Sunday 17th September 4pm-5.30pm

Flitton Church Hall

A lively fun and creative time together for families,
children and people of all ages.

Songs, stories, puppets, crafts and creative prayers,
ending with tea together.

Numbers Limited so Book on
revsimon@3churches.uk

Voluntary Donations

All Welcome



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OUR CURRENT VALUE IS:

Quality

"Don't try to make yourselves beautiful on the outside, with stylish hair or by wearing gold jewellery or fine clothes. Instead, make yourselves beautiful on the inside, in your hearts, with the enduring quality of a gentle, peaceful spirit. This type of beauty is very precious in God's eyes."

Peter 3:3-4