

15th December 2023

Weekly Newsletter



Dear Parents/Carers,

This week we heard the retelling of the Christmas story with all children taking part through song, narration or creating the nativity tableau, it was lovely to hear the children speak so well and sing so beautifully; well done to everyone involved. Thank you to all the staff who helped to put the performance together and prepared the children for their parts.

Earlier this week I was fortunate enough to join Father Christmas as he rode on his sleigh and visited many of the local streets to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas! It was a joy to see the children so excited at spotting Father Christmas outside their houses. Huge thanks to Ampthill Round Table, our PTA and parents who supported the event and helped collect donations. Thank you to the local residents who gave so generously.

Last Sunday Mrs Ashwell took members of our choir to join Ampthill Town Band and children from Harlington & Sundon Lower schools to sing carols at Parkside Hall. The event was a fabulous occasion of musical talents celebrating this special time of year. Well done to everyone who represented the school and sang so enthusiastically.

Next week we look forward to more festive celebrations with our Christmas parties, Carol service at church and our Christmas lunch. I am sure that the children will enjoy all of the festivities!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'S. Boyle', is located below the main text.

Mrs S Boyle
Headteacher

Class updates

Reception classes Acorn and Chestnut

Our Reception classes really enjoyed taking part in the Christmas performance at school this week and then going to the Church and learning more about the Christmas story.

Reception have also enjoyed making and creating Christmas crafts, I am not sharing these yet as they will be a surprise when they bring them home!

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Year 1 Willow and Hawthorn

In Maths this week Year 2 have been learning about 2d shapes and repeating patterns. They have really enjoyed making Christmas decorations and cards.

They also really enjoyed their visit to Church, finding out about the Christmas story and meeting some very special people.

Year 2 Sycamore and Maple

Year 2 have enjoyed performing in our Christmas show, the children sang beautifully and are still singing our songs around the classroom! We have completed our English unit on Winter poetry and have created some super poems using a 4 line structure. We have learnt lots about 2D and 3D shapes and their properties and have remembered lots of new facts. We finished off our Geography unit 'The World' by singing the oceans song and, our favourite, the continents song! It has been a great term in year 2 and we are excited for our new learning in January.

Year 3 Pine and Palm

Over the past few weeks, Year 3 have been learning all about informal letters in English. We have read the story 'Letters to Greenpeace' about a girl who contacts Greenpeace asking for help and advice on whales (as she has found one in her pond!). We then wrote our own letter to Greenpeace, asking for more information about an animal we have found. From writing this letter, we created an 'Informal Letter Toolkit' to remind us of the features we need to include when writing an informal letter.

This week, we used our toolkit to write a letter to a very special person... SANTA! The children thoroughly enjoyed asking Santa questions, describing the presents they would like for Christmas and explaining why they think they should be on the good list this year! We wrote up our letters onto special Christmas paper and enclosed them in envelopes ready



for posting to Lapland. We hope he gets them on time!

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Year 4 Oak and Elm

Year 4 have been finding out about the religious beliefs of Anglo Saxons this week. They have completed their light boxes in DT by constructing an electrical circuit to illuminate their box. The light boxes will be coming home next week in time to help with the decorations for Christmas.



This afternoon, year 4 contacted their pen pals through zoom. We had a live zoom chat for 40 minutes. We sang a Christmas song to each other and then found out all about Christmas traditions in England and France by showing items such as a stocking, advent calendar, a Christmas cracker and what the children leave out for Father Christmas and Rudolph. Our pen pals told us they eat seafood and Oysters for Christmas dinners. Father Christmas puts their presents in slippers rather than stockings and we found out they are going to Church on Tuesday at the same time as us!

The children asked each other questions and found out what is on the Christmas lists in both countries. We have next made plans to share the similarities and differences between the schools. The children will be making videos of our school and different aspects of the school day.



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 creative this week with our Christmas crafts!

We have been thinking and learning about friendships and bullying this week in our PSHE lessons. We have been thinking about different types of bullying and what we can do if we see or experience bullying.

General information



Kickboxing Grading

Congratulations to Robyn in Year 4 who has passed her first grading at Kickboxing and achieved her Red and White belt.

Well done Robyn we are so proud of you!

BBC 500 Word 2023

Congratulations to Ellen, Rosie, Chloe and Elena in Year 2 who has entered the BBC 500 word competition and has successfully made it through the first round. Their stories are one of 5000 that go through to the next round.

Well done Ellen, Rosie, Chloe and Elena what an amazing achievement the whole of Silsoe Lower School wish you the best of luck in the next round!



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Thank you from Sienna

A big thank you from Sienna in Year 4 who arranged a present collection for Luton and Dunstable hospital Children's ward. The presents that have been donated will make a big difference to those children who will be in hospital over Christmas.



Santa Float

Thank you to the Amptill Round Table, Silsoe PTA and of course all our wonderful residents who generously donated.

The feedback from one parent who helped ***'Thanks sooo much for last night. Honestly it was magical and my heart has never been so full 🎄❤️ all those little excited faces waving to Santa. Best night ever'***



Thank you from the PTA

The PTA want to say a HUGE thank-you to all the volunteers who helped out at our Santa shop and the Santa float. Without extra help at these events they simply can't go ahead, so it really is appreciated.

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Santa Shop

The Santa shop raised a massive £1116 for the school, thank you again to all the helpers and parents who donated. This money will go towards the PTA paying for the children to see a Panto next year.



Scholastic Book Fayre

We would like to extend our thanks to all the parents, carers and children who attended the Scholastic book fair last month. We had an excellent turnout and the children have all been excitedly talking about the new books they are reading and the notebooks and stationary they have been using to write their own stories! With each book sold, Silsoe Lower School are able to earn rewards enabling us to buy our own books for school. This year, we raised over **£547.64** in rewards which we have used to purchase reading books for our Key Stage 2 book bands. We couldn't do it without your generosity in buying books from the fair and would like to thank you once again for supporting the book fair and supporting your children's school! Our next book fair



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will be starting on the 15.5.24... we hope to see you there!



Children starting School September 2024

If your child is due to start school in September 2024 the deadline for applying for a place is **Midnight 15th January 2024.**

Any applications received after 15 January 2024, will be classed as late and will not be processed until the late allocation round, which could reduce their chances of being offered a place at their preference school. **There are no exceptions.**

The Big Ambition by the Children's Commissioner of England

The Children's Commissioner for England, Dame Rachel de Souza, has launched **The Big Ambition**, a national survey of children and young people across England.

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The Big Ambition aims to hear from children across England on what they think is important! In the lead up to the next General Election, the Children's Commissioner wants to take children's thoughts, opinions and ideas to decision-makers, to make sure that the Government hears young people's voices on what they think needs to be done to make children's lives better in England.

The Big Ambition survey will be open until Friday 15th December.

Children or parents can complete the survey here:

www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigambition. Further resources are available on our [website](#).

I must reiterate that it is vital that all children have their voice heard through this survey because, as Children's Commissioner for England, I have a statutory duty to protect and promote the views and interests of children. The Big Ambition provides a much-needed opportunity for the children of England to tell political decision makers what is important to them ahead of the General Election. I will be sharing their responses with Government to ensure that children's voices are heard.

Flu Catch Up Clinics

Has your child missed their flu vaccination? Please contact 03007900594 to book an appointment if they have at one of these catch up clinics.

Catch up clinics are being held at

- Flitwick Children's Centre MK45 1PU on 16th December between 9.30am-3.30pm **Appointment only**
- Dallow Community Centre LU1 1TB on 20th December between 9.30am-3.30pm **Pre booked appointment available or drop in**
- Luton Irish Forum, 102 Hitchin Rd, LU2 0ES on 22nd December between 9.30am-3.30pm **Drop in no appointment required**
- Leighton Buzzard Children's Centre on 28th December 9.30am-3.30pm **Appointment only**

Diary Dates

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

18/12/2023	Afternoon	Christmas parties – Children can wear party/Christmas clothes
19/12/2023	Lunchtime	Christmas dinner day – please order via School Grid
19/12/2023	9.30am	Christmas service at the Church (children only)– children to wear uniform or uniform with a Christmas top or Christmas hat
20/12/23		Last day of school for this term

CHRISTMAS SERVICES
Flitton, Greenfield, Pulloxhill,
Silsoe & Wardhedges



THE CHRISTMAS JOURNEY

SILSOE CHURCH - 16 December 10am - 12 noon

Journey through 5 interactive scenes where you will meet the people involved, culminating in a very special Nativity

CHRISTINGLE SERVICES

PULLOXHILL CHURCH - 3 December 3pm

SILSOE CHURCH - 10 December 3pm

CAROL SERVICES

FLITTON CHURCH - 3 December 6pm (Advent Carol Service)

PULLOXHILL CHURCH - 10 December 6pm

SILSOE CHURCH - 17 December 3pm

FLITTON CHURCH - 17 December 6:30pm (Mince pies & mulled wine in Church Hall at 6pm)

CRIB SERVICES *(come dressed as a Nativity character if you like)*

SILSOE CHURCH - 24 December 3pm

PULLOXHILL CHURCH - 24 December 5pm

Combined CHRISTINGLE & CRIB SERVICE

(come dressed as a Nativity character if you like)

FLITTON CHURCH - 24 December 10:30am

CHRISTMAS EVE HOLY COMMUNION

FLITTON CHURCH - 24 December 9pm

SILSOE CHURCH - 24 December 11:30pm

CHRISTMAS DAY HOLY COMMUNION

PULLOXHILL CHURCH - 25 December 10am

A MESSAGE FROM SIMON & LOUISE

Dear Friends

This Christmas finds us in challenging times. The journey for many this year has been long, uncertain and difficult.



The first Christmas was no different for Mary and Joseph as they travelled to Bethlehem. Yet the birth of Jesus shows us, that God is not beyond us or against us, he is born amongst us. This life has been lived by God, he created it, lived it and knows us. If you would like to explore more about the Christian faith do come along to our Alpha course starting in January. His earthly birth is a loving invitation for us all to know that God cares for us all.

We hope that you have a peaceful and joyful Christmas.

With our love and prayers

Simon and Louise

01525 643478 RevLouise@3churches.uk RevSimon@3churches.uk

SOME DATES FOR 2024

Resuming 5 January 2024 at 2pm - THE BIBLE BOOK CLUB

Once a month on a Friday at the Vicarage, we meet together to share our insights & thoughts on particular verses of the Bible & to ask questions.

Starting 17 January 2024 at 7pm - THE ALPHA COURSE

An opportunity to explore Christian Faith - All Welcome.
Contact RevSimon@3churches.uk www.alpha.org

21 January 2024 at 4pm - MESSY CHURCH at Flitton

28 January 2024 at 6pm - HEALING SERVICE at Pulloxhill

23 March 2023 - CRAFT FAIR 10am - 4pm at Silsoe Church

As well as lots of craft stalls, there will be Easter craft activities for children

6 July 2024 - SILSOE CHURCH FUN DOG SHOW 12 noon – 4pm

7 July 2024 at 3pm - PET SERVICE at Silsoe Church

24/25 August 2024 - ART EXHIBITION at Pulloxhill Church

October 2024 - PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION/ EXHIBITION at Silsoe Church Theme "Nature"

Keep up to date at www.3churches.uk

**SPRING INTO MOVEMENT.
LET'S DANCE!**

DANCE CLUBS SILSOE V.C LOWER SCHOOL

Enrol now for Spring term



PERFORMING ARTS
COLLECTIVE LIMITED

Spring Term -

**KS1 (years 1 to 2) -
Monday Breakfast Club
8am - 8.45am
(£3.50 per session)**

**KS2 (years 3 to 4)-
Thursday After School Club
3.30pm - 4.15pm
(£4.00 per session)**



**TO BOOK FOLLOW LINK IN
THE PARENTMAIL TO
REGISTER VIA OUR ADMIN
SYSTEM**

SPRING TERM -
8TH JANUARY TO 21ST MARCH 2024

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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

WIN A FREE PLACE!

Follow us on social media for the chance to win a free place.





www.jamcoding.co.uk

Coding helps with maths and logical problem solving!

OUR CURRENT VALUE IS:

Peace

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

Matthew 5:9

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