

Newsletter

5th March 2021



Dear Parents and Carers,

Today was our final day of partial closure and we are very much looking forward to Monday morning and welcoming back all of our children to school! We are all very excited and the staff are keen to have their children back together in class. It feels like we have finally reached a huge milestone and that we are all, as a community and as a country, on the road to better things to come.

Our current value is Positivity and this feels so fitting for where we are on the road map out of lockdown. We have a great deal to be grateful for and so much to look forward to over the coming months. However, please help us to continue to keep everyone safe by following the guidelines and our school measures to ensure that we all play our part in reducing community transmission so that we can maintain the dates set out in the government road map.

I hope that you have all had the opportunity to read the reopening booklet that we sent last week. If you haven't read this yet I encourage you to do so, although much is the same as the Autumn term there have been some changes e.g. to drop off and collection times and PE days for some classes. There is also lots of information that will answer many of your frequently asked questions.

I hope that you enjoy this weekend as a family before the children return to school on Monday.

God keeps his promises and after every storm comes a rainbow.

We look forward to welcoming you all on 8th March!

Best wishes,

Sarah Boyle

Headteacher



SCHOOL UNIFORM

We understand that children grow and uniform may not fit as well as it did when the children last wore it before Christmas! We are also aware that children's feet seem to grow faster than the rest of them and school shoes may well not fit either. Please do not worry, we just ask that your child wears something as close to uniform as possible e.g. dark trousers or skirt, plain white top and sensible shoes. Affordable School Wear are still taking orders if you are able to order online. If anyone is struggling with school uniform please do get in touch with the office and we will endeavour to help you, we do have some spare uniform in school.

CARE CLUB

We look forward to re-opening our wrap around care provision from Monday 8th March. Staffing has now been arranged for Care Club based on sessions booked. Any sessions cancelled will now be subject to our usual 4 week notice period.

DROP OFF AND COLLECTION TIMES

To enable children to get into school safely, respecting social distancing guidelines for adults and minimising contact between bubbles for children, there will be a slightly staggered start to the day and a staggered end to the day. These times have been slightly amended since the autumn term so please do check your child's class. Please wait with your child on the allocated line until a member of staff receives them into school.

Class	Arrival Time	Collection Time
Acorn	8.55am	3.20pm
Chestnut	8.55am	3.20pm
Hawthorn	9.05am	3.30pm
Willow	9.05am	3.30pm
Maple	8.45am	3.10pm
Sycamore	8.55am	3.20pm
Pine	8.45am	3.10pm
Palm	8.45am	3.10pm
Oak	9.05am	3.30pm
Elm	9.05am	3.30pm
Conifer	9.15am	Individual collection times

If you have more than one child or are a registered child minder you can drop off and collect all of your children at the earliest time given for your family if you would like to, avoiding the need to wait off site.

To reduce the number of adults on the school site at one time we respectfully request that only one adult drops off or collects for each family.

FACE MASKS

Primary age children are not required to wear facemasks in school. Staff will continue to wear face masks when they are not able to socially distance and will also do so when welcoming the children in from the playground in the mornings and saying goodbye at the end of the day to reduce any risks whilst talking to parents and carers.

We kindly ask that parents and carers continue to wear face masks on the school site, thank you.

MUSIC TUITION



Individual music lessons booked with our peripatetic music teachers will not start next week. These will recommence week beginning 15th March or after, depending on your child's music teacher. Further information will follow from the music service.

WORLD BOOK DAY

We all had a wonderful day celebrating world book day on Thursday 4th March. Stories were shared, discussions about favourite characters, recommendations made for good reads and of course we all had lots of fun dressing up as a book character!

We hope that all the children, at home and school, were able to enjoy listening to the staff and governors sharing one of their favourite books on Google Classroom. If you haven't yet logged into this please take the opportunity to do so, there are some fabulous books shared which we hope the children will enjoy.

Our staff all joined in with the World Book Day event and were good sports dressing up! We thought the children would like to see a few of the photographs!

Look out next week for photographs of the children on World Book Day and a few words from them about their favourite books.

INTERNET SAFETY

Thank-you to all the parent/carers who attended the Digital Safeguarding Session with Sally Simmonds from Bedfordshire Police on Wednesday evening.

It was a hugely useful session which highlighted that the best way to keep our children safe is not only to remain vigilant as parents/carers, but also to ensure that our children are educated to be aware of the dangers and that they have the skills and confidence to react appropriately. This message very much mirrors our school approach to Online Safety which is taught explicitly once a term and revisited on a regular basis across the curriculum whenever internet based technology is utilised.

To assist with keeping your children safe at home whilst using technology we would recommend visiting www.net-aware.org.uk. This an excellent website which allows you to check age ratings, safety scores and parent reviews for all popular apps, games and websites! There are some more suggestions and tips on the digital safety leaflet attached with this newsletter.

Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you require any further help or support.

SCIENCE WEEK

British Science Week is a ten-day celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths that will take place between 5-14 March. Each class has planned some fabulous experiences and experiments to undertake with the children during British Science Week. I'm sure that your child will come home throughout the week and share some fascinating facts and results of fun and exciting experiments. We will share our Science Week news with you in next week's newsletter.



THE PTA NEEDS YOU

Our current PTA work tirelessly for our school and our children. I am incredibly grateful for the significant amount of support that school receives from the PTA. We need your help to ensure that we continue to have a strong PTA in the future.

Some of our lead committee members are stepping down from their roles as their children are leaving the school in July. It is essential that we have enough parent volunteers to ensure that our PTA survives and thrives. Our children benefit enormously from the support and fundraising efforts of the PTA. The fundraising enables school to provide the special extras that school would otherwise not be able to afford such as subsidising school visits, providing special enrichment activities such as the school theatre, Christmas gifts, additional resources for classrooms or the library as well as organising fun events for the children such as the school disco. It would be such a shame for our children not to benefit when we have such a skilled and talented community and parent group. You can make a difference to your child's education and experience in school! Please help!

There will be vacancies for the following roles;

- Chair/Co-Chairs
- Secretary
- Treasurer

Please consider taking on one of these roles, either as a shared role or on your own. Without these roles being filled, unfortunately the PTA can no longer continue. This would be a huge loss to the school.

Current post holders are willing to support you for the remainder of the school year.

If you are interested in any of these roles then please message Tracy Palmer or Claire Hazel on silsoelowerschoolpta@yahoo.co.uk or via facebook messenger. Thank you.



CHILDREN IN SCHOOL

COVID SYMPTOMS

If you or your child becomes symptomatic you and your family must self-isolate and arrange to be tested as soon as possible. Delays to being tested and then awaiting test results could put others at risk.

If your child subsequently has a positive test it is essential that you contact school as soon as possible and we will contact trace for the 48 hours prior to symptoms starting or the result of a positive test if they were asymptomatic.

COMMUNICATION

Just a reminder that our telephone number is 01525 860247 and our email is (admin@silsoelower.co.uk)

Whilst we try and check the email regularly we ask that this means of contacting us should not be used when informing us of things such as appointments or pick-ups relating to that same day. Sometimes events overtake us and emails may not be checked until out of school hours.

Silsoe Pre-school can be reached on 01525 864938.

Using our answerphone – we have had a number of cases of parents saying they have left messages about child absence but no message has been received. We are assuming this is not a system error otherwise no messages would be received at all and this is never the case. Please could you ensure that if reporting a pupil absent you choose option 1 and then option 1 again. At this point you have to wait for the recording asking you to leave a message after the tone. Once you've heard the tone you're good to go with your message. Hope that helps.

Scopay

Thank you to all those families who have signed up to receive regular communications from the school. Please make sure you open messages, read them carefully and respond where necessary. School emails will come into your inbox from silsoesch@scopay.com. If you aren't receiving communications this way please check they aren't going into your 'junk' and if there are still problems, contact the school office and check we have your correct contact details.

Website

For information about our school, our calendar and class news please visit:

<https://www.silsoeschool.co.uk>

Each class has their own page with lots of information about the term ahead, please do take a look.

OUR SCHOOL VISION

Our vision is to be an excellent, God-centred, values-based, community-focused school where everyone is welcomed, encouraged and included.

Our children will develop as creative, determined learners and responsible citizens inspired to achieve their God-given potential and live life in all its fullness. We will foster understanding, tolerance and forgiveness within our caring Christian community.

OUR CURRENT VALUE IS: POSITIVITY



