

5th October 2020

Newsletter



Dear Parents and Carers,

Autumn has definitely arrived! Despite the rather wet and miserable weather the children have continued to smile and enjoy their learning. The last few weeks in school have been a really positive start to a somewhat different school year. I would like to congratulate all the children for their resilience and positive attitude to the amended school day and to their learning. A full and rich curriculum continues where children are consolidating prior learning, being introduced to new knowledge and skills and teachers continue to challenge and have ambitious expectations for all our children. We look forward to being able to share some of this half terms work with you. Information about Parent's Evenings will follow shortly. We look forward to talking to you about your child.

I would like to thank you once again for your continued support as a community.

Best wishes,

Mrs Boyle

SUPPORTING POSITIVE MENTAL HEALTH



Positive mental health and well-being continues to be a focus for our school. Across the world people will come together to support World Mental Health Day on 10th October. Our school has decided to take part in #HelloYellow in support of YoungMinds for World Mental Health Day.

2020 hasn't been the year we all imagined it would be, it's been tough. We all need a ray of sunshine right now – #HelloYellow on Friday 9 October is a great opportunity for us all to come together for World Mental Health Day, wear yellow and feel hopeful about the future. It can sometimes be hard to feel positive. But you're not alone. Together we can look out for each other and feel hopeful about the future.

On Friday 9th October, instead of school uniform, all children and staff are welcome to wear something yellow (or orange) to school. Let's shine bright and be a ray of sunshine to each other in what has been a difficult year!

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

www.silsoeschool.co.uk

01525 860 247

If you would like to make a donation to YoundMinds it would be gratefully received however it is most important to us that we raise the profile of mental health and help everyone in our school community to know that they are not alone.

HARVEST



This year we will continue to celebrate the harvest and say thank you. Sadly we are unable to celebrate together at the church, due to Covid 19 restrictions. However, we will be celebrating in school and coming together as a whole school for our Collective Worship, via Zoom on Friday 9th October. Children in each class are busy learning Harvest poems, creating Harvest art work, writing their own Harvest poems or prayers.

We would be very grateful for any harvest donations that you can spare. We will be collecting Harvest donations from Monday 5th October. All donations will be collected by the Church Wardens after our Harvest celebration next week and distributed to those in need, via a local food bank. We appreciate any donations that you can make at this time, however please could we ask for non-perishable produce i.e. please send tins and packets. Please could we ask for all donations to be brought in a carrier bag. We will then quarantine the food before it is redistributed. Thank you.

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL'S WORK

As part of our International School's work we hope to help the children develop a greater understanding of the world we live in and develop an identity as a global citizen. The children are learning to greet each other and answer the register in a different language each week. You may already have heard them speaking in German, Greek, and Hindi so far this term. This week they are being introduced to the country of Croatia. Children are locating the country on a world map, finding out a few facts about the country as well as learning to greet each other in the language.

COVID 19 SAFETY MEASURES

Staggered drop off and collections:

We appreciate your support with staggered drop off and collections. Under current circumstances it is really important that we continue to social distance on the school site, to enable this to happen it is therefore essential that we reduce the number of families on site at any one time and to limit the mixing between bubbles. As such can we remind everyone that only one parent/carer should come onto the school site at drop off and collection times.

Please can I remind all parent's to only come on site at the time allocated to you and not more than 5 minutes before your allocated time. Thank you.

If you are late and have missed your allocated drop off time please ensure you send your child into school via Main Reception.



Social distancing:

We review our risk assessment at least weekly, considering the national and local context and guidance. With the number of positive Covid 19 cases rising in our local area it is absolutely essential that **all adults remember to social distance at all times to keep everyone safe**. Please use the lines on the playground to help you with this. We ask that each family stands on a line and children remain with their parents or carers whilst waiting. Please could we also ask you to be aware of other parents and families on the playground and avoid blocking any routes to other classes with where you are standing. We are not currently asking parents or carers to wear masks but we will keep this under review and follow any local or national guidance. Adults are very welcome to wear a mask if you choose to and particularly where social distancing cannot be guaranteed.



We are following the DfE guidance and currently children in lower school **do not** need to wear a mask in school. If your child wears a mask to travel to school please ensure this is handed over to a parent or carer before coming into school.

Coming into school:

Please only enter main reception if there is no-one else in there otherwise we would ask that you wait outside the door. Please only come into the school main reception if absolutely necessary. The office will be happy to deal with your query via telephone or email.

Birthday party invites and sweets:

I am really sorry but sadly at this time we are unable to accept birthday party invites or sweets into school to give out to the other children in the class. We hope that this will only be a temporary measure whilst we try to limit things going between different homes and school.

Post Box:

A reminder that the post box is checked daily so any forms/letters can be dropped in there.

Uniform:

If you are ordering uniform from Affordable Schoolwear, you can arrange for it to be delivered to school. It will be placed on the table in the main reception for your collection.

MUSIC



Music Mark is the UK Association for Music Education; they champion and support access to music for all children and young people.

We are absolutely delighted to share that we were nominated by Inspiring Music Central Bedfordshire to become a Music Mark school for the 2020/21 academic year and were recently awarded the mark!

This recognises the value that Silsoe VC Lower School place on music and our commitment to a broad and balanced curriculum has been recognised. We would like to share this recognition and achievement with our whole school community.

HEALTHY SCHOOL

Silsoe Lower School have always encouraged our children to be healthy and active, and we are proud to have achieved Healthy Schools Status. Now that we are all back at school we want to ensure that all our children can enjoy their learning and get the most out of their day. Research shows that children are more engaged and able to learn when they enjoy a balanced diet. A high sugar snack may give a short burst of energy but, a healthy snacks helps children to focus and concentrate throughout the whole of the school day.

To ensure that we keep all our children healthy and ready to learn please send your child in with:

- A named water bottle, for drinking throughout the day– please fill with water only, no juice.
- An additional drink with their packed lunch, if required (this can be a juice carton or squash in a bottle)
- A healthy snack for morning playtime (fresh fruit and vegetables e.g. Carrot sticks, apple, raisins, cucumber, pear, banana etc.)
- A healthy packed lunch (if you are providing a packed lunch). Please do not include fizzy drinks, chocolate, sweets or nuts of any kind.

Please can we remind you we are a NUT FREE school. We ask that you check the ingredients list on any item you may be unsure of.

If you are looking for some packed lunch ideas or inspiration visit <https://www.nhs.uk/change4life/recipes/healthier-lunchboxes>

ENRICHMENT AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

We are very keen to continue to offer support for working families at this difficult time therefore, our School Care Club is still operating Monday to Friday before and after school. If you need any further information please look at our website or contact the school office who will be very happy to help you.

To enable us to operate our Care Club safely we are now using the hall in addition to two classrooms. This unfortunately means that we are currently unable to offer other after school clubs.

However, we are able to offer some clubs within the school day and we continue to be grateful for the support of our parents who operate a very popular football club for all ages on a Saturday.

Tenacity Dance: Every Tuesday Lunchtime. Children will be made aware who this is available to.

Silsoe Lower FC: All years are invited to join our football clubs, which operates on a Saturday morning. Please contact the club secretary, Mrs Hayley Edwards on silsoelowerfc.secretary@gmail.com for further information.

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 (admin@silsoelower.co.uk) 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.

Parentmail

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. Bits of paper sent home often get lost and this is not a secure way to liaise with our families going forward.

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.

BAG2SCHOOL

Just a little reminder that **Wednesday 7th October** is our collection day for Bag2School donations. Bag2School is a company that specialises in good quality second hand clothing. Donations are collected from school and weighed. School will then receive payment based on the total weight collected. Any support you can give to this fundraising idea is really appreciated. We ask that all donations are left under the bike shed by 9.15am. School gates to access the bike shed will be open early on Wednesday morning. Unfortunately we are unable to accept donations before Wednesday morning or after 9.15am.



VACANCIES

We currently have vacancies for Midday Supervisors. If you are interested in this role please see our school website for more information or call to speak to a member of staff in the school office. We look forward to hearing from you.

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHER

We have the school photographer coming into school on **Wednesday 21st October**. Due to current restrictions they will only be taking individual portraits. On this occasion we are unfortunately unable to do any sibling photographs whether they are in school or not. If your child has PE on a Wednesday please could they come in to school in their uniform and their PE lesson will be adapted so that it can be done in uniform.

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.