

# Newsletter



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that everyone has enjoyed a restful half term holiday.

As we begin the second part of the autumn term I am an immensely proud Headteacher as I reflect on all that the children have achieved during the last few months. The children adapted to new safety measures, changes to classroom layouts, new one way systems, playtimes with their 'Bubble', additional handwashing and sanitising, adaptations to the timetable and all whilst continuing to work hard, demonstrate their school values and challenge themselves. Well done children! I am confident that the children will continue to work hard and demonstrate their resilience as we begin the second half term.

I would like to say a special thank you to the whole staff team who continue to work extremely hard to help all of our children feel happy and safe at school as well enabling them to achieve their potential.

A final thank you to our parents and carers who have supported us throughout the last half term and these extraordinary times that we are in; your support makes a difference and is appreciated, thank you!

As we move towards another lockdown it is at times like this that our school community demonstrates its strength and resilience. Thank you for your support, by working together and supporting each other in our school community we can provide a safe and stable environment for our children. Unfortunately uncertain times can be an anxious time for many adults and children. Please be reassured that school will continue to support our children and families in any way that we can. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you are struggling and we will endeavour to help you and your family ourselves or signpost you to the right support. Our Christian faith reminds us that God is always with us. Canon David Morton, Director of Education, Diocese of St Albans, recently shared the prayer below from David Adam's beautiful book of prayers, *Encompassing God*.

*God, I commit myself to your keeping*

*This day to your protection*

*My plans to your direction*

*My busyness to your stillness*

*My heart to your love*

*My troubles to your peace*

*God ever with me*

*Be my wisdom in my thinking*

*Be my guide in my actions*

*Be my love in my dealings*

*Be my life in my whole being*

*Be my strength in times of weakness*

*Be my shield when troubles assail*

*Be my song and salvation now and for ever*

*Encompassing God*, David Adam (2014), SPCK

With best wishes and my prayers for this forthcoming half term.

Sarah Boyle

Headteacher

## ANTI-BULLYING WEEK



**'This year, more than ever, we've witnessed the positive power that society can have when we come together to tackle a common challenge.'**

**Anti-Bullying Week is no different. Bullying has a long lasting effect on those who experience and witness it. But by channelling our collective power, through shared efforts and shared ambitions, we can reduce bullying together. From parents and carers, to teachers and politicians, to children and young people, we all have a part to play in coming together to make a difference.**

**We're all a piece in the puzzle, and together, we're united against bullying.'**

To show that we are 'united against bullying', we will, once again, be inviting the children to **wear odd socks to school on 16<sup>th</sup> November**. More information will follow in the next few days.

In addition to this, our learning in PSHE (Personal, Social, Health Education) this half term is friendship and anti-bullying. We want all of our children to be resilient, kind and confident and teaching them the skills of friendship and conflict resolution is part of that journey. We have all talked about and signed our Anti-Bullying Charter which will be on display in school and in classrooms.

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH



Black History Month was marked in school throughout October and was an opportunity for us to focus on black British history and provide a time to acknowledge the contributions and achievements of black people in Britain. During the month of October each class participated in lessons or story time related to black history, particularly considering black British history and influential women's roles.

Black history month provides an opportunity to focus, reflect and celebrate black British history however this is not just for October. We will continue to challenge racism and learn more about black history throughout the year and as part of our broad and balanced curriculum.

We have purchased a selection of new books celebrating black history for our library and we hope to add to our collection and

provide age appropriate books for each classroom. If you would be interested in sponsoring a new book for our library or classrooms please do get in touch through the school office. Thank you.

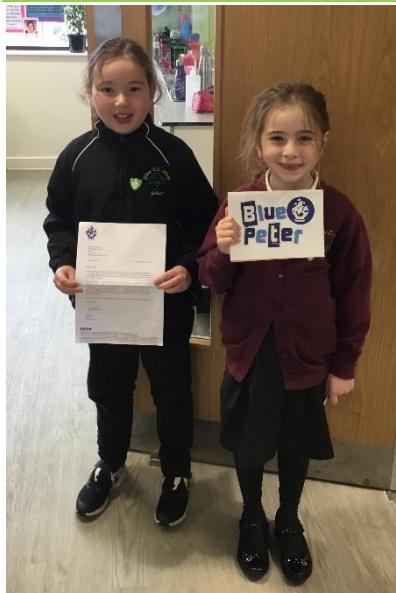
## SILSOE LOWER SCHOOL FOOTBALL CLUB

I am delighted that Silsoe Lower School Football Club have finally been able to use our school field for football training! I hope that over the next year the school field will be used for further training and that we will be able to host matches with other local schools.

We are fortunate to have such an active and growing football club. Thank you to all the parents who generously give their time to support the club; the administrators, the coaching team and parents who stand on the side-lines in all weathers to support your children!



## BLUE PETER BADGE-ECO WARRIOR'S



I am delighted to share that Madelyn and Imogen have been awarded a special 'Green' Blue Peter Badge!

This was achieved for going out into their local community, Silsoe Village, and litter picking. Thank you very much girls for your hard work in making our village a nicer place to live and play. Well done!

What a great example of what it means to be an Eco Warrior!

## TIME CAPSULE

I hope that you have enjoyed creating a Rainbow themed piece of art for our Time Capsule competition. I look forward to seeing all of your creations. All art work will be displayed in school and we hope to share the work with you too.

Competition winners to be announced soon!

## SCHOOL LUNCHES

I am pleased to say that we are now able to serve hot lunches again and we have had our first hot lunches served today. Thank you to our Kitchen Manager and her team who have worked really hard to create a menu and a timetable that will accommodate all our needs with staggered lunches and eating in classes etc. The lunch today was delicious and the children have really enjoyed eating it.

## COVID 19 SAFETY MEASURES;

Thank you to everyone who has supported us with wearing a mask on site, it is appreciated and is just one more way in which you demonstrate your support for safety around our school. For everyone's safety I would respectfully request that when on the school site **adults wear a face mask or visor**, We understand that some people may be exempt from wearing a mask so we therefore ask that everyone continues to socially distance on the playground and around the school site.

We continue to follow the DfE guidance and currently **children do not** need to wear a mask in our lower 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.

**We are expecting new guidance from the DfE later this week. We will update our risk assessment accordingly and inform you of any changes as soon as possible.**

## **Staggered drop off and collections:**

We appreciate your support with staggered drop off and collections. Please can I remind all parent's to only come on site at the time allocated to you, not before.

**Please do not come onto the school site more than 5 minutes before your allocated time.  
Thank you.**



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. I would also like to take this opportunity to remind parents that only one adult should drop off and collect from the school site. Thank you.

## **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, dinner money can be dropped in there.

## **Uniform:**

Please refer to the latest parentmail regarding Affordable Schoolwear, and their closure throughout lockdown.

## **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.  
**(paused throughout lockdown)**

Silsoe Lower FC: All years are invited to join our football clubs, which usually operates on a Saturday morning. **(Football will be paused throughout lockdown)** Please contact the club secretary, Mrs Hayley Edwards on [silsoelowerfc.secretary@gmail.com](mailto:silsoelowerfc.secretary@gmail.com) for further information.

## 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.

## COMMUNICATION

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

Whilst we try and check the email ([admin@silsoelower.co.uk](mailto: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/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. 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.

## 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.