

# Newsletter

16<sup>th</sup> November 2020



Dear Parents and Carers,

There have been so many things to celebrate in our school recently. The children continue to work hard in their lessons in addition to taking time to consider people in our local community and beyond. Many of you will have already seen our letter last week that shared how our whole school community paused on 11<sup>th</sup> November and remembered those who have sacrificed things for our peace today. The children had thoughtfully discussed Remembrance Day in their classes, prepared poppy wreaths, art work and prayers to show their respect. To have the whole school socially distanced together on the playground at 11 o'clock to pause for a 2 minutes silence was particularly moving.



We have continued to think about others beyond our school when we all dressed in our pyjamas for Children in Need on Friday!

The children in our school are exceptional in showing their values to each other in school and in supporting others across our country. They really do demonstrate our school vision and ethos beyond the school gates. Thank you children.

Sarah Boyle  
Headteacher

## ANTI-BULLYING WEEK (16<sup>th</sup> November 2020)



It is important to us that we are a school where each child feels safe, happy and secure. Incidents of bullying behaviour between children are extremely rare, but any such cases are dealt with promptly and effectively. We have a robust Anti-bullying policy and teach positive behaviour to all our children as part of our PSHE (Personal, Social, Health Education) and wider curriculum. Our learning in PSHE this half term is focused on 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.

Each child has had the opportunity to discuss and sign a copy of our Anti-Bullying Charter which will be on display in school and in classrooms.

To show that we are 'united against bullying', recognise, and celebrate difference children have been invited to **wear odd socks to school on 16<sup>th</sup> November**.

### CHILDREN IN NEED

Wow, what an incredible fundraising achievement! Thank you to everyone in our school community who was able to contribute to our Children in Need fundraising. As a community we have raised a fabulous £584, so far, for Children in Need. This will make an enormous difference to many children across the UK. **THANK YOU!**



### TIME CAPSULE

I hope that the children enjoyed creating a Rainbow themed piece of art for our Time Capsule Competition. We had a fabulous response to the competition; please see the Student News section our school website to see all the wonderful entries. <https://www.silsoeschool.co.uk/student-news>

It was extremely difficult to select just 3 pieces of art to go into the time capsule. The winners all kept to the rainbow theme and added an extra element that represented the year of 2020 during the pandemic.

Congratulations to our winners:

Reception: Adelaide O

Key Stage 1: Freddie P

Key Stage 2: Emma G

The winning entries have been added to the time capsule along with many other items and photographs to represent our school in 2020. We hope to be able to bury the time capsule at the Hayfield's site in early December. Please look out for further news and updates of the time capsule burial.

## SCHOOL LUNCHES

We have now enjoyed hot lunches since the start of this second half term and I would like to extend our thanks once again to our kitchen manager and her team who have made this possible. The lunches are nutritious and delicious and are being enjoyed by many children throughout the school.

All children in Year R, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a daily Universal Free School Meal. Please contact the school office for further information.

Children in Year 3 and Year 4 can still enjoy a school meal but need to pay for the meal, unless they are eligible for free school meals.

If you are unsure if you meet the criteria for free school meals please contact the office and they will endeavour to help you.

## WELCOME TO REVEREND DAVID PAYNE

On 10<sup>th</sup> November I had the pleasure of attending the Licensing service, via Zoom, of our new Priest in Charge of the Benefice of Silsoe, Flitton and Pulloxhill; Reverend David Payne.

I have also since had a telephone conversation with him and warmly welcomed him to our school community. We look forward to Reverend David working with us at school, leading some of our worship, joining our Governing Board, getting to know the children and staff and being able to be an additional support to our whole school community.

Reverence David Payne is very approachable and I'm sure you will begin to see him around the village. If you would like to find out more please look on the Benefice of Silsoe, Flitton and Pulloxhill website. <https://3churches.uk/>

## SPONSOR A BOOK



I recently shared a number of books that we had purchased as a school. We have recently purchased books to support our wider curriculum and children's understanding of Black History in the UK. Thank you to those parents who have already offered to sponsor a book for our school library. We really appreciate your support.

We would really like to be able to purchase a set of age appropriate books about Black History for each classroom. If you would like to support us with this please contact the school office or the PTA and they will explain how you can make your donation.

Your child's name will be added to our library windows as a thank you and as recognition of your support.

Thank you!



## COVID 19 SAFETY MEASURES

### Coming into school:

Please only come into the school main reception if **absolutely necessary**. Most queries can be dealt with via telephone or email.

If it is essential that you come into the main school reception please only enter main reception if there is no-one else in there otherwise we would ask that you wait outside the door.

### Post Box:

A reminder that the post box is checked daily so any forms/letters can be dropped in there, rather than coming into the office.

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.

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.

### Uniform:

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

## VACANCIES

We currently have vacancies for (MDSA's) Midday Supervisors, particularly Bank Staff MDSA's. If you are interested in this role but are unable to commit to 5 days a week then being on our Bank register may be the perfect role for you. 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.

## 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.

## 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.