

Newsletter

4th December 2020



Dear Parents and Carers,

It has really started to feel like Christmas this week in school. Our magnificent Christmas tree stands proudly in our entrance hall adorned with the amazing values themed decorations made by all the children in our school. We hope that you can catch a glimpse of the lights on the tree from the front of school. For a closer look at our tree and the decorations please visit the Student News section on our website <https://www.silsoeschool.co.uk/student-news>

Well done to all the children who made a decoration. The children have been very creative and the values of Love, Hope and Peace feature prominently; choosing just one winner to turn the Silsoe Christmas lights on was extremely difficult!

Congratulations to Arabella in year 3 who made a beautiful decoration featuring all three values. We look forward to seeing Silsoe High Street lit up in lights after you have pressed the button!

A huge well done to our runners up, Riley and Amelia.

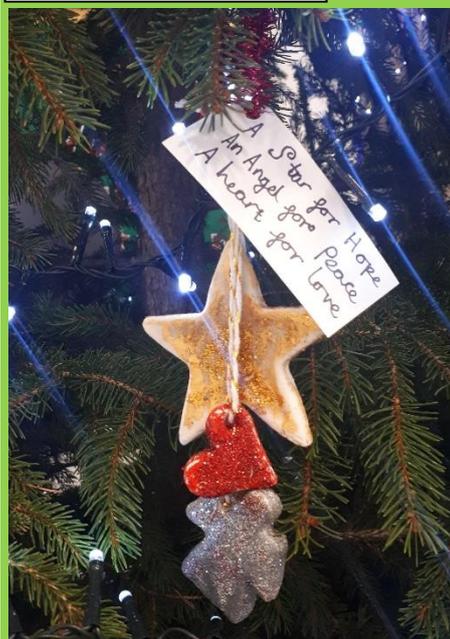
With my very best wishes to all our families,

Sarah Boyle

Headteacher



Winning decoration
by Arabella.



Decoration by Amelia.



Decoration by Riley.



CHRISTMAS

CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD

Next week we will be thinking about our global community and celebrating 'Christmas Around The World'. I'm sure the children will have lots to share with you as they learn about how Christmas is celebrated in other countries.

CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

On Friday 11th December the School Council invite all children to wear a Christmas jumper or children can choose to decorate an old piece of clothing in the theme of Christmas. Children may choose to decorate it with Christmas tinsel, draw Christmas themed drawings and attach to a top, alternatively simply



add a piece of tinsel to your school jumper. Children should wear their usual school skirt or trousers and shoes with their Christmas jumper/top please. Please see the separate letter sent previously for more information about how to donate to 'Save the Children'.

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

All children should have received a letter from Reverend David Payne inviting children to make a Christingle. We have already received over 50 requests for the Christingle kits. Please make sure you respond with your order by midday on Tuesday 8th December if you would like a kit. We look forward to seeing your photographs of your Christingles!

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

This year our Christmas lunch will take place on Tuesday 15th December. We are extremely grateful to our staff in the school kitchen who will be busy preparing a wonderful lunch for us. You should have all responded via your scopay account by now to tell us whether your child is having a school Christmas lunch or bringing their packed lunch from home. For Christmas dinner they don't need to choose what they are having beforehand, they will be able to do that on the day.

Children will be eating in the hall on this special occasion. We have rearranged the day to enable each year group to have time in the hall however, children will sit with their own class. All staff and children will eat their lunch together, regardless of whether they order a school Christmas lunch or bring their own packed lunch. I'm sure this will be a very festive and joyous occasion for all.

CHRISTMAS NATIVITY

Children are busy in their classes preparing to tell the real story of Christmas. Sadly this year we are unable to create our usual Christmas Nativity Performance with all the children together. We are sorry that we will not have the opportunity to welcome families into school to watch the performances, however we will be putting together a Video to share with you all. If you would like your child to be included in the video and have not yet given permission for this on scopay please do so over the weekend or speak to your child's class teacher.

Year 4 ONLY should be in their Christmas jumpers on Wednesday 9th for their recording as narrators.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

We understand that children enjoy wishing their friends a Happy Christmas and enjoy writing cards to friends and teachers. We are happy for children to write a card to children in their class but this year we will not be sending cards across the whole school. If your child has written a Christmas card please send it into school on a Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday and we will quarantine them before sending them home on a Friday afternoon.

STUDENT NEWS

Please look at the Student News section on our website to keep up to date with some of the things that have been happening this week in school. <https://www.silsoeschool.co.uk/student-news>

SCHOOL OFFICE AND RECEPTION AREA

Thank you very much for your support, following our request last week, to limit people going into the reception area, we really appreciate your help with keeping everyone in our school safe.

To avoid office staff handling lots of items from home and passing them on to classes **please do not bring any items to reception unless it is absolutely necessary e.g. medication.** We encourage all families to get children into the habit of ensuring their bags are packed appropriately before coming to school but if on the odd occasion something is forgotten please don't worry. **Please do not bring forgotten hats, gloves, water bottles or reading/library books to the school office at this current time.** We will ensure they don't miss out in school, if your child has forgotten their water bottle the class teacher will provide a cup and drinking water is readily available in each class. Please don't worry if your child has forgotten something on one occasion but we do encourage all children to be responsible for packing their bag and remembering their school kit.

VACANCIES

We currently have vacancies for Midday Supervisors (MDSA's), we are particularly seeking people who may be interested in being bank staff MDSA's. We would be delighted to hear from you if you are reliable, nurturing, enthusiastic, enjoy supporting the children in their play and support our school ethos and vision. If you would be interested in this role or are aware of a young at heart grandparent who may be interested then please do get in touch. If you 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.

SNOW SQUAD

We have started to see signs of winter with the frosts and fog this week and although we hope we won't see any snow just yet we are mindful of potential adverse weather over the coming months.



During periods of heavy snow, every effort is made to keep the school open if it is safe to do so. We are looking for a pool of up to 10 local volunteers who our Site Manager can contact at approx. 6am on a snow day to help clear key site areas. We would need up to 5 people to come on the day between 6.30am to 7.30am. Snow shovels will be provided, followed by tea and hot chocolate! If you think that you could help and would be prepared to be added to the list please can you email admin@silsoelower.co.uk

Bad weather can result in great difficulties for both children and staff travelling to and from school. Poor conditions on or near the school site, as well as the journey can increase risks to everyone's safety. If we are unable to operate a 'normal day', due to a lack of staff or electrical failure affecting heating, lighting, or if the site is potentially dangerous, then we will be forced to close.

Any decision to close will be communicated via the front page of Silsoe School's website. All parents/carers can also receive an email alert from Central Bedfordshire School's Open Status (SOS system). To register go to <https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/webApps/SOS/> and fill in the text boxes, click 'submit'. You will receive an email containing instructions on how to 'activate' your account.

If we need to close during the school day we will contact your priority 1 contact, please do not attempt to call the School as the switchboard will be unable to handle the call volumes. If your contact details change please let us know immediately.

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. Unfortunately, this is still happening and if we don't see the message it could become a safeguarding issue. Sometimes events overtake us and emails may not be checked until out of school hours. Please call us with any changes to arrangements for the same day.

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 created a scopay account – 98.5% of you have! That's fantastic. Please make sure you open any messages, read them carefully and respond where necessary. We are aware that a lot of information is coming out at the moment and we do try and collate them into as few messages as possible but it is difficult to predict what needs to be sent and when sometimes. Please bear with us, our endeavour is to communicate fully with parents and carers so that you have all the information you need. Bits of paper sent home often get lost and this is not a secure way to liaise with you 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.

