



Silverwood School

Building Community, Inspiring Learning

Value for term 2 – Courage

‘Doing our best even when we feel scared or worried’



Dear Parents and Carers

As we come to the end of another calendar year, I reflect with immense pride on the achievements of our children and young people. I remain astounded by how much we achieve together because of the strong relationships that exist here amongst staff, parents/carers and pupils. We should be really proud of our school community!

Pupils this term have been focused on our value, Courage: ‘Doing our best even when we are scared or worried.’ This has been evident in so many ways as our pupils challenge themselves in their learning, for example, taking the courage to try something hard and facing challenges head-on.

I think this quote sums their positive approach to learning.

“Courage does not always roar. Sometimes courage is the quiet voice at the end of the day saying, I will try again tomorrow.”

It is a huge privilege to work at Silverwood and would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued and valued support this year and to wish you all, a very Happy Christmas!

As always please do feedback any comments or observations.

We look forward to welcoming you back in January 2023!

Best wishes

Mr Sean McKeown - Executive Head teacher

Term dates

Term 3

January 3rd - TD day

04/01/2023 – 10/02/2023

Term 4

20/02/2023 – 31/03/2023

Please note that the school is finishing early on the last day of term – Friday 31st March @ 13:40

Term 5

May 1st – Bank Holiday

May 29th - Bank Holiday

17/04/2023 – 26/05/2023

Term 6

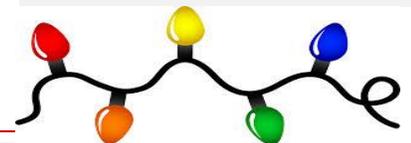
June 5th - TD day

06/06/2023 – 25/07/2023

Absence

If your child is going to be absent from school please ensure you inform the school before 9.30am. You will need to let us know the reason and the expected return date.

If your child is **unwell** with sickness or diarrhoea, the school policy is; they can only return to school when they have been clear of symptoms for **48** hours.



Safeguarding



Terri Chard is the safeguarding lead for Silverwood School. If you have any concerns for our pupils please contact her at TerriChard@silverwood.wilts.sch.uk

There is also lots of information available on our website

<https://www.silverwood.wilts.sch.uk/our-school-articles/category/safeguarding-statement>

Finance Reminder

Dear Parent/Carer

As the end of term draws near, please can I remind you to settle any outstanding debt for school meals taken during terms 1 & 2.

If you are unsure as to how much you owe, please check your ParentPay account.

If you have any further concerns about paying for school meals please do not hesitate to contact the School.

Thank you

The Finance Team

Support available over the Christmas break

Libraries in Wiltshire are extending a warm welcome to all this winter and providing a range of help, support, advice and comfort to people who may be struggling, or want tips to help with the rising cost of living.

Wiltshire libraries are offering:

- A free warm space to sit, stay and take part in activities
- Hot drinks, where possible
- Warm packs (including a blanket, hot water bottle and a thermal mug) for anyone who would benefit from some free essentials
- Basic energy advice in all but our smallest libraries and referrals to the energy advisors at [Warm and Safe Wiltshire](#)
- Signposting to community partners and agencies that can [support you through the rising cost of living](#).



For more details about any of our services this winter, contact your [local library](#) or email libraryenquiries@wiltshire.gov.uk.

Christmas can be a difficult time for children with SEN. Planning in advance can help. Action for Children has published an article 'How can I help my child with special educational needs cope over Christmas?', which can be accessed using this link <https://parents.actionforchildren.org.uk/additional-needs-disabilities/support-home-school/send-christmas/>



[How can I help my child with special educational needs cope over Christmas? - Support for Parents from Action For Children](https://parents.actionforchildren.org.uk/additional-needs-disabilities/support-home-school/send-christmas/)

Find out what's happening at your child's school or nursery. Celebrations could include concerts, parties, lunches or Christmas jumper days. This could become overwhelming for some children. If you feel your child may need extra support during these times, make sure the school is aware.

parents.actionforchildren.org.uk

New Build Update

Please see the latest snapshot of site construction at Rowde for your information. The large square at the far end of the build and adjacent to the crane is the sports hall.



Campus News

Chippenham Campus

Members of the student council enjoyed the opportunity to make seed bombs with Wilmot Dixon. They loved getting messy and are looking forward to throwing the seed bombs and seeing what flowers will grow.



Blackbird Class

Blackbird class have been shopping in our local co-op, helping to buy our class snacks.

The pupils have enjoyed selecting the foods they would like to eat. They helped to carry the basket and pack the shopping away.

Everyone enjoyed eating the snacks when we returned to school.



Kingfisher Class



In Kingfisher class, one of our favourite communication sessions is when we go to the cookery room. We have made the same cakes a few times so that the recipe becomes familiar and we are able to use communication boards as part of the session. A few of the pupils have mastered using the board to say "I want sugar"!

We are also able to learn about safety, use a switch, count out cake cases and make marks as we explore flour and sugar. Recently we linked this session with the country our class had in the World Cup Sweepstake by making some Portuguese Christmas cookies.



Chaffinch Class

On December 1st, Chaffinch Class visited Langley Nurseries, Chippenham to collect a Christmas tree kindly donated by owners Catherine and Dave for our school. The children enjoyed dressing up as elves, playing jingle bells and exploring the forest of Christmas trees. Thank you to Langley Nurseries for a beautiful Christmas tree which all the pupils have enjoyed making decorations for.





Bullfinch class

Bullfinch Class have been keeping busy and working hard this term. They enjoyed going to the Sixth Form College to attend their Christmas coffee shop. All pupils enjoyed the cafe experience and the opportunity to buy some Christmas gifts. They have also enjoyed exploring a fire engine and having a go with the walkie talkies!



Wagtail Class

Wagtail class have really enjoyed exploring textiles this term. We have explored different methods of decorating fabric including weaving, fabric collage, batik and tie-dye. You can see in the photos students really enjoying squirting coloured dyes onto white t-shirts and watching both the dye squirting out but also the t-shirt changing colour in front of their eyes. Even better they will be wearing these t-shirts as part of their costume in the nativity next week and be able to take them home after!



Yellowhammer Class

Yellowhammer have had a very busy Term 2.

Amongst lots of different activities we have made mince pies, designed and created a T-shirt and learnt about the importance of brushing our teeth.

Here are a few photos of the pupils joining in with the activities.



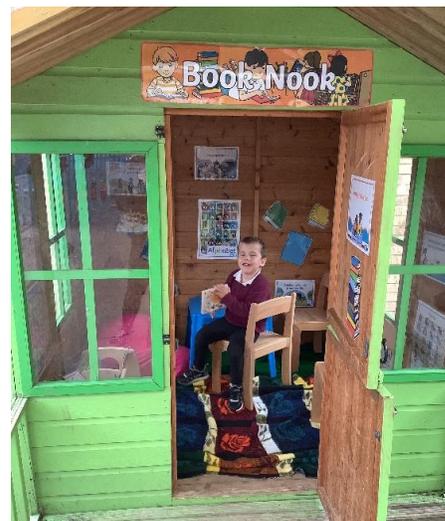
Gosling Class

Growing our love for reading -

Since Term 1, Gosling class have been focusing on daily reading sessions where adults read one to one with pupils. Initially pupils' focus and attention varied and was fleeting or no interest at all. This term it has been encouraging and just quite amazing to notice a significant shift in attention towards books, increased love of looking at books, listening to stories and experiencing a variety of books in a variety of settings. Some children prefer reading in the Book Nook in the playground.

A number of pupils will now go over to the book shelf in class independently during free flow learning sessions and choose to quietly enjoy a book. The love for reading has also created great opportunities for communication as pupils will request specific favourites through their individual means of communicating.

Keep on reading everyone! 😊



Romeo the Gnome!

Romeo the Gnome is back at our Chippenham site and is up to mischief! Here he is having built a Christmas Tree out of toilet roll! He has also been out in the playground playing basketball, handing out decorations to decorate for our Christmas Tree and photocopying himself on the photocopier!



Rowde Campus

We have started a book swap at Rowde campus where students bring in a book, receive a token & then use the token to get a new book.

We have had many generous donations of books to start the process off & it is proving very popular.

If you have any books you can donate to the cause we would be very grateful if you can send them into school.



Cedar Class

Sophie has made this wonderful unicorn as part of the Year 9 Cartoon Head project that involves resistant materials and CAD/CAM work. Pupils use computer design software to create a template that can be transferred onto wood and painted.



Apple Class

Apple Class have had a wonderful term. They particularly want to share their pride in being filmed by the BBC, thanks to winning the Young Reporters competition that they entered with their Y7 teacher, Mr Daltrey. To top it off, they were on their favourite show, Newsround (link can be found on our Facebook page)!



They have fully immersed themselves in all of their learning including learning about WW1 and studying the powerful story of 'War Horse' by Michael Morpurgo. Not only that, they have planned and written their own WW1 stories from a horse's perspective.

The festive spirit is alive and well in Apple with the development of their Polish inspired Christmas door entry as well as their involvement in helping Mrs Hannaford set-up the Festive Book Swap at Rowde.

It has been busy, creative, eventful and very festive!



Merry Christmas from Apple Class.

Wesołych Świąt od klasy Apple



Rowan Class

Rowan are showing maturity during the move to their Y10 timetable and are trying really hard to be organised and ready for their lessons without reminders. Work in progress! They recently showed our values when making Christmas cakes and decorating them ready to take home and share with families. Rowan class is full of creative students that enjoyed expressing themselves when it came to decorating their cakes. Rewards day this term was a highlight with Chippenham Town FC visiting



and leading some coaching for some students whilst others enjoyed the fire pit, games in the woods and making pizzas. Enjoy your well-earned rest over Christmas!



Oak Class

Oak class has had a very busy term! We've enjoyed learning about World War One in our English and Topic lessons. We have written stories and letters from the trenches, as well as learning all about what life was like for the soldiers.

We have been learning lots of life skills this term, too! We have practiced putting our friends in the recovery position and learned how to phone the emergency services.

One of our favourite things from this term has been learning to light fires using traditional flint and steel. We discovered that the most effective kindling is cotton balls dipped in Vaseline! Always make sure an adult is present when making a fire!

The last two weeks of term are going to be so much fun: Reward Day, Enterprise Day, Christmas lunch... the list goes on! Merry Christmas, everyone.



Holly Class

On rewards day Holly class chose to bake stained glass window biscuits. They showed amazing cooperation to create some delicious and beautiful treats!



Ash Class

Ash Class have had a busy term.

In English they have been learning about World War I and reading the book/watching the film, Private Peaceful.

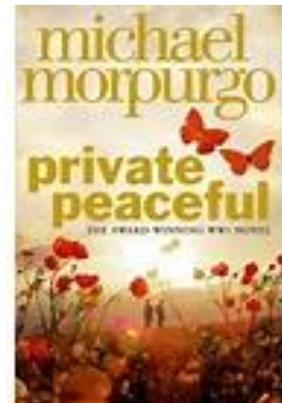
In Maths they have been practicing using Money, working with Fractions and have even done some Algebra!

They have worked hard finishing their colour changing Night Lights in DT.

We have made lots of delicious food in Cooking and Nutrition, including Pineapple Upside Down Cakes and a Celebration Cake for Christmas.

In Life Skills we have been learning about changing the bed sheets and making beds - hopefully they will be able to help out and practice these skills at home now!

A group of children have been attending the 'SILVERWOOD CREATES MUSIC' sessions on Tuesday afternoons and have really enjoyed creating their own composition.



Plane Class

We have been very busy in Plane Class learning about World War I, we enjoyed reading A Soldier's Friend as well as learning songs in Music. We enjoyed a morning where we pretended to go to the trenches after joining the Silverwood Pals.

In Science we have been learning about the human body and learnt all about the digestive system when Mrs Noad showed us what happens with a pair of tights and a takeaway pot!

We are all excited about Christmas and enjoyed making our Christmas door and decorating R8 as well as trips to the Book Swap! We loved our trip to Whitehall for Rewards Day, thank you for everyone would made it possible.



Trowbridge Campus

We have been taking the chance at Trowbridge Campus, to use our pupils' amazing artistic talent to generate some wall art to be displayed around the school.

Pupils have been working hard as individuals and classes to generate unique and one off art work that has brightened up our corridors. Pupils are very proud of their work and often stop to have a look at the work on display.



Christmas @Trowbridge Campus.

It's been a busy time in the run up to Christmas at Trowbridge. The children have been practicing hard for their performances to parents/carers.

The Christmas decorated doors are looking fabulous & we are all waiting with anticipation to see who wins first prize.

The Chicks have now moved into their new outside coop & run. The Upper school children are doing a really good job with making sure they have food & water, whilst the Lower school check up on them at playtimes.

Music in Hospital came to deliver a free concert which the children enjoyed immensely. There was singing & dancing & the children had a lovely time with the professional musicians.

We are also saying goodbye to a few staff that are leaving us at Christmas. Pam from Bluebirds/Swans & Mary from Puffins, are retiring & we thank them for their long service to the school & wish them well in their next adventure. Chelsea from Owls and Michelle from Puffins are moving on to exciting pastures new & again we wish them well.

We are also saying goodbye to Miss Chard who is returning to lead Rowde Campus & welcoming back Miss Cheadle. Miss Chard will still be supporting Trowbridge on a Friday.



We would like to take this opportunity to wish all our parents/carers & local community a Happy Christmas & we will see you again in the New Year.

Puffins Class

Puffin Class have been helping to decorate our classroom door ready for the Mayor's visit. Last week we made Christmas trees during our Attention Art session. This week we made gold and silver stars. Every class member had a star with their photo in the middle to decorate with glitter and sequins.

Puffin Class have also been very busy taking part in lots of Christmas cooking, art and crafts and singing.



Owls Class

Owls class were amazing in their Christmas performance this week & had a great time.



Robins

The School Council at Trowbrige were visited by on Monday. Together they learned how to make seed bombs. It was very messy but they all had a lot of fun. The seed bombs will be planted at school and will make it look very pretty in the spring.



Parrot Class

Parrot Class have had a busy week which included our performance at the Christmas Show on Tuesday where we sang Holly Jolly Christmas to parents/carers. Parrot Class definitely saved their best performance for it! On Thursday we went on a walk to Trowbridge Museum where we learned about different types of old-fashioned toys and how they worked, they even made their own toys at the end! We quickly stopped by the giant stocking in The Shires Shopping Centre for a photo on our way back.

As it was our last swimming session of the term on Friday we turned it into a fun swim where the children enjoyed using floats and toys whilst in the pool. Every parrot has done very well and have displayed great progress in swimming throughout this term!



Toucan Class

This term Toucans Class has been exploring the local community by walking to the local park. Each week we have seen the children grow in confidence; being able to climb some of the higher equipment and walking safely remembering to stay close. The children have also shown kindness to others while out as well as showing us they can stay safe while out. We always have so much fun when we are out and are really looking forward to continuing this next term.





Bluebird Class

It's been a busy term and we are proud of all that our Bluebirds have achieved.
Last week we enjoyed singing Christmas songs with Sonny.



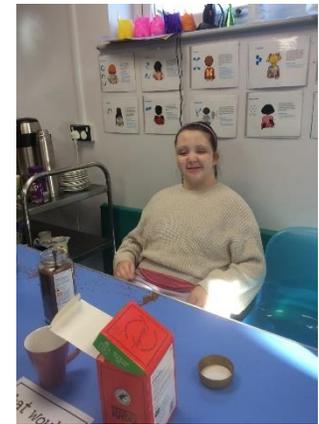
*Merry
Christmas from Bluebirds!*

Sixth Form College

On 6th of December, saw the return of Sixthform Christmas coffee shop! It was our first one since 2019, and was well supported by community. Students from the sixthform assumed roles of barrister, baker, shop worker, till assistant and front of house to ensure the morning was a raring success.

Students had also, during enterprise sessions made christmas crafts and cards that were on sale! Chippenham Fire Service were in attendance ensuring all students and customers had an opportunity to sit in a real fire engine and try on helmets!

We raised over £400 pounds to support us to re-equip our sensory rooms! Well done to all the Sixthform students and a massive thank you to all that attended.



Mr Loveridge's Movember Fund Raiser update

Mr Loveridge has been taking part in Movember this year to raise awareness of and funding for research related to men's health issues, such as prostate cancer, testicular cancer, and mental health.

A huge thank you to all that have supported & donated. The total figure that has been raised is £635!



Sending Medication into School

There is likely to be a time when your child needs to have occasional medication such as antibiotics administered in school – please ensure that where possible, doses are given outside of the school day. However, if it is essential a dose is given whilst your child is at school then please remember:

- We can only administer medication that is sent in with a completed Medication Consent Form
- The medication **MUST** be in its original packaging as dispensed by the pharmacy

If you have any questions regarding this, please contact Margaret Yates, Cross-Site Medical Coordinator via email margaretyates@silverwood.wilts.sch.uk, or a member of the Pupil Services Team.

Dates for your diary

- Thursday 15th December 2022 – Christmas Jumper / Christmas Lunch Day
- Friday 16th December 2022 – Last day of Term 2.

Please note that the school is finishing early on the last day of term 2 – Friday 16th December @ 13:40. Taxis will collect students from school at this time.

- Tuesday 3rd January 2023 – Teacher Training Day, no students in school
- Wednesday 4th January 2023 – First day back after Christmas Holidays - Term 3 Starts
- Friday 10th February 2023 – Last day of term 3
- Monday 20th February 2023 – First day back after half term, start of Term 4
- Friday 31st March 2023 – Last day of Term 4

Please note that the school is finishing early on the last day of term 4 – Friday 31st March @ 13:40. Taxis will collect students from school at this time.

Dear Parents/Carers

Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter.

We hope that you will find this informative and that you are looking forward to the Christmas Break.

If you have any questions regarding the content of the newsletter or about school, you should contact your child's site or use the 'contact us' form found on the school website.

Website - WWW.Silverwood.wilts.sch.uk

Tel – 01380 850309

Email – Admin@Silverwood.wilts.sch.uk

