

Silverwood School

Building Community, Inspiring Learning

Value for Term 4 Perseverance



Dear Parents and Carers

As we close another term, I want to thank you for your continued support and effort to our Silverwood community.

This has been our most successful term to date. The momentum we have in the school is fantastic and so much is being achieved. Silverwood School is a member of Challenge Partners www.challengepartners.org who are an education charity, led by practitioners, through which schools collaborate to improve each other and the education system as a whole, so all children benefit.

“Our philosophy of collaboration, accountability, openness and trust guides everything we do.” Dame Sue John, Executive Director, Challenge Partners

Earlier this month, we had our annual Quality Assurance Review. This is a three-day rigorous peer evaluation of teaching and learning, curriculum and outcomes, and leadership at all levels. Led by an expert lead reviewer, reviews are conducted by a team of head teachers and senior leaders from schools within the Challenge Partners network.

We thought you would be interested in seeing our report summary from Challenge Partners showing the progress we continue to make.
<https://www.silverwood.wilts.sch.uk/latest-news/quality-assurance-report-carried-out-by-challenge-partners>

However, whilst the report is not equivalent to Ofsted it does provide an independent external viewpoint which helps us to continue our development.

Term Dates

Term 5

Mon 1st May – TD Day

Mon 8th May – TD Day

17/04/23 - 26/05/23

Term 6

Mon 5th June – TD Day

06/06/23 – 25/07/23

Please note that the school is finishing early on the last day of term –

Friday 25th July @ 13:40

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 that they can only return to school when they have been clear of symptoms for **48** hours.



Our Challenge Partners' visit evidenced this work in the report attached to this newsletter. We do appreciate that we have more work to do with our approach to parental engagement, but I do hope our parent workshops and other activities are going some way to improving this. As always if you do have any suggestions or observations, please do get in touch with me.

Perseverance has been our value for this term, and this is certainly one of the key qualities that all our children and young people demonstrate day in and day out. I saw this quote that I felt was appropriate for the whole of our Silverwood Community.

Life is not easy for any of us. But what of that? We must have perseverance and above all confidence in ourselves. We must believe that we are gifted for something and that this thing must be attained.
(Marie Curie)

It is an immense privilege to work at Silverwood and if I may, I would like to acknowledge the exceptional efforts of all of our staff. I have not worked in a school before where the team are so dedicated and driven to ensure that each child receives the highest quality of education and the possibility to become the best version of themselves.

I would like to wish you and your families a peaceful and enjoyable Easter holiday.

Best wishes

Sean McKeown
Executive Head

Campus News

Rowde Campus

Lots of very exciting activities and lessons have been happening on the Rowde Campus this term. As usual our pupils have been our best ambassadors, welcoming a host of visitors from new parents, builders and friends from other campuses.

I am always proud of the Campus and the work that happens here. I am especially proud of the way that pupils are always enthusiastic about their learning and always take time to support and celebrate others achievements.

I would like to take an opportunity to thank all the adults involved in the school for making it such a wonderful place to work, learn and play.

Romeo, Romeo, where for art thou Romeo? Easy answer Juliet- Silverwood School-Rowde!

Students were absolutely captivating in their period costumes and wigs that really brought the tragic play to life. It was clear that students were absolutely engrossed in all the trials and tribulations of the feuding Capulet and Montague families- even at times brandishing swords and gesturing wildly! What a performance was had by all- particularly the audience (or groundlings as *they were known in those days*)- also known as Stinkards!



The theatre company was engaging and assigned characters to some of our budding thespians in upper school. Tybalt and Romeo sparred like knaves, Nurse thrashed her hair around wildly and Juliet waved to the crowd- and everyone else laughed and were thoroughly entertained! Thank you to all the students who took part in this really incredible experience.

Students in Year 10 are currently studying Romeo and Juliet as part of their Entry Level qualification in English and there can be no greater learning that acting the play yourself! What a learning experience indeed!



Makaton success

We are having a real push on our Makaton signing across Silverwood School this term, and we are so pleased to see that so many pupils and staff members really giving it a go! Well done to Mrs. Barber, who is working so hard to improve her Makaton. Well done Mrs. Barber - Super Signer!



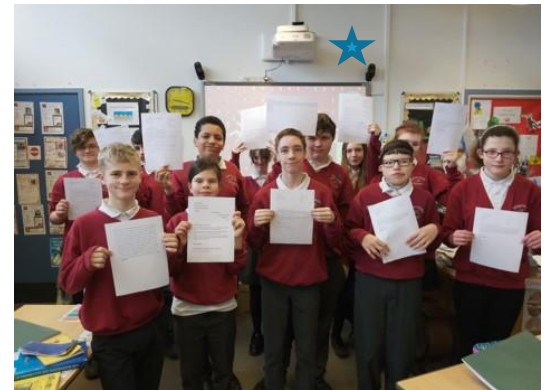
Elm Class

Year 9 Elm Class on the Rowde campus were so moved by the plight of Turkish civilians after the devastating Earthquake that they put pens to paper and wrote letters of support and sympathy. It was readily decided to write letters in English class, using their literacy skills that conveyed support and consolation.

Year 9 students expressed their frustration at being so far away and conveyed their sympathy in words. They wished the Turkish people hope and restoration.

They wanted to assure people suffering in the wake of the earthquake that they were very much at the forefront of their thoughts and that their friends, so very far away in rural Wiltshire; irrelevant of the geographical distance, this did not provide a barrier in feeling very 'close' to the people of Turkey.

It is moments like this where Silverwood students really do embrace and embody the school's core values where *Kindness* really did shine through their amazing sentiments.



Letters were sent to both the Turkish Embassy in London and the British Embassy in Ankara, Turkey.

A few short weeks later and Elm class received a response from the Consul General Mr B. Utku Atakan from the Consulate of the Republic of Turkey in London. He wrote individual letters to all the students who had written their letters, addressing each of the items that had been discussed and took note of the sentiments that had been conveyed by each student.

It was a very moving response and the Consul General wanted to extend his gratitude to the students at Silverwood School for their sensitivity. He stated that "each of the letters is full of affection and hope". The Consul General wrote that "distance and difference do not matter" and that the people of Turkey "could feel your support and prayers".

The Consul personally signed each of the letters. Well done to Elm class, Year 9.



Willow Class

Last term in Willow Class we were doing lots of work about Earth and Space. We wrote poems and found out about space travel. We even invented our own planets and made models of them in art.



This term we have been reading the book Dear Greenpeace and have been writing letters. Mr Melrose answered our letters asking questions about caring for the animals.

In Life skills lessons we have been thinking about the school Community and we invited Ms Chard to come to be interviewed. We made her a cup of tea too!



Beech Class

Beech have had a great term. We visited the Steam Museum in Swindon where we learned about child evacuees in World War 2.

Mr B kindly brought in his WWII artefacts for us to see and we role-played a WWII air raid and took shelter in the cellar.

We learned about food rationing in WWII and tasted Woolton Pie filling made with British grown vegetables.

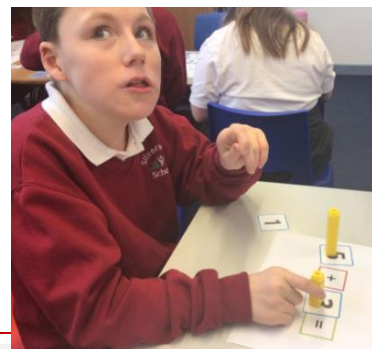


Elder Class

We have been very busy this term in Elder Class. We have been improving our Makaton signing and also learnt about Shakespeare's Macbeth. We made masks and then recorded a performance to put on seesaw.



In Maths we have been sequencing, sorting and grouping objects, shapes and numbers as well as revisiting addition and subtraction. We have also been counting in 2's, 5's and 10's.



In Life Skills we have learnt how to wash and dry clothes and have also spent time learning how to cross roads safely – especially with the darker mornings and evenings this term.



We have been preparing our outdoor area to make sure it is clean and has freshly planted bulbs ready for the Spring.



And finally, a few more pictures to show you some of the things we have been doing.



Plane Class

It has been another busy term in Plane Class. We have been inspired by Shakespeare's *The Tempest* and had fun watching magic happen! We loved working with Elm Class to clean the yurt and cook our damper bread on our freshly whittled sticks. We have also been enjoying learning about France and really enjoyed finding out how we could travel there.

Students were pleased to receive their Student Council, Well-being and Literacy Leader badges, and we have celebrated birthdays too!



Chippenham Campus

Sparrow Class

Sparrow class have been enjoying their music sessions at the bungalow this term as part of our Silverwood Creates Music Project with Will. They have been exploring different instruments, creating sounds together and engaging with a learning activity in an environment which is new for them. It has been great fun and lovely to see the pupils relax into the sessions and explore music in a different setting.



Woodpecker Class

This term Woodpecker Class have been working with vegetables in our Food Tech lessons. We have explored raw veg and made cheesy potato and courgette fritters, pizza and beetroot cake. We used small hand held chopping devices to cut up the vegetables safely. The pizza and beetroot cake were the favourites!!

In Communication and Literacy we have we have combined Literacy with Sensology and listened to a variety of nature poems related to the four seasons. We have experienced hot and cold sensations, worn sun glasses and woolly hats as well as tasting ice-cream and sweet berries.



Bullfinch Class

Bullfinch have really enjoyed their kites this term. They have looked at and tried different kites before designing their own. They used their designs to inform the final product. Of course, they had to be tested! Lots of fun was had testing the kites that they made this term.





Kingfisher Class

Kingfisher class have been doing Gymnastics in PE this term. We have been forming different gymnastic shapes, beginning to link them together and also practicing some gymnastic jumps. The pupils have been doing really well developing their confidence throughout the Term.



Trowbridge Campus

Trowbridge campus are saying thank you and good bye to Swan & Parrots class teacher Sheila James. She has been a very valued member of the team for the last 5 years and will be greatly missed. We wish her well in her retirement.



Owls Class

Owls class have been enjoying PE lessons where we have focused on MATP following our recent training sessions.

Students have been practicing for the future challenge day. They have all worked exceptionally hard this term and I look forward to them being able to show off their skills at the challenge day with our peers from all of the campuses.



Parrots Class

Parrots have had such a brilliant term learning new skills in PE with dance skills taught by Bath Rugby and table cricket with Wiltshire Cricket. In Geography we have been exploring the local area visiting Trowbridge town centre, Tesco and Paxcroft Mead. We have been learning about North American in art, making totem poles and rain makers and getting more confident with recognising numbers to 50. Parrots are amazing learner's.



Useful Information for Parent Carers

The CEA Card

The CEA Card enables a disabled cinema guest aged 8+ years to receive a complimentary ticket for someone to go with them when they visit a participating cinema.

For more information visit: www.ceacard.co.uk/apply

Free Audiobooks & Other Activities

Free books & activities from the World of David Walliams:

www.worldofdavidwalliams.com/

Merlin's Magic Wand

The Charity provides complimentary tickets and fund a contribution towards a travel grant for families to enjoy their day at a Merlin Entertainments' attractions, such as: LEGOLAND Resort® theme parks, SEA LIFE Centres, and Madame Tussauds.

www.merlinsmagicwand.org/apply-for-a-day-out/making-an-application.aspx

Using the loo, is it on your Radar?

One of the things we know you can't forget when you are planning a day trip, is making sure your child can go to the loo. Many accessible toilets are part of the National Key Scheme, so can only be used by people with a Radar key. If you haven't already got one, you can purchase them for £6.00 from Disability Rights.

www.disabilityrightsuk.myshopify.com/products/radar-key

Longleat Concessionary Annual Pass

You can purchase a pass to a whole YEAR of fun! Enjoy a day out with friends and family or simply pop in for an after school treat. Any guest able to provide evidence of disability will be entitled to bring a registered carer **free of charge with a Carer's Annual Pass**. Please bring proof of additional needs to Longleat on the day of your visit.

Visit: www.longleat.co.uk/tickets/concessionary-annual-pass

Kids Pass

Whether it's day-trip adventures, cinema missions, or cosy bites to eat – it's never full price with Kids Pass. Up to 57% off days out & attractions. 30% off adults & child cinema tickets. Up to 25% off family holidays & resorts.

You can try the pass for just £1 for 30 days.

www.kidspass.co.uk

What's on:

Gymability sessions at The Wiltshire School of Gymnastics are offering Free Play sessions aimed at children aged 3-12 years with any physical, mental, emotional, social or sensory challenges



**GYMABILITY
EASTER SESSIONS**

TUESDAYS 4TH APRIL 12:00-1:00
TUESDAYS 11TH APRIL 12:45-1:45

OUR GYMABILITY DROP-IN SESSIONS
ARE FOR CHILDREN AGED 3-12 YEARS
WITH ANY PHYSICAL, MENTAL,
EMOTIONAL, SOCIAL, LANGUAGE,
AND/OR SENSORY CHALLENGES.
CHILDREN AND THEIR PARENTS/CARERS
CAN EXPLORE OUR GYMNASTICS
APPARATUS WITH OUR COACHES IN
ATTENDANCE. SPACES ARE STRICTLY
LIMITED AND MUST BE BOOKED IN
ADVANCE.

BOOK ONLINE NOW!!
WWW.WILTSHIREGYMNASTICS.CO.UK

**THE WILTSHIRE SCHOOL OF GYMNASTICS,
LYSANDER ROAD, BOWERHILL,
MELKSHAM, WILTSHIRE, SN12 6SP**

Riding for the Disabled – Larkrise Farm, Trowbridge

**Riding for the Disabled at Larkrise Farm,
Trowbridge, BA14 6DQ**

30 minute lessons available on Tuesday Evenings throughout the summer starting on 18th April 2023

6.15 – 6.45 or 7.00 – 7.30

£10 per lesson

Riding hats will be provided, boots with a heel should be worn

Children aged 6-16 years

Numbers are limited, please email Jill.hendy197@gmail.com or call 07825 956944 if interested



FACE was set up to empower parents and help those who support children and young adults.

With the stresses and strains of modern life, our children and young adults have never been under so much pressure. We aim to offer advice, tips and support to parents who want to get the best out of their family relationships and need new tools to do that.

Let's FACE is a series of one hour teach and workshop sessions delivered online via ZOOM.

The interactive online sessions are timed to avoid school drop off and pick up times. Each session is repeated, morning, afternoon and evening.

Let's FACE introduces parents to effective and evidence based interventions. Giving parents the tools and information necessary to support their own children.

Online Support for Parents interactive Teach & Workshop sessions (£12 each)

Topics relating to communication, behaviour and emotional management. Offering a range of advice and practical interventions.

**Take a look at our website
and book online**



facefamilyadvice.co.uk

Red Nose Day update

We are delighted to inform you that we have raised a total of £159.60 for Red Nose Day and would like to thank everyone for their efforts in dressing up and donating.



Chippenham Uniform Exchange

[School] has teamed up with Chippenham Uniform Exchange to make second-hand school uniform more accessible to all families. Second-hand uniform can be obtained from Chippenham Uniform Exchange at any time. They run pop-up shops at various locations throughout the year or uniform can be requested directly by email for collection from school. All items of uniform are offered for FREE for a voluntary donation to Chippenham Uniform Exchange if this is affordable. Visit their website www.chippenhamuniformexchange.org.uk, find them on [Facebook](#) or email request@chippenhamuniformexchange.org.uk.

Do you have any second-hand uniform that you can donate to Chippenham Uniform Exchange? They accept all items of primary and secondary school uniform including logo items, PE kit, shoes and coats. See their website for locations of their community donation points. Donations can also be taken to any of their pop-up shops. They will also be holding uniform drives throughout the year at various locations to collect preloved uniform.



Recycling school uniform for
children in Chippenham

Reminders:

School Dinner Ordering:

If your child eats a school dinner, you **MUST** book their meal choice on our ParentPay portal - www.parentpay.com . This can be done weekly or for the whole term. If you child qualifies for a free school meal, you must still book your meal choices via Parent Pay.

The deadline for ordering is midnight each Wednesday for the following week.



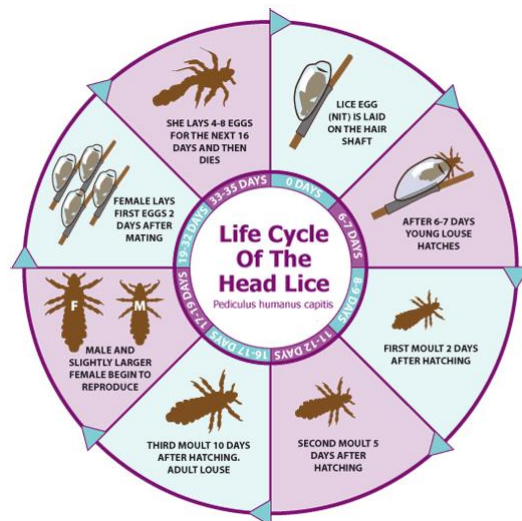
Eynon Catering are our catering suppliers at the Chippenham and Trowbridge Campuses and we are required to place our food orders with them every Thursday. We are unable to do this accurately if parent/carers have not ordered the meal choices for their child via ParentPay.

Please note, any child meal that has been booked via ParentPay will be provided each day. Those that have not booked their meal will be supplied with a meal but this may not be the child's first choice, it will depend on what food is available. To avoid this happening, please book your child's meal choices on Parent Pay.

If you require any support with this please contact a member of the Pupil Services Team on 01380 850309 and they will be more than happy to help.

Head Lice

There has been some reports of Head Lice so please can we ask you are vigilant with checking your child's hair & treating if necessary.



Dates for your diary

- 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.*

- **Monday 17th April 2023 – First day back after Easter Holidays, start of Term 5**
- Monday 24th April 2023 – School Photographer - Class Photo's (Rowde)
- Tuesday 25th April 2023 – School Photographer – Class Photo's (Chippenham)
- Wednesday 26th April 2023 – School Photographer – Class Photo's (Trowbridge)
- Monday 1st May – May Day Bank Holiday
- Monday 8th May 2023 – Additional Bank Holiday for King Charles III Coronation
- **Friday 26th May 2023 – Last day of Term 5**
- Monday 5th June 2023 – Teachers Training Day school closed to students
- **Tuesday 6th June 2023 – First day back after half term holiday, start of Term 6**
- **Tuesday 25th July 2023 – Last day of Term 6**

Student Photo Permissions

Please note that this newsletter is circulated to 400+ student parent/carers fortnightly. If you would like to change your child's photograph permissions and remove them from appearing in any photographs in the Silverwood School newsletter please email admin@silverwood.wilts.sch.uk.

Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter.

We hope that you will find this informative.

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

Telephone - 01380 850309

Email - admin@silverwood.wilts.sch.uk

