

# Newsletter



Newsletter 1

September 6<sup>th</sup> 2019

Assembly Themes: Next week: Rules and Obedience Week after: Responsibility

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! A very warm welcome too, to the new families who have joined the school, and to Miss Clark and Mrs Crunden who have joined the staff. We have had a fantastic start to the term and the children have made a great impression in their new classes. I cannot believe how much they seem to have grown over the summer and have loved catching up with their news!

As always, I will try to ensure as much information as possible is included in the fortnightly newsletter, to give you advance warning as well as (hopefully) helpful information. Newsletters are sent to parents' email addresses – we are always happy to supply paper copies too on request, and the newsletter is also available on the school website the day it is published: [www.codicote.herts.sch.uk](http://www.codicote.herts.sch.uk) happy reading!



## Staff

It is with great pleasure that I share the news of the safe arrival Mr & Mrs Wood's son, Arthur (pictured above), who was born in August. We cannot wait until Mrs Wood and Arthur visit us!

We are delighted to welcome Miss Clark to our team – I know that Year 3 are really enjoying their days with her. Also, I am equally pleased to inform you that Mrs Crunden has joined the school, working with Year 5. Mrs Crunden's children attended our school so she is already completely up to speed with the Codicote ways!

Sadly, at the end of term, we had to bid farewell to Mrs Gregory, who is re-locating to Norfolk. Mrs Gregory has been a wonderful asset to the school as a parent, then learning support assistant, then teaching assistant. In the latter two roles, she undertook an extremely wide range of activities most of which were definitely not on the job descriptions! From making costumes for casts of thousands (or so it seemed!) in drama and dance, to actually writing the plays, she also provided huge support for the dance festivals and school trips.

Mrs Gregory would always be the first to find the humour in any situation, and we have shared many unforgettable, happy times at Cuffley Camp and Green Park! I am sure that the children who came with us can remember laughing about things and situations until our sides hurt! Mrs Gregory was very committed to the school, children and staff, and whilst I know she will be much missed, I am sure you join me in wishing her a very happy life ahead with her family in Norfolk.



## Year 6 Leavers

Thank you very much to our generous Year 6 families, who kindly donated a bench to the school as a leaving present. I know it will be much used. We look forward to seeing our 'Year 7s' visit us in their new uniforms and hope they enjoyed their first few days of term.



### **Information to help you support your child's learning**

Hopefully, the letter from your child's teacher will have made its way home. This provides an overview of the topics covered this term and staffing arrangements. With the next newsletter, I will send home an overview sheet showing the many different elements which make up the children's curriculum, along with the curriculum guides and maps for each year. I will send these as paper copies so that you have them at hand as needed. We will be happy to answer any questions you may have in relation to this topic.

Later in the term, we will be reviewing our homework policy and practice. If you have any views on homework, we would be interested to hear these.



### **Useful contacts**

If there is anything you would like to discuss with me, I am always pleased to meet with you. All of the teachers are happy to speak to you too, regarding any concerns or issues you may have.

As well as your child's class teacher, I thought it would be useful to list other people with key roles in the school. All of these people can be contacted via the School Office, and will be happy to help you:

- Ms Pearce: Office Manager
- Mrs Halliday, Mrs Day & Mrs Bundy: Office Staff
- Mr Blackwell: Caretaker
- Mrs Pollard: Head
- Mr Browne: Deputy Head
- Miss Grainger: Senior teacher
- Mrs Gloyn: Special Needs Coordinator
- Mrs Mansell: 326 After School Club Coordinator
- Mrs Williamson: Chair of Governors



### **Jeans for Genes**

National Jeans for Genes day takes place on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September; children can come into school in denim/home clothes for a small 'fine' – 50p - £1 suggested – all proceeds will be donated to this worthwhile charity.



### **PTFA**

Following a year of fantastic work, I am delighted to inform you that the new climbing frame, funded by the PTFA will be installed during the week beginning 16<sup>th</sup> September. We really appreciate the support the PTFA provide in funding additional resources and opportunities for the children. Last year, as well as purchasing Joey the Jeep for the Foundation Stage and the Romany caravan for Key Stage 1, they also bought the benches for the children on the field, subsidised day trips and extras for each class and paid for the coaches for the whole school pantomime trip. Thank you too, for coming along to events and helping out – it really is a team effort!

Information will be sent out within the next few days regarding the next meeting and AGM which will take place on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September, at 7.30 in the Staff Room. We hope you will be able to come along to find out more, and consider joining the group!



### Class Assemblies

| Date     | Class  | Date     | Class  |
|----------|--------|----------|--------|
| 19.9.19  | Year 6 | 14.11.19 | Year 2 |
| 26.9.19  | Year 5 | 21.11.19 | Year 1 |
| 10.10.19 | Year 4 | 28.11.19 | Year 6 |
| 17.10.19 | Year 3 |          |        |

In class assemblies, the children share their learning with the rest of the school. You are most welcome to join us; it is always worth checking with your child nearer to the date, or with the school office, as we do sometimes need to change the assemblies to fit in with other events.

We expect the children to come into the hall, and sit down quietly – we really appreciate your help with this by finishing conversations when the first children enter. Siblings are welcome to come along too and can be taken into the library or hallway if they become noisy. We hope to see you!



### Clubs

|                  | Before School             | Lunchtime  | After School   |
|------------------|---------------------------|--|--|
| <b>Monday</b>    |                           | Maypole/Country dancing KS2                        | Art Club – Years 2- 4 (starting 16.9.19)                           |
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | Cross Country – Years 2-6 | *Tennis – Year 1                                   |  |
| <b>Wednesday</b> |                           | Sword Dancing – KS2<br>Yoga – KS1                  |  |
| <b>Thursday</b>  | Cross Country – Years 2-6 | *Tennis – Years 2 & 3<br>Coding Club               | Football Club<br>Netball Club                                      |
| <b>Friday</b>    |                           | Choir – Years 4 – 6<br>Film Club (after half term) | Circus Skills: Y 3 & 4 first half term<br>Y 5 & 6 second half term |

Year 6 are welcome to come into school from 8.30 to do Rock Star times tables in the IT suite. KS2 siblings may accompany them to do the same, by prior arrangement with the Office or Mr Browne.

\*Tennis is run by a local coach and a small charge is made for this activity, which goes to the club organiser. This information is sent out by him. All other clubs are run by school staff, and as a result, no cost is involved. Clubs will start the week commencing 9<sup>th</sup> September.



### 326 After School Club

As some of our loyal Year 6 children have now moved onto secondary school, we have a limited number of places available at 326. Please contact Mrs Mansell, or leave a message at the office if you would like your child to attend. In the short term, this means that there are often places available at short notice – again, please contact the School Office if you need a place on a casual basis.

The sessions run from 3.15 to 6.00 p.m. Children receive a snack when they arrive and those who stay for the last hour have a light tea provided. The cost per session is shown below:

- Session 1: 3.15 to 4.15 p.m. – £4.00
- Session 2: 3.15 to 5.15 p.m. – £7.00
- Session 3: 3.15 to 6.00 p.m. – £10.50

Children can be collected at any point within the session at your convenience.

If anyone has any unwanted toys or games which the club may be able to use, we would love to have them.



Dates for the academic year and next year are included in the Newsletter, as well as a list of events. I thought it might be helpful to highlight the following, as their organisation is slightly different from usual.



### Harvest Festival Service

To limit the amount of walking the Reception children have to do for the first Church service of the year, we will be meeting at St. Giles, at 9.00 a.m. on 27<sup>th</sup> September for the Harvest Service. We support home based and overseas charities on alternate years, and this year we will be making a collection for the Bishops Harvest Appeal ‘Lighting up Tanzania’. This project will see around 2,500 family households improved by the installation of a solar panel providing them with electricity. For many people in Tanzania, where access to electricity and light is restricted, households cannot continue to run after dark. They struggle with everyday chores, and children suffer with poor performance and attendance at school. Without electricity, basic services – water, health and education – are all hindered. Lighting up Tanzania will be run from the local church. Key people in the community will be trained to install and repair them. Envelopes with further details will be distributed nearer the time.



### Evening Carol Service with Year 2, 6 & Choir

At the Carol Service, on the evening of the 17<sup>th</sup> December, Year 2 will be performing their Nativity Play. Choir members from Years 4, 5 and 6 will be singing carols, and there will be readings from Year 6. Children from Year 6 who do not wish to do readings/are not in Choir, will not need to attend. The Year 2 children do not do a performance in school as well.



### Secondary School Visits

The Online application system for Secondary places for September 2019 has now opened. Secondary Schools will be holding their open evenings over the next few weeks. Parents of Year 6 children will need to make their applications for Secondary places by 31<sup>st</sup> October. Information has been sent home regarding the process involved.

The open evenings for some local schools are as follows:

| School               | Date                                 | Time             |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| Hitchin Boys School  | Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> September | 6.00 to 8.30 pm. |
| Hitchin Girls School | Tuesday, 24 <sup>h</sup> September   | 5.30 to 8 pm     |
| Monks Walk School    | Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October     | 5.00 - 8.30 pm   |
| The Priory           | Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> October    | 5.30 to 9 pm     |

Details about all schools in Herts is available at <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/school-admissions/research-a-school/find-a-school.aspx#>

As ever, if you would like any support with making your application, please do not hesitate to contact me.



### **School Meals**

As the school menu is the same as last term, we will be going into week two of the choices next week. Meal prices will be £2.60 for pupils in years 3 to 6. Universal free school meals are provided for Reception and Year 1 and 2. Invoices will be set out each half term. If you have any queries regarding school meals, please do not hesitate to contact our school cook – Mrs Martin, who will be pleased to help you.



### **Allergies, Asthma, Medical Conditions and Epi-pens**

We are currently updating our information sheets for children with any condition which might require additional care or support. If this applies to your child, please could you return the form at the bottom of the newsletter, so that we can make sure that the information is shared with all relevant staff, and any necessary arrangements are put into place. We display this information in relevant locations around the school, to ensure that all staff are aware, and can respond effectively to any situation where the child may need additional care. Under GDPR laws, we need your expressed permission to be able to share this information.

Please remember that I am always happy to discuss any issues with you. Thank you for reading this very long newsletter.

Yours sincerely,

Liz Pollard  
HEADTEACHER

## Dates & Events Autumn 2019

| Dates    | Time                         | Event   | People involved                               |
|----------|------------------------------|---|---|
| 17.9.19  | 7.30 p.m.                    | PTFA AGM & Meeting  | Parents & staff                               |
| 19.9.19  | 7.00 p.m.                    | Governors' Meeting  | Governors                                     |
| 20.9.19  | All day                      | Jeans for Genes Day   | Everyone                                      |
| 27.9.19  | 9.00 a.m.                    | Harvest Festival  | Everyone                                      |
| 3.10.19  | All day                      | National Poetry day   | Children & Staff                              |
| 10.10.19 | TBC                          | Years 5/6 Cross Country Running                                   | X Country running team & Mel                  |
| 15.10.19 | All day                      | Nasal Flu Vaccine   | Years R - 6                                   |
| 16.10.19 | TBC                          | Year 5 Dodgeball  | Year 5 Team & Mel                             |
| 16.10.19 | TBC                          | Year 4 Mini Olympics  | Year 4 & Mel                                  |
| 22.10.19 | All day                      | Year 6 to Bletchley Park  | Year 6 Children & Staff                       |
| 23.10.19 | 5 - 7                        | Parent Consultations  | Everyone                                      |
| 24.10.19 | 8.30 a.m. &<br>3.15 – 5 p.m. | Parent Consultations  | Parents & Staff                               |
| 25.10.19 | All day                      | INSET day   | Staff – holiday for children                  |
| 28.10.19 |                              | <b>Half Term</b>  |   |
| 5.11.19  | All day                      | Year 2 visit to Royal Gunpowder Mills                             | Year 2 Children & Staff                       |
| 7.11.19  | All day                      | RE focus Day  | Whole School                                  |
| 8.11.19  | Morning                      | Secondary transition conference                                   | Year 6 children, Staff & Mrs Pollard          |
| 20.11.19 | All day                      | Year 3 visit to Roald Dahl Museum                                 | Year 3 children & staff                       |
| 26.11.19 | TBC                          | Football Tournament – Rural Schools                               | Football team & Staff                         |
| 28.11.19 | 7.00 – 9.00 p.m.             | PTFA Christmas Shopping Evening                                   | Everyone!                                     |
| 28.11.19 | TBC                          | Year 2 Balance Festival   | Year 2 team & Mel                             |
| 29.11.19 | All day                      | Occasional Day  | School closed                                 |
| 5.12.19  | a.m.                         | Panto!  | Children & Staff                              |
| 11.12.19 | p.m.                         | Reception Dress rehearsal   | Children & staff                              |
| 11.12.19 | a.m.                         | Year 1 Dress rehearsal  | Children & staff                              |
| 11.12.19 | a.m.                         | KS 2 Dress Rehearsal  | Children & Staff                              |
| 12.12.19 | 10.30 a.m.                   | Reception Play  | Children, Parents & Staff                     |
| 12.12.19 | 2.15 p.m.                    | Year 1 Play   | Children, Parents & Staff                     |
| 12.12.19 | 7.00 p.m.                    | KS 2 Plays  | Children, Parents & Staff                     |
| 13.12.19 | p.m.                         | Years R, 1 & 2 Party  | Children & Staff                              |
| 13.12.19 | 7.00 p.m.                    | KS 2 Plays  | Children, Parents & Staff                     |
| 17.12.19 | a.m.<br>6.30 p.m.            | Year 2 & 6 Service with School<br>Year 2 & 6 Service with Parents | Children & Staff<br>Children, Parents & Staff |
| 17.12.19 | 12.15 p.m.                   | Christmas Lunch   | Children & Staff & volunteer parents          |
| 18.12.19 | 10.00 a.m.                   | Nursery Play  | Children, Parents & Staff                     |
| 18.12.19 | p.m.                         | Years 3 & 4 Party   | Children & Staff                              |
| 19.12.19 | p.m.                         | Year 5 & 6 Party  | Children & Staff                              |
| 20.12.19 | a.m.                         | Nursery Party   | Children & Staff                              |
| 20.12.19 | 1.15                         | Term ends   | Everyone!                                     |

## Term Dates

On INSET days, staff are working, but it is a holiday for children (used to be a holiday for staff too, before the days of Lord Baker), and the occasional day is a holiday for everyone. If any of this is unclear, please do not hesitate to contact either Ms Pearce, or me.

| <u>2019 - 2020</u>  | <u>2020 - 2021</u>  |
|---|---|
| <p><b><u>AUTUMN TERM 2019</u></b><br/> Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2019 – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2019<br/> (Half term – Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November)<br/> <b>Inset Days: Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September</b><br/> <b>Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October</b><br/> <b>Occasional Day:</b><br/> <b>Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November</b></p> <p><b><u>SPRING TERM 2020</u></b><br/> Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020 – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2020<br/> (Half term Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February)<br/> <b>Inset Day: Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January</b></p> <p><b><u>SUMMER TERM 2020</u></b><br/> Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2020 – Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2020<br/> (Half term Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May)<br/> May Bank Holiday 8<sup>th</sup> May<br/> <b>Inset Days: Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April</b><br/> <b>Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June</b><br/> The above dates equate to 190 school days</p> | <p><b><u>AUTUMN TERM 2020</u></b><br/> Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020 – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020<br/> (Half term – Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October – Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October)<br/> <b>Inset Days: Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September</b><br/> <b>Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October</b><br/> <b>Occasional Day:</b><br/> <b>Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November</b></p> <p><b><u>SPRING TERM 2021</u></b><br/> Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021 – Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2021<br/> (Half term Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February)<br/> <b>Inset Day: Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January</b></p> <p><b><u>SUMMER TERM 2021</u></b><br/> Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021 – Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2021<br/> (Half term Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> June)<br/> May Bank Holiday 3<sup>rd</sup> May<br/> <b>Inset Days: Friday 11<sup>th</sup> June</b><br/> <b>Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July</b><br/> The above dates equate to 190 school days</p> |

**Allergies, Asthma, Medical Conditions and Epi-pens**

**Child's Name:**

**My child has:**

- **An epi-pen**
- **Inhaler**
- **Asthma**
- **Medical condition**
- **Allergy**

**(please tick and provide details as appropriate)**

**I give permission for their photograph and allergy details to be included in a poster displayed in relevant locations around the school – e.g. classrooms and dining room**

**Signed:**

**Date:**

**Please return this form to the school office**