

Newsletter



Newsletter 1

September 8th 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! A warm welcome to our new children and their families too. It is so lovely to see everyone back at school after the holidays; the children have made a fantastic start to the new school year and I think everyone is enjoying the benefits of the new building too. So far, the air conditioning, toilets and chameleon cladding seem to be the biggest hits with both staff and children. Although we were working right up to the last minute to get everything ready for the start of term, it has certainly been worth it. Mr Martin also managed to turn the outside space from a bomb site into a welcoming area for everyone in a record amount of time – I still have no idea how he managed it!



Eagle eyes will have noticed that there are STILL some things which need to be completed, which will be done at weekends to avoid any disruption for the children. Meanwhile, we are all enjoying the simple pleasures of no building noise or dust and being able to park in the car park, and stay parked in the same place for a whole day!



There are lots of things planned for the school year ahead and we are all looking forward to another year filled with learning and fun! This is quite a packed newsletter, so you may wish to make a cup of tea, or get a cool drink before you read on!



Thank you

I am extremely grateful to Mr Martin, Mr Browne and Mr Massey and the staff team for working so hard to get the furniture and resources into the new building, alongside all of the other events happening in school. Due to the mobile and re-purposing other rooms, they have become extremely skilled in the art of furniture removal over the past 7 years, but I have now retired them from this role.



Concrete

I am pleased to confirm that our school is not affected by the RAAC concrete problem. The school was surveyed by Hertfordshire County Council two years ago and the construction method used did not use any of this material.



Staff

The children's teachers and I are always pleased to speak to you regarding any issues or concerns which we can help you with. In addition, there are other members of staff who will be able to answer a range of queries. All of these people can be contacted via the School Office.

Role	Member of Staff
Office Manager	Mrs Jen Martin
Office Admin	Mrs Sheila Bundy
Site Manager	Mr Richard Martin
School Cook	Mrs Elaine Martin
Head	Mrs Liz Pollard
Deputy Head	Mr Kevin Browne
Senior teacher	Miss Kate Grainger
Special Needs Coordinator	Mrs Emma Gloyn
326 After School Club Coordinator	Mrs Sue Mansell
Breakfast Club Coordinator	Miss Emma McKenzie
Chair of Governors	Mrs Debbie Williamson
PTFA Chair	Mr Charlie Unwin

Jen Martin is usually the best person to help with any general queries, and can liaise with class teachers for email communication, and/or to organise a mutually convenient time to meet with you. Communication is treated confidentiality. Her email address is: admin@codicote.herts.sch.uk
For anything I can help with, my direct email address is: head@codicote.herts.sch.uk



Year 6 Leavers

We enjoyed a fantastic evening in the company of the Year 6 leavers and their families, celebrating their time with us. As a gift to the school, they very generously presented us with some gifts for the school grounds. These included beautiful fruit trees, which will be planted in the Forest Schools area, and some wonderful resources for the sensory garden we will be developing this year. We wish all of our children every happiness and success at their new schools.



PTFA

This year's AGM for the Parent & Friends Association (PTFA) is on Wednesday 13th September at 7pm. The PTFA is a group of parents, friends and teachers that run events to bring the school community together so they have fun and raise funds for equipment and resources which enhance the children's learning and play. Anyone can join the PTFA, either as part of the broader network or as a committee member. At the end of term, we lost a large chunk of our committee, as they were Year 6 parents, so we really need new recruits! Please come along to the meeting which will be held in the staffroom.



Class Assemblies

Date	Class	Date	Class
21.9.23	Year 6	2.11.23	Year 1 (1W & 1C)
5.10.23	Year 5G	9.11.23	Year 4
10.10.23	Year 2	16.11.23	Year 5D
		23.11.23	Year 3
		30.11.23	Year 6

You are most welcome to join us at our Class Assemblies, starting at 9:05am, where the children share some of the things they have been doing in class, with the rest of the school. These may change, subject to school events, so it is always advisable to check with your child, their teacher, or the School Office the day before.



Clubs

Day	Before School	Lunchtime	After School
Monday		Maypole & Country Dancing Years 4-6	Netball – Years 5 & 6 (starting 18.9.23) Newspaper Club – KS2 (starting 18.9.23)
Tuesday	Cross Country Years 5 & 6 (From 12.9.23)	Taskmaster Club – Year 4 Year 3 after half term	
Wednesday		Mindfulness Club Years 5 & 6	Forest School Club Years 1 & 2 (Starting 20.9.23) Coding Club Years 3 & 4
Thursday		Ukulele Club Year 4	Football Girls on site Years 3-6 on Rec.
Friday		Choir KS2	

Clubs start w/c 11th September, unless otherwise stated.

These clubs are run by staff, so are free to families. Children are expected to attend the clubs they have signed up for every week. Teams, such as those for football and netball, are selected from the children who attend the club.

Tennis club will continue to run on Tuesdays and Thursday lunchtimes – this is run by the Welwyn Tennis Coach Mark Howard, and there is a small charge. Information is attached to the email via the school office.



Philip

As many of you will be aware, Philip, our vicar, will be retiring and leaving Codicote, to relocate to Derbyshire. There will be a service to celebrate his time at St. Giles on Sunday 10th September from 6.30pm. in the church. It has been a pleasure to have Philip as part of our school, and we value and appreciate his contributions. When he first arrived in the village, he took time to come into school to work with different classes in order to get to know the children. He has led school assemblies and church services, and always welcomed us at St.Giles – whether to worship, or as part of the children's learning in the curriculum. Philip has also been a dedicated and interested member of the Governing Body, showing great commitment to the role.

We have also benefited from Liz's help too; after moving into the village, Liz volunteered at the school, hearing readers and supporting children's learning. We wish Philip and Liz a long and happy retirement.



Dates & details!

The dates for the term, and academic year are included at the end of the newsletter. There are a few events where I thought you would appreciate further information, as soon as possible - these are as follows:



Harvest Festival Service

We will meet at St. Giles Church, at 9.00 a.m. on Wednesday 27th September for the Harvest Service. Nursery and Reception will be holding their own service in school. Registers will be kept open until 9.30, to help parents who need to drop children in two places.

We support home based and overseas charities on alternate years, and this year will be joining the Bishop's Harvest Appeal, *Cracking Food Poverty Together*. This project supports families in Uganda by providing them with chickens. These give them a sustainable and low cost food source, and also provides a new income stream because they can sell some of their eggs and new chicks that hatch. Their first hatchlings are returned to the project so that another family can benefit. Depending on how much money is raised, some funds might also support other food poverty projects, like planting orchards for schools to supplement the diets of their pupils.

We will be sending home plain envelopes which can be decorated on an egg/chicken theme, with messages added. If you are able to spare some coins to go in the envelopes, that would be appreciated. All envelopes will be brought up to alter during the Harvest service.



Evening Carol Service with Year 2, 6 & Choir

At the Carol Service, on 18th December at 6.30pm, Year 2 will be performing their Nativity Play and their parents and carers are warmly invited to join us.

Choir members from Year 6 will be singing carols, and there will be readings from Year 6 children too. Children from Year 6 who do not wish to do readings/are not in Choir, will not need to attend.



Secondary School Visits

The online application system for Secondary School places for September 2024 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 31st October 2023. 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	Tuesday 19 th September	6.00 to 8.00 pm.
Hitchin Girls School	Tuesday, 26 th , Thursday 28 th September and Wednesday 4 th October	Open mornings
Monks Walk School	Thursday 5 th October	5.00 - 8.00 pm
The Priory	Thursday 5 th October	5.30 to 9.30 pm
Bishop's Hatfield Girls' School	Thursday 21 st September	5.00 to 8.00 pm
Katherine Warrington School	Saturday 16 th September	10 a.m. to 2.00 p.m.

Details about all schools in Herts is available at <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/admissions>

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



Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club has got off to a great start, running from 7.50 to 8.50 each morning, at a cost of £4.00 per session – breakfast included. Children are taken from Breakfast Club to their classrooms. Please contact the school office if you would like to book a place for your child. Thank you to Emma, Paula and Beth for their work in setting this up.



Snacks & Nuts

As a Healthy School, our policy on snacks is that children in Years 3 – 6 may bring in a fruit/vegetable snack – e.g. carrot sticks, rice cakes, plain oatcakes or breadsticks snack for morning breaktime. As we have children in school with nut allergies, we ask that you do not provide nuts as a snack. If your child has a particular dietary need, which requires them to have an alternative snack, we are happy to discuss this with you. Thank you for your support.



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.

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

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Allergies, Asthma, Medical Conditions and Epi-pens

Child's Name:

My child has:

An epi-pen	Asthma	Inhaler
Medical condition	Allergy	Other

(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:

Autumn Term Dates

Dates Fixed	Time	Event	People involved
13.9.23	7.00p.m.	PTFA AGM	Parents, Carers & Staff
21.9.23	7.00p.m.	Governors' Meeting	Governors
27.9.23 (TBC)	9.00 a.m.	Harvest Festival	Children & Staff
28.9.23	All day	School photos - individuals	Children & staff
6.10.23	All day	Poetry Day – Theme: Refuge	Children & staff
18.10.23	5 - 7	Parent Consultations - Late	Parents and Staff
19.10.23	8.30 a.m. & 3.30 – 5 p.m.	Parent Consultations – Morning & Early	Parents and Staff
23.10.23	Half Term		
7.11.23	7.00p.m.	Reading Information Evening for Parents – Year R & Year 1	Parents and Staff
16.11.23	All day	Y6 Trip to Duxford	Y6 Children & Staff
23.11.23	7.00 – 9.00 p.m.	PTFA Christmas Shopping Evening	Everyone!
24.11.23	All day	Occasional Day – School closed	Everyone!
Sun 10.12.23	12.00 p.m.	Choir singing at Christmas Tree Festival	
12.12.23	12.00 p.m.	Christmas Lunch	Children & Staff
13.12.23	p.m.	Reception Dress rehearsal	Children & Staff
13.12.23	p.m.	Year 1 Dress rehearsal	Children & Staff
13.12.23	a.m.	KS 2 Dress Rehearsal	Children & Staff
14.12.23	10.30 a.m.	Reception Play	Children, Parents & Staff
14.12.23	2.30 p.m.	Year 1 Play	Children, Parents & Staff
14.12.23	7.00 p.m.	KS 2 Plays	Children, Parents & Staff
15.12.23	10.30 a.m.	Nursery Play	Children, Parents & Staff
15.12.23	p.m.	Year 2 Party	Children & Staff
15.12.23	7.00 p.m.	KS 2 Plays	Children, Parents & Staff
18.12.23	a.m. 6.30p.m.	Year 2 & 6 Service with School Year 2 & 6 Service with Parents	Children & staff Children, Parents & Staff
18.12.23	a.m.	Reception Party	Children & Staff
18.12.23	p.m.	KS2 Parties	Children & Staff
19.12.23	a.m.	Panto!	Children & Staff
19.12.23	p.m.	Year 1 party	Children & Staff
20.12.23	a.m.	Nursery Party	Children & Staff
20.12.23	1.15 p.m.	Term ends	Everyone

<u>2023 - 2024</u>	<u>2024 - 2025</u>
<p><u>AUTUMN TERM 2023</u> Friday 1st September 2023 – Wednesday 20th December 2023</p> <p>(Half term Monday 23rd – Friday 27th October)</p> <p>Inset Days: Friday 1st September Monday 4th September</p> <p>Occasional Day: Friday 24th November</p> <p><u>SPRING TERM 2024</u> Thursday 4th January 2024 – Thursday 28th March 2024 (Half term Monday 19th – Friday 23rd February)</p> <p>Inset Days: Thursday 4th January Friday 5th January</p> <p><u>SUMMER TERM 2024</u> Monday 15th April 2024 – Tuesday 23rd July 2024 (Half term Monday 27th May – Friday 31st May)</p> <p>May Bank Holiday 6th May</p> <p>Inset Day: Friday 7th June</p> <p>The above dates equate to 190 school days</p>	<p><u>AUTUMN TERM 2024</u> Monday 2nd September 2024 – Friday 20th December 2024</p> <p>(Half term Monday 28th Oct – Friday 1st November)</p> <p>Inset Days: Monday 2nd September Friday 25th October</p> <p>Occasional Day: Friday 29th November</p> <p><u>SPRING TERM 2025</u> Monday 6th January 2025 – Friday 4th April 2025 (Half term Monday 17th – Friday 21st February)</p> <p>Inset Days: Monday 6th January</p> <p><u>SUMMER TERM 2025</u> Tuesday 22nd April – Wednesday 23rd July 2025 (Half term Monday 26th – Friday 30th May)</p> <p>May Bank Holiday 5th May</p> <p>Inset Days: Friday 6th June Wednesday 23rd July</p> <p>The above dates equate to 190 school days</p>