

Newsletter



Newsletter 12

1st March, 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back after the half term holiday! Whilst the children have been off, the re-decoration has continued, with the corridor repainted as well as the accessible toilet in Reception (the horrible puce is now a distant memory!). It is a privilege to work somewhere, where every day is filled with learning, laughter and love, and I am delighted we have been able to continue to upgrade the building to make it an even nicer environment to work in too.

It has been lovely to see the children back in school and to hear about their adventures. We have had a busy start to the term, with Year 5 out on a trip to St. Albans yesterday, and the new building official opening today – more below. We all look forward to the rest of the term ahead!



New Building Opening

Thank you to everyone who came to celebrate the opening of the new building – families, former staff and friends. It has been a very special time for us all, to be part of such a significant moment in the history of the school. We have been very lucky to be able to design a building around each child's needs. We sang a song written for the occasion, and the choir gave a beautiful performance. The ribbon was cut by Liam and Leonia – our oldest – and Abdullah and Harper – our youngest - children.

In the entrance, we have a tree made up of the fingerprints of children and staff, to mark the occasion, so that however old we all become, we have marked our time at the start of the this chapter in the school's story.



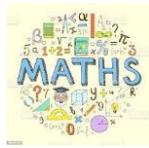
Nursery and Pre-School Partnership

We are delighted to share the news with you that we will be working with Codicote Pre-School to jointly offer 30 hours Nursery Education and childcare for working parents from September 2024. Children will attend Nursery in the mornings, as at present. They will then be collected by the Codicote Pre-School staff and will spend the afternoon there. We will be working closely together to ensure the children gain maximum benefit from being in both settings. Please contact Pre-School, or our School Office if you would like to register your interest.



Sporting Success

Huge congratulations to our fantastic girls Football Team who won their cup match just before half term. The girls played really well, in a very challenging match, and kept their cool eventually winning on penalties! Mr Browne – team coach – was very proud of them. The Netball team has faced some very tough opposition this year. However, they have kept of trying their best, and their efforts were rewarded this week with their first win of the season. Mrs Mason – team coach – has been delighted with the children’s perseverance and positive attitude.



Maths Success

Congratulations to George in Year 5, who has been awarded a silver medal in the National Primary Maths Challenge. This is a huge achievement, as only the top scorers in the country are able to enter the national finals. The questions are very challenging and the age range includes children a year older too. We are also very proud of our Year 5 Maths Team, who did extremely well in the first round of the County Year 5 Maths challenge, achieving top marks in one of the rounds and a high score overall. Now we are keeping our fingers crossed – hoping we have scored highly enough to make it to the finals! Well done to George, Ayaad, Jophie & Elise.



Attendance

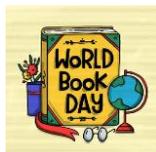
We really value the efforts parents go to, to ensure their children attend school every day. It makes a massive, positive difference to the children’s learning and friendships. Parents may have seen in the media that the Government has announced changes to the laws regarding school attendance. For children who have five days, or 10 half days unauthorised absence in a 10 week period, the fine is increasing to £80 if paid within 21 days, £160 if paid after this time. This means a term time holiday for two children and two parents could incur a fine of up to £640. It is not possible to authorise family holidays. Councils are being strongly encouraged to fine, with attendance data now collected centrally, rather than just recorded at a school level.

The potential to incur a fine is more likely where children’s attendance is below the minimum expected of 95%. I would not wish this to happen to any family, where it could be avoided. To ensure parents are up to speed with the current position in relation to their child, letters will be sent home to any children from Reception to Year 6 where their attendance is below this level. I will not send them to families where a hospital stay has caused this drop in attendance. If you are unsure whether your child should be in school, or which absences can be authorised, please do not hesitate to contact Jen in the School Office, or me.



Hindu Day

As part of our RE curriculum, we will be holding a Hindu Day next Wednesday. The children will be taking part in a wide variety of different activities, which will be led by visitors from the Hare Krishna Temple. I am sure the children will enjoy the day and share the things they have done with you. This day will be funded from the school’s budget.



World Book Day – 7th March

Children may come into school dressed as a book character on Thursday 7th March – it would be great if they can bring the book in too. If this is not possible, we may have the book in the library. We are avoiding film or comic characters so that we can focus on the books the characters come from.

There will be a book fair after school, every day, starting on Thursday 7th March and finishing on Tuesday 12th March. Children will be able to spend their free World Book Day vouchers. Cash and cards will be accepted. The school receives commission, in the form of books, for every book sold, to add to our classrooms and library.



Mothering Sunday Shopping

On Friday 8th March, we will be holding the annual Mothering Sunday Shopping morning, starting at 9.00 a.m. where children can buy a gift for their parent. The cost is £3 – it is really helpful if this can be sent into school in a named envelope. If you are able to help at this event, we would love to have you with us. Please let the office know.



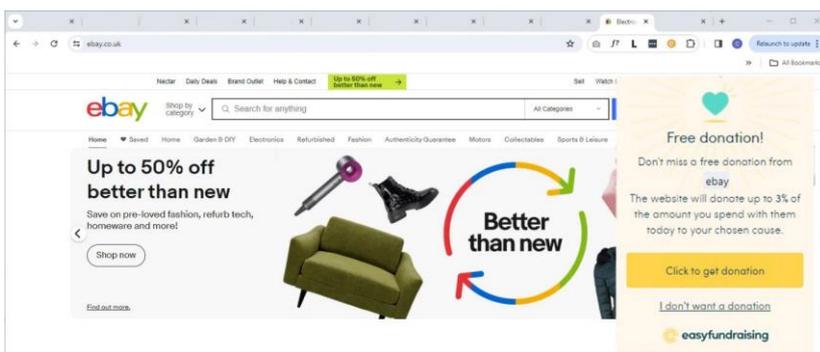
PTFA Fundraising

Did you know that Codicote School PTFA is registered with [Easyfundraising](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/codicoteprimary/) and you could help us to raise funds for the school every time you shop? With over 7,500 of your favourite brands, including John Lewis & Partners, Tesco, eBay, and notonthehighstreet, you will raise FREE donations for our school when you spend.

It only takes a few minutes to sign up, and then you can begin fundraising as you spend via the [Easyfundraising](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/codicoteprimary/) website or app. Visit our Easyfundraising page <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/codicoteprimary/>

You can also download the “Donation Reminder” extension, which will help prompt you to make a donation with every purchase. With the extension, you don’t have to visit [Easyfundraising](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/codicoteprimary/) after you sign up, as the site you are on will ask you if you’d like to donate. It really would make a massive difference to our school.

Below is an example of the popup that comes up when you visit ebay. Below is an example of the popup that comes up when you visit ebay. It is that easy!



Piano Assembly

There will be a Piano Assembly on Monday 11th March, at 9.15. Children learning the piano at school will be performing for the school. Their families are welcome to join us.

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

Yours sincerely,

Liz Pollard
HEADTEACHER



Community News

Codicote Café Church

Cafe Church is church, but with a more contemporary, relaxed feel. The Cafe at PMH opens at 10am selling hot drinks and delicious pastries. There will be activities for the children to try, short videos, singing and a brief talk on the theme of the day: 'THE POWER OF FORGIVENESS'. All are welcome.

A promotional poster for a church event. The background is a blue sky with white clouds. In the center, a woman with curly hair is hugging another person from behind. The text "The Power of forgiveness" is written in a large, stylized font, with "The Power" in blue and "of forgiveness" in white with a blue outline. At the top left is a green circular logo with a white cross and the text "ST GILES CODICOTE". At the top right, it says "Cafe Church 3rd March". At the bottom left, it says "Cafe @ PMH opens 10am". At the bottom right is a green circular logo with a white figure and the text "Prayer of St Francis".

Herts Parent and Carer Involvement

HPCI are holding an information session on 13th March, via webinar about the Autism in Schools project. Further information can be found via this link: [Webinars | Herts Parent Carer Involvement \(hertsparentcarers.org.uk\)](https://www.hertsparentcarers.org.uk/webinars/herts-parent-carer-involvement)

Herts Parent Carer Involvement
www.hertsparentcarers.org.uk

Find out about the 'Autism in Schools' (AIS) project

Click here to register

Hear what our guest speakers can offer you!

HPCI AIS Parent Carer Webinar

Wednesday 13th March 2024 - 10.00am-12.30pm

Logos: Mind Hertfordshire Network, Carers in Hertfordshire, ADD-vance The Oxford Adult Trust, POTENTIAL KIDS, Angels, SPACE, Herts Disability Sports Foundation, NHS Hertfordshire Partnership University, ISL, Hertfordshire SEND 0-25 years Hertfordshire's Local Offer.