

Newsletter



Newsletter 14

17th July, 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I cannot believe we are at the end of another school year – and what a year! Last September, I thought my greatest challenge was going to be managing the cover for three teachers on maternity leave and decisions around possible snow days. Little did I know! Together with you and the children, we have managed a pandemic, a closer home/school partnership than we would ever have imagined, learnt IT skills at a blistering pace and so much handwashing that I am amazed we have any hands left!

Although this is not a year we would have asked for, there have been so many things to take away from it. We didn't think we could love the children any more than we do, but it turns out we can. We have missed them so much, and the joy in seeing them on the google classroom streams and then in REAL LIFE has been incredible! They continued to bring joy to every day throughout lockdown – the way they embraced the daily challenges and shared their successes was a delight and the messages, as well as their lovely work and conversations across the car park will be enduring highlights! We have been really impressed with their resilience, optimism, independence and adaptability – they have done, and been so much more, than we could ever have asked of them.

The staff and I are always very appreciative of your commitment, kindness, sensible parenting, support and sense of humour; the positive way you work with us is one of the key reasons we never want to leave! This has been more evident than ever over the past months.

Every day, I am hugely grateful to work as part of such a committed, dedicated team – a truly harmonious, talented group of people who work really hard and bring the fun factor to everything. This has never been more evident than this year, with everyone willing to go the extra mile for the children. The teachers and support staff have been unstinting in preparing work, responding to communications, delivering packs and resources – online and in real life - and helping each other with IT challenges. I am particularly grateful to:

- Ms Pearse, Mel, and Beth – who have been with me in school every day, covering all the roles which have been needed and making sure that the children have been looked after with great care, and meeting the daily DFE requirements (no mean feat!)
- Mr Blackwell, Rae and Pauline who have been meticulous in making sure the school is as safe and clean as possible.
- Mrs Martin, our school cook, has provided excellent lunches single handedly, in very challenging circumstances, and always with a smile!

We finish the year in a very different place from where we started, but know that our school is so much more than a building – and wherever we are, we always belong to Codicote School.



Mrs Sellers Retirement

Many of your children will have benefitted from the care and teaching of Mrs Sellers. She joined us twenty years ago, as an NQT and has shown unstinting commitment to the life and work of the school. Choir, Music

Club, School Plays, The Royal Albert Hall and Djembe drumming are just a few of the initiatives she led in school. She was also our priest in residence, following her training with the Church of England and led RE and Special Educational Needs in the school. Mrs Sellers was a hugely loyal and committed member of our team, as well as exceptionally funny! As a result of a degenerative eye condition, Mrs Sellers has sadly had to retire early from teaching, although she will continue as a priest. We plan to celebrate her happy and successful time with us as a teacher in our school when restrictions are further lifted.



Farewell!

We are really sad to be saying farewell to Miss Bass who has been a wonderful member of our team. Miss Bass completed her training here, and then stayed to cover Mrs Ogle’s maternity leave. It has been a pleasure to work with such a caring, thoughtful and well organised teacher – I know the children in her class have really enjoyed their happy and productive time with her. We wish her every success in her new post at Peartree School and hope she comes back to visit us regularly!

Goodbye Year 6



It was all going so well until March ... Our Year 6 children have been an outstanding class throughout their time in school - it seems like only yesterday that I was teaching them on a Friday afternoon in Reception! Their singing, dancing, acting and ability to find the fun in every day have been exceptional; Friday morning hymn practices just won’t be the same again and they will always be remembered for their stunning performances in school plays and talent shows. They have made a lovely film for the rest of the school – this is available for everyone to watch on the Google Classroom.

– They have worked hard and achieved exceptionally high standards, as well as taking a very conscientious approach towards any task or responsibility given. They have manners to be proud of and have shown great care and kindness to younger children as well as each other. Through school trips, including mud and rain at Cuffley as we have never seen before, we have shared so many happy times together. I could not have asked for more of them – apart from a whole year in school! I wish them the happiness and success they deserve at their new schools and look forward to them visiting us again in the future.

The secondary schools they are going to are as follows:

Hitchin Boys: 7	Monks Walk:14	Presdales: 1
Hitchin Girls: 3	Priory: 1	Sir John Lawes:1
John Henry Newman:1	St. Georges: 1	Home Education: 1

Their parents have also been very involved with the school and a tremendous support throughout their time; we are hugely grateful to them. Sadly, some of our parents’ time with us will also be coming to an end, although we hope to see them at future events. Jo Hibbert has been a parent at the school (and hopefully a grandparent in the future) for 19 years! Other families include the following: Arun, Beazleigh, Corbett, Cross, Ellis-Milne, Griffin, Howie, Julca-Agarwala, Nash, Parrella, Roberts, Solomon and Stone.



September

At the time of writing, we are planning for a full return to school in September for all year groups. Initially, there will be some limitations on the activities we are able to do in school such as off site visits, clubs and sporting events, but as soon as possible, these will be resumed, as we know how much they add to the children's education.

For the first few weeks, we will continue to offer a staggered start and finish to the day to avoid congestion.

- Arrival: children may arrive between 8.45 and 9.10. We will not be allocating times to each year as this causes issues for parents with children in different year groups.
- Departure: Children may be collected from school from 3.00 p.m. until 3.15.

If there are particular individual issues regarding health risks, parents are able to drive into school and drop/collect their children from the school office, by arrangement.

Organisation: Children will be kept in their class and year group during the day – assemblies will be delivered via Google Classroom.

Belongings: Children will be able to bring in their own pencil cases, water bottles, packed lunches and PE kits. We request that bags are kept as small as possible.

School Uniform: School uniform, hair and shoes will revert back to normal expectations.

Helpers in school: Initially, we will not be able to have any additional helpers. As soon as the situation changes, we will let you know.

Contact: Via the school office, by telephone and by email to: admin@codicote.herts.sch.uk or head@codicote.herts.sch.uk any meetings will need to be by appointment.

If there are any new Government requirements over the holidays, we will let you know.



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Under the new Government guidelines, we will be able to offer some places for 326 again in September. These will need to be regular bookings so that we can plan groupings in advance, and we will be unable to take any last minute bookings. As the situation changes, we will keep you updated. Please contact Mrs Mansell via the school office for further information.



Schools Meals

School meals will cost £2.65 from September; they will continue to be free for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. Further details will be sent out reminding parents of the booking system.



Uniform

As you will be aware, we have arranged an online purchasing system from our school uniform supplier – Wovina. The link is here: <https://www.wovina.com/collections/codicote-primary-school> and on our school website: www.codicote.herts.sch.uk



Stevenage Sporting Future awards

Congratulations to all our finalists in the Stevenage Sporting Futures Awards: Thomas Hawthorn – Young Sports Leader, Mel Doran – Sports Leader of the year (century, in my opinion!), Codicote School for the School Games award and Max Galloway for Young Sport Achiever. We are delighted to announce that Max won this category!

The good news does not finish there either, with Codicote winning the Virtual Tennis and Cricket Competitions in Stevenage and as the overall Hertfordshire School Games Champions too! We are so proud!



Sports Day!

Year 6 held their own mini Sports Day and the results are as follows: First Place- Lodge, 2nd Place – Mimram, 3rd Place – Bury and 4th place – St. Giles. Well done, everyone! All the children took part – some of them in all of the races, and they can be really proud of their achievements!



House Trophy

After a very tight contest throughout the year, with Lodge and St. Giles drawing most weeks, and Mimram and Bury close behind, fighting for 3rd place throughout the year, St. Giles finished the year in the lead by one point, winning the John Clements House Trophy, with Lodge in second place, Mimram in third place and Bury in fourth. Well done to everyone – a great year despite the challenges!



Last Day

Year 6 parents will be aware of the arrangements for the last day of term, to which they are warmly invited:

- Monday: Family picnic – 1.30 – 3.00 p.m. Food provided – ice creams on sale
- Tuesday: Leavers' Service 10.00 a.m.

- 1.15: Leavers' Farewell

Siblings of Year 6 who attend the school are welcome to be in school on Monday and Tuesday or just attend the events.

I hope you all have a very enjoyable holiday, and look forward more than ever before, to seeing the children on Thursday 3rd September at 8.55 a.m.

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

Yours sincerely,

Liz Pollard, Headteacher