

Newsletter

Newsletter 17

16th July 2021



Dear Parents and Carers,



I cannot believe that we are almost at the end of term, and what a year it has been! I remember saying to the staff at the beginning of the school year, that I was expecting to be able to go back to ‘normal’ school after the October half term! Maybe it was better that we didn’t know what was ahead at that point. However, together we have made it! Thanks to our team efforts with you during lockdown, the children continued to be able to follow a full curriculum, during the time they were at home, and we really appreciated all of your hard work and encouragement – often alongside doing your own day job! It has been clear to us all that the children have been very well supported by everyone throughout, they have been positive, resilient and optimistic and it has been a privilege to have had them with us.

I am also hugely grateful to all of the staff. Everyone has willingly and enthusiastically done all they can to make things work for the children. Teachers and support staff did not hesitate when I asked them to work from school during the lockdown, to ensure we could provide a full day’s teaching, learning and trouble- shooting for every child, and late into the evening, lights were on around school, lessons were being recorded for the following day. They have covered every break time to keep the children safe within their bubbles, and have coped with different timetables to enable us to keep everyone separate. Lunchtime staff have done double shifts throughout the year, too, to cover the staggered lunch hours, and have worked extra days to help out too. Jo Pearce and Mel have been amazing – they have been in school with me, every day, since the pandemic started last March and have been fantastic in keeping everything up and running.

HAPPINESS IS



It has been said that people don’t always realise what they have, until they don’t have it any more. I like to think we have always appreciated what belonging to the Codicote School Family brings, but we have certainly remembered to find happiness in the smallest of things. As we move towards the next school year, we will continue to enjoy each and every day – whatever it brings.

I hope that whatever plans you have for the summer, you have an enjoyable holiday.

We Will Miss You!



Goodbyes

Whilst we celebrate the new opportunities ahead for them, we are very sad to be saying goodbye to our much loved colleagues. Jo Pearce, as you know, will be leaving for an extended grown up gap year (or more!), Nicola Crawford will be moving to Cheshire (Mrs Broad has been teaching her to speak fluent northern all year), Lyndsay Robinson is moving out of the area to be closer to her family, and Helen Reed has taken up a post as a Science Technician at a Secondary school. We will miss them enormously, but value all they have contributed, and wish them every success and happiness for the future.



Farewell Year 6

Even without a pandemic, one of the hardest things, is saying goodbye to our Year 6 children at the end of the year. Whilst we are proud of the successful, confident, resourceful children they are, and celebrate the amount of fun and laughter we have shared, we are all so sad to see them go. This class have many things which have marked them out as special – their behaviour is outstanding and they have worked extremely hard throughout their time with us. They will take on any responsibility with grace and a conscientious attitude and have been one of the most harmonious groups of children we have had through the school; their friendships have been a pleasure to see. We wish them all the happiness in the world, as they move to their new schools, and would like to remind them that no matter how old they are, they never stop being a member of Codicote School.

It will be no surprise to know that their parents have also been a pleasure to have as part of our school too. We have had fantastic support from them – the PTFA has benefitted hugely from them taking on key roles. Thank you very much to Sarah Tobin, who has been an excellent chair for our PTFA, Amy Turland who has been a fantastic treasurer, Sophie Churchill who has simply been the backbone of the PTFA and Louise Harwood and Lyndsay Robinson who have worked hard as part of the committee. We have also valued the contribution Vic Hibbins has made as a governor.

For some families, their youngest/only child is now leaving, so we say goodbye to the following families: Galloway, Harwood, Hibbins, Jones, Kingham, Kusmierek-Peh, Long, Moody, Petrides, Plain, Tadgell, Tobin, Turland and Young. I have to specially mention the Plain and Henn families. The Henns have been with us continuously since 2004, and Sarah Plain's oldest son joined the school 21 years ago, had a short break and then re-joined the school in 2011! That is true dedication for you! We hope they will feel welcome to come back to events in the future.

For your interest, these are the schools the Year 6 children will be moving onto:

Hitchin Boys: 4	Hitchin Girls: 7	Monks Walk: 13	Sir John Lawes: 1
Katherine	Bishops Hatfield	Independent School:	St.Albans Girls
Warrington: 1	Girls: 2	1	School: 1



Sports Days

We are all excited about being able to hold Sports days again – it was one of the things the children really missed last year. Although in theory, ‘Freedom Day’ will have happened, removing the expectation that any additional measures will be in place for outdoor events, we will be continuing with the arrangements we have planned, in line with current restrictions. This is partly because we know that a number of families, and staff, have holidays booked, and we do not wish to increase the chances of people having to self-isolate. Therefore, these are the arrangements:

- Two supporters only per family.
- Children will be separate from the spectators at all times.
- Children will be on one side of the track with spectators on the other. They will not be able to cross the track to see each other.
- No spectators can be at the finishing line.
- Children will be sitting in their classes, and will be racing in their classes.
- Seating will have gaps left between chairs – we trust parents to socially distance, to enable vulnerable adults/families to attend.
- Refreshments will not be available, so we suggest that parents bring plenty of water.

Please now keep your fingers crossed for sunshine – but not too much!



Uniform

In September, we expect to be able to return to ‘normal’ school again, in all aspects, so I thought it would be worth reminding everyone of the uniform expectations:

- Navy blue skirt, pinafore dress, culottes or navy trousers, or grey trousers/shorts.
- Pale blue/navy polo shirt*
- Navy blue jumper/sweatshirt/cardigan/school fleece*
- White, grey or navy socks/tights (Funky Fridays – any colour and design the children like!)
- Sensible black flat shoes which children can put on themselves
- Blue/white check dresses or playsuits (summer)
- Plimsolls or trainers for outdoor games.
- Navy Round-necked T Shirt for PE with school logo
- Navy PE Shorts
- Navy Sweatshirt/Navy track suits bottoms for cold weather

* Schools Sweatshirts, Cardigans and Polo Shirts with the School logo printed on are available online from our uniform supplier - Wovina: <https://www.wovina.com/collections/codicote-primary-school> We are keen to re-cycle our school uniform as part of the Eco team’s work – if you would like any items, please let the office know.

We would really appreciate everything being named, including shoes. Every day we have approximately 1,662 items of clothing coming through the door – not including coats and underwear!

Hair should be kept clean and tidy and should not be worn in any extreme style. No patterns or tramlines should be shaved into the hair or eyebrows. Hair should not be shaved below a grade 2.

Jewellery

The only jewellery allowed is stud earrings, if children have had their ears pierced. Before P.E. lessons, these are either to be removed or taped (please provide micro-pore tape from home). If not, children will not be allowed to take part in the lesson. No other piercings are allowed.



Summer Reading Challenge

The library service is running the Summer reading challenge this year, with the theme of : Wild World Heroes! The challenge is to read six library books, e books or eAudios over the summer holidays. Children get stickers for every two books they read and a bookmark, certificate & medal if they complete it. It is free to participate, and further details are available from the website: <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/Libraries>

It is a lovely activity to participate in – the library has an amazing selection of books, and it is great to have free access to such a great resource!



Attendance

You may be aware that all of the usual rules have been already been re-instated by the government regarding school attendance. This term, we have been able to take a flexible approach, given the challenges facing many families. However, we will not be in a position to do this from September. Therefore, I need to ensure everyone is aware of the attendance laws, to maximise the children’s learning opportunities and also to try to ensure parents are not in a position where they may be fined! Children come under the attendance rules, the term after they are five – although obviously, good attendance is always important!

The number of unauthorised absences when a fine may be issued is 15. Each half day counts as one session. Fines are currently £60 per child, per parent if paid within 21 days, rising to £120, per child per parent if it paid between 21 and 28 days. The money goes to the local authority. If the fine is not paid within 28 days, the local authority move to the prosecution stage.

Children with 90% attendance or below, are identified as persistent absentees, and are likely to be followed up by the Local Authority Attendance Improvement officer. This is because it means they have missed the equivalent of ½ a day a fortnight, or 4 weeks of school each year. If this happens regularly, by the time the child takes their GCSEs, they have missed the equivalent of more than a year of their education – clearly, this has a significant impact on their results, and future employment prospects.

As you will be aware, family holidays cannot be authorised – absences for reasons other than ill health, can only be authorised in wholly exceptional or compassionate circumstances. An example of an absence I was able to authorise, because it came under these criteria, was for a child to see their parent receive a police medal for bravery. If you ever have any queries regarding attendance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I have attached the term dates planned at the end of the newsletter. It is likely that there will be an additional day's holiday next year, due to the additional planned bank holiday – we will let you know when this will be, as soon as it is confirmed.



Year 6 Play

We are really proud of our Year 6, for their amazing performances in Wow! What a Year! Their singing, acting and dancing have been amazing. The whole school enjoyed watching it together on Wednesday – it was fantastic to see everyone together again – the first time in 16 months! Each class sat in a separated designated space, to keep them in their bubbles. Thank you very much to the Year 6 team – Mr Browne, Mrs Abrahams, Mrs Day and Mrs Brown – and Thomas Pyle – who produced the play and gave up their evenings for the children to perform it to their families. Fortunately, the weather held last night, so we were able to enjoy the play outside – performed in the courtyard. It is looking positive for tonight too...



Next term

At the moment, we anticipate school returning to pre-covid arrangements, in September, with school starting at 8.55 a.m, and finishing at 3.15. However, we will keep everything under review and should there be any reason for us to need to take a more cautious approach, I will contact you before the start of term. We also plan to use the pedestrian gates for entry and exit, and close the carpark again. However, for any parents with vulnerabilities or mobility issues, we are happy to make appropriate arrangements with you for dropping off and collection.



Collection on last day

Whilst we will not be having an official staggered collection time on the last day, families are able to collect their children after 1.45 if they wish to avoid the crowds, although we would prefer them to be collected by 2p.m. as we will be doing lots of furniture removals once the children have gone home.



Countdown to the Summer Holidays - End of term events

Tuesday 20 th	Wednesday 21 st
9.30 Nursery, Reception & KS1 Sports 1.15 KS 2 Sports	10.00 Leavers' Service on the field – Year 6 parents warmly welcomed 1.15 Farewell to Year 6 in Courtyard – Year 6 families are warmly invited. 1.45 Term ends



Community News

I have been contacted by Channel 4 regarding the next series of The Dog House – details below, if you are thinking of applying to take part!



Diary Date for September: Idance will be holding the following fundraising event:

SATURDAY 11th SEPTEMBER - PARTY IN THE PADDOCK Family Festival at the Robin Hood and Little John, Rabley Heath;

“Don't just sing and dance, make a difference to the children hit hardest by the virus; a magical day of outdoor fun for all the family set in the grounds of this lovely pub.”

Thank you for reading this newsletter. Please remember I am always happy to discuss any issues with you. I look forward to seeing everyone back on Thursday 2nd September, at 8.55 a.m.

Liz Pollard
 HEADTEACHER

<u>2021 - 2022</u>	<u>2022 - 2023</u>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>AUTUMN TERM 2021</u></p> <p>Wednesday 1st September 2021 – Tuesday 21st December 2021 (Half term – Monday 25th October – Friday 29th October)</p> <p>Inset Days: Wednesday 1st September Friday 22nd October</p> <p>Occasional Day: Friday 26th November</p> <p><u>SPRING TERM 2022</u></p> <p>Wednesday 5th January 2022 – Friday 1st April 2022 (Half term Monday 14th February – Friday 18th February)</p> <p>Inset Day: Wednesday 5th January</p> <p><u>SUMMER TERM 2022</u></p> <p>Tuesday 19th April 2022 – Friday 22nd July 2022 (Half term Monday 30th May – Friday 3rd June) May Bank Holiday 2nd May</p> <p>Inset Days: Friday 10th June Friday 22nd July</p> <p>The above dates equate to 190 school days</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>AUTUMN TERM 2022</u></p> <p>Thursday 1st September 2022 – Wednesday 21st December 2022 (Half term – Monday 24th October – Friday 28th October)</p> <p>Inset Days: Thursday 1st September Friday 2nd September</p> <p>Occasional Day: Friday 25th November</p> <p><u>SPRING TERM 2023</u></p> <p>Thursday 5th January 2023 – Friday 31st March 2023 (Half term Monday 13th February – Friday 17th February)</p> <p>Inset Days: Thursday 5th January Friday 6th January</p> <p><u>SUMMER TERM 2023</u></p> <p>Monday 17th April 2023 – Friday 21st July 2023 (Half term Monday 29th May – Friday 2nd June) May Bank Holiday 1st May</p> <p>Inset Day: Friday 9th June</p> <p>The above dates equate to 190 school days</p>