

Newsletter



Newsletter 2

17th September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have all enjoyed a very busy and successful time back at school. The children have been working really hard, and I have given out a number of Gold Headteacher awards already, for fantastic work and outstanding behaviour. It has been lovely to be together in assembly, and I have been very reassured by the children's beautiful singing. It has been a long time since we have been able to sing together and I was a bit worried that standards may have slipped, but phew! Absolutely not!

It is lovely to be able to start re-introducing clubs and activities again, and I look forward to sharing news of these with you over the coming months.



Village Day

Village Day is back, and we are all excited to be taking part again. As you may be aware, it will not be possible for the parade to take place this year, but there are a number of other events to look forward to. Our Maypole dancers have been working hard this week, to practise the dances, after a break of 18 months! They have done really well and are looking forward to performing again at 3.00 p.m. tomorrow. The children were given their costumes today to bring home – we will not have spares with us. I will meet the dancers at the main arena, at 2.45, so we can get organised into our dancing pairs, ready to start at 3.00 p.m..

I look forward to seeing you on Saturday – I am sure we will have a fantastic time!



Harvest Service

We are delighted to be able to return to St. Giles for our Harvest Service and look forward to meeting you there, on Friday 24th September, at 9. a.m. The Nursery and Reception children will be having a 'mini' service at school. They can be dropped at school from 8.55 to 9.30a.m, to help parents who have to drop older children off at church.

To reduce the amount the children need to bring with them to Harvest Festival, they will **not** need to bring a school bag – any spellings, reading diaries homework etc will be checked the

following week. We will also provide water at school, using re-usable cups, so they will not need a water bottle either, unless there is a particular reason for monitoring their fluid intake.



This year, we are collecting for the Codicote Food Bank. This amazing village initiative has really helped people through a difficult patch. Items regularly in demand include: tinned goods (soup, beans, veg etc), pasta, rice and lentils, tea, fruit juice, squash, biscuits, cleaning products and toiletries. These may be brought to church with the children, if you are able to donate an item.



Dogs

It has been lovely to see the number of children who have been encouraged to walk to school with their dogs, and we have all been impressed with the excellent behaviour of both! We recognise that dogs are an important part of family life for many people. However, some children and adults are less confident around animals, and even the best behaved dogs can behave unpredictably when in a noisy, busy crowded environment such as the school playground. Also, it can sometimes be hard to completely sanitise an area where an animal may have needed to go to the toilet. Our priority has to be the safety and well-being of the children at all times. Therefore, we are only able to allow puppies who are carried, or service dogs, such as guide dogs, on school premises. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause you.



Collection from School

If a different person from usual is collecting your child from school, please can you let the teacher or teaching assistant know in person, or via a call to the office in advance. Thank you for your help.



Dodgeball Club

Mel will be running a dodgeball club after school on Wednesdays from 3.15 to 4.15, for Years 5 and 6. It will take place in the hall. We have a competition coming up, so are getting into training!



Meal Changes

Our school cook, Mrs Martin, has had some challenges to face this term with regard to the supply of food. Due to issues in the wholesaler's warehouse, and problems in the supply chain, she has to make changes to the menu at short notice. The good news is that we have plenty of food, so I will not have to do an emergency dash to the supermarket, but Mrs Martin may

sometimes need to alter the menu – for example, substituting chicken for beef on roast day. Where this is the case, she checks the choices against previous ones, dietary and religious requirements and if in doubt, we call the parents. We do apologise in advance, if this means you have cooked pasta bake for tea, and the children have unexpectedly eaten it for lunch as well, but expect the issue to be resolved soon. Thank you for your understanding!



Flu Vaccinations

Flu vaccinations, administered by nasal spray, will be given on Wednesday 3rd November. Further information is attached to the email and consent forms are being sent home. The forms need to be returned to the school office; children will not be vaccinated without consent. Parents who do not wish to have their child vaccinated are also welcome to contact the school office to confirm this, so that the forms are not chased up!



Secondary School Visits

The Online application system for Secondary places for September 2021 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. 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 22 nd Sept 2021	6.00 to 8.30 pm.
Hitchin Girls School	Tuesday 28 th Sept 2021	5.30 to 8 pm
Monks Walk School	Thursday 7 th October	5.00 - 8.00 pm
The Priory	Thursday 7 th 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/secondary-and-upper-schools/secondary-and-upper-school-places.aspx>

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

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

Liz Pollard
HEADTEACHER