

# Newsletter



Newsletter 21

21<sup>st</sup> July, 2022

Dear Parents & Carers,

This is always a lovely, yet very poignant time of the year. It has been wonderful to enjoy a whole year in school together again, with our fabulous children, and sharing events. We been continually impressed with their commitment and hard work. Although they have experienced a few hot days this week, they have been really helpful and cooperative in keeping cool!

It is, however, always hard to say goodbye; we are so proud of our Year 6 children, and watching them grow into the talented, confident children they are today has been a pleasure – more of them below!

I hope you all have a fantastic summer and we look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September at 8.50 a.m.



## Thank you

As a school, we take great pride in the harmonious and positive way everyone in our school community works together, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their hard work and commitment.

- Our families; we are truly grateful to our wonderful families (parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and older siblings) for the incredible support you give us.
- Everyone who helps on the PTFA, and with events, chaired by the amazing Charlie. This small, yet very dedicated group of people has raised £10,000 this year, which will go towards the new trim trail and play equipment for the field
- Our Governors, led by Debbie Williamson, who give up their own time to ensure they fill their roles in supporting, and holding the school to account. They are fantastic.
- Our staff team, who keep the children at the centre of all they do. They go so far above and beyond their roles, to lead clubs and activities, residential visits, extra-curricular opportunities and events, attend performances and productions in their evenings and really go the extra mile to make sure the children are cared for and nurtured at every point in the school day. Their generosity is immense.

I feel extremely privileged to be part of this wonderful community.



## Farewell Year 6

Year 6 have been fantastic! We have known many of them since they were babies, and it has been a pleasure to have had them with us. They have had a very successful year; they are responsible, hard-working, willing to take on any responsibility and excellent role models to younger children. They are also lots of fun and excellent company!

Their parents have also been a joy to work with, and I am really sad that we have to say goodbye to families who we have known for a long time. Thank you to them all, for the commitment they have shown to our school

and children: The Downes, Elliotts, Fields, Goodens, Irelands, Johnstones, Masseys, McNallys, Mustafas, Shadbolts, Shaws, Spitzers, Warringtons, Woods and Woodmans.

We do hope that all of our families will remember that they will always be welcome here and hope to see them at future events.

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

Hitchin Boys: 7	St. Georges: 1	Richard Hale: 2
Hitchin Girls: 5	St. Albans Boys School: 1	Monks Walk: 11
Sherrardswood: 1	Thomas Alleyne: 1	



### **Peter Pan**

The production of *Peter Pan* last week was an absolute delight – going to Neverland was a real treat! Everyone in the production gave it their all, and the singing, acting and dancing were amazing! Due to all of the activities the children have been involved in, it has been difficult scheduling rehearsals where all of the children have been together – but we would never have known! Thank you so much to Mrs Ogle and Mrs Mesher, our producers, to Mrs Foster for helping with singing coaching, to Mrs Abrahams for doing the lights and to Mrs Pyle and Miss Grainger, and their children from Props Club, for doing such a great job with props, scenery and costumes. Lastly, thank you to our audience for coming along and supporting the shows so well!



### **Village Day**

Well done to everyone who represented the school at Village day – the parade looked amazing, and our walking float won first place! Thank you to everyone who came along, and to the parents and staff for walking with us. Isaac and Lucas did a great job keeping us all in line at the front of the float. A huge thank you to Sophie Churchill for sorting out the t-shirts – they looked fantastic!

Well done too, to our fabulous dancers. We had a record turnout of dancers and they have been brilliant – so well organised, helpful and reliable. Thank you to them, and Mrs Mesher, for all their hard work, and to Mrs Eaton, for decorating the maypole crown so beautifully once again.



### **Sports Awards**

Last week we had the honour of attending the Stevenage Sports Awards. Mel finished as runner up in the Sports Organiser category, and Lyla was runner up in the Sports Youth Leader award. However, they are both winners in our eyes, and we are really proud of them.



### **Dancing at the Day Centre**

Well done to all of our maypole, country and sword dancers for giving a great performance at Poynder's Meadow. It was lovely to be welcomed back, and the children danced beautifully!



### **School Expansion**

The building works are continuing to go well. The IT suite has now been turned into a classroom, and most of the contents of the mobile have been moved into the container to enable it to be moved onto the car park over the holidays. Next week, the next step of the project will start. The wall between the hall and the dining room will be removed. My office will be extended (to make space for all the extra filing cabinets!). Year 1 will be re-decorated with new flooring to become a Reception Classroom. The back playground will be re-developed to provide a quiet, seating area and we are hoping the steps outside current Year 5 will also be replaced, to make a level path from the double doors to the new classroom. The mobile will be moved to next to the staffroom, and the wall panels for the new building will be put up.

Thank you for babysitting our non-fiction books over the summer holiday, this has really helped us with storage. I am immensely grateful to the staff for the way they have worked so hard to move all of the furniture and resources in preparation – they are simply incredible!



### **Goodbye for now...**

We enjoyed a lovely day celebrating Mrs Mesher and Mrs Abraham's combined 50 years commitment to our school. The morning started with a re-enactment of their careers, performed by Year 6. We then sang them a song we had been practising, *Shine* by Take That. Next, the children took part in a range of different workshops, before the tea party. We were delighted to welcome back many former pupils and families – it is always a huge pleasure to see them.

Mrs Mesher has committed to working with us one day a week, for a year, and Mrs Abrahams will be doing supply work for us. So although they are both now retired, they will continue to be a part of our school lives. It has been an absolute pleasure to have had them as part of our staff family, and I know they will be much missed on a daily basis.

Other staff who will be leaving us for a while are Libby Corbett, teaching assistant in Reception and midday supervisor, who will be starting her BEd degree in September to become a teacher; and Becca Smith, from 326, who will be starting a degree in Art. Both of them have been a fantastic asset to the school, and we wish them every success at their universities.



### **Sports Day**

A huge thank you to Mel for organising and running our Sports day, ably assisted by the staff team. Thank you for coming along to support the children, and for giving them so much encouragement. It was lovely to see so

many of you here. Well done to all of the children for taking part in such a positive spirit, and congratulations to our winning team: Lodge!



### **School Hours next year**

After considering feedback from everyone, the most popular option for the school day is opening the doors at 8.50 a.m, for a prompt start at 8.55 a.m. and finishing at 3.20 p.m. Nursery hours will be 8.55 to 11.55 a.m.



### **Fantasy Football**

Congratulations to everyone who took part in the Fantasy football competition organised by Mrs Broad. This year, Matthew from Year 5 finished in 3<sup>rd</sup> place, Ava from Year 3 came second, and George R-O from Year 3 was the winner! Thanks to Mrs Broad for running this popular event!

Please remember that I am always happy to discuss any issues with you. Happy Summer Holidays - I hope you all have a relaxing and happy time! Thank you for reading this newsletter.

Yours sincerely,

Liz Pollard  
HEADTEACHER

## Term Dates

<u>2022 - 2023</u>	<u>2023 - 2024</u>
<p><b><u>AUTUMN TERM 2022</u></b> Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022 – Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2022 (Half term – Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October – Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October) <b>Inset Days: Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> September Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> September</b></p> <p><b>Occasional Day: Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November</b></p> <p><b><u>SPRING TERM 2023</u></b> Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2023 – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 (Half term Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February) <b>Inset Days: Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January Friday 6<sup>th</sup> January</b></p> <p><b><u>SUMMER TERM 2023</u></b> Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023 – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2023 (Half term Monday 29<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June) May Bank Holiday: Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May <b>Inset Day: Friday 9<sup>th</sup> June</b></p> <p>The above dates equate to 190 school days</p>	<p><b><u>AUTUMN TERM 2023</u></b> Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023 – Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2023 (Half term – Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October) <b>Inset Days: Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September</b></p> <p><b>Occasional Day: Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November</b></p> <p><b><u>SPRING TERM 2024</u></b> Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2024 – Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2024 (Half term Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February) <b>Inset Days: Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January</b></p> <p><b><u>SUMMER TERM 2024</u></b> Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024 – Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2024 (Half term Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May) May Bank Holiday: Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May <b>Inset Day: Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June</b></p> <p>The above dates equate to 190 school days</p>