

Newsletter



Newsletter 21

21st July, 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was lovely to see so many of you at the Open Evening last week. I hope you enjoyed looking around the school with your children. Next term, we will organise a time for KS2 children to show their parents round their new classroom, after school.

I cannot believe we are now at the end of the school year! Although there have been challenges, due to the building work, everyone in our school community has worked together really well to provide the standard of education and care, and the opportunities we want for our children. Thank you for your consideration and understanding throughout this time. I have been really impressed with how resourceful and flexible everyone has been, and how we have kept a sense of humour and perspective on the things which really matter, throughout! Codicote School really is a very special place to be.



Thank you

There are so many people I would like to thank for all of their hard work throughout the year:

- **The Children:** It is an absolute pleasure to work with children who are so positive, enthusiastic, hardworking and fun. They are liquid sunshine and bring so much joy to their learning each day. Although they have been coping with changes throughout the year, due to the building works, they have been really sensible, flexible and resourceful.
- **Our Families:** The staff and I really appreciate the dedication shown by our parents and wider families, and we value your kindness and support throughout the year. Thank you too, for all of your lovely comments regarding the school reports; these are hugely appreciated by the staff.
- **The PTFA:** Led by the incredibly hard working Charlie, we have had a fantastic team of people helping us – parents and staff – who have raised lots of money for the benefit of the children. We are so grateful to the time they have given. A number of people will be leaving this year, as their children are in Year 6, so if you are able to help our PTFA, we would love to hear from you.
- **Governors:** Our Governing Body are completely dedicated to the school, and ensure that they fulfil their roles diligently. This year, they have had the additional challenge of the new building, and we have all benefitted from their expertise and experience. Thank you to our Chair, Debbie Williamson for her calm and insightful leadership.
- **The Staff:** I am always so proud to be part of such a fantastic, harmonious team. Everyone shows such commitment to the children and the school. They work tirelessly, and are very generous in giving their time to enable so many extra-curricular activities, including residential trips to take place. They are also brilliant at moving furniture!!



Year 6

Our Year 6 have been a fantastic group of children, all the way through school, and have really shone in so many ways this year. They have undertaken every responsibility with a very conscientious attitude and led

the school brilliantly as role models. I will particularly miss their amazing singing – Friday morning Hymn Practice has been a real treat all year. The pets will also miss them enormously. They have also been wonderful ambassadors for the school in the extra- curricular activities they have been involved in.

They have also worked extremely hard to achieve fantastic results. Many people will have seen information in the media regarding the difficulty of the KS2 SATs this year. This makes their achievements even more outstanding. These are their results compared with national data:

	Age Related Expectations	Age Related Expectations	Working at greater depth	Working at greater depth	Scaled Score	Scaled score
	School	National 2023	School	National 2022*	School	National 2023
Reading	94%	73%	42%	28	108.5	105
Maths	88%	73%	35%	23	107	104
Writing	92%	71%	27%	13	N/A	N/A
SPAG	88%	72%	38%	N/A	107	105
RWM	79%	59%	27%	7	N/A	N/A

*2023 not yet available

For your interest, these are the schools the children will be joining in September:

Monks Walk	Priory School	Katherine Warrington
Hitchin Boys	Hitchin Girls	Bishops Hatfield Girls School
Barnwell	Roundwood	St. Albans High School
Richard Hale	John Henry Newman	Kingshott
Haileybury and Imperial Service College		

We will miss our charming Year 6 children enormously, and are also very sad to see their equally charming parents leave, where their child is the last one at our school. Families leaving us include: The Balls, Bouneghars, Brett-Lavelles (after 19 years!), Chipperfields, Coopers, Fabros, Hopkins, Johnsons, Llewellyns, Lfteris, Momcilovics, Mortons, Oliwa/Kilmisters, Omastas, Perrys, Taylor Edwards, Tillsons, Raws, Whitbreads and Woodward. We appreciate all you have done for us, and hope you will stay in touch.



New building and Autumn Term

This week, we have been busy moving into the new building to be ready for the start of term. Again, everyone has been amazing and worked so hard to transport 8 classrooms of furniture and resources into the new building. I really appreciate how flexible and positive the staff have been in making this happen.

On the first day of term, the children will meet their teachers in the following areas:

- Reception & Nursery: Outside their classrooms.
- Year 1: On the KS1 playground, outside current Year 1 and 2 classrooms.
- Year 2: On the back playground
- KS2: On the back playground

We will then show the children the doors they will enter and leave through each day.



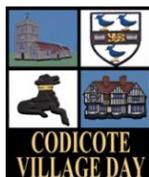
Breakfast Club

Following positive feedback from parents, our Breakfast Club will be starting on the first day of term, at 7.45 a.m. Entry will be through the 326 door. A breakfast of toast and cereal will be provided. The charge is £4.00 per day, per child, and sessions can be booked via email to admin@codicote.herts.sch.uk. Please could bookings for the first week back be sent by Friday 1st September.



Amazing achievements

We were extremely proud to hear that three of our children had been selected to represent Great Britain in the World Karate Championships. The children did extremely well. Zak just missed out on reaching the final, and was placed 11th, Evelyn won a bronze medal and Elena won a silver medal – just missing gold by 0.1point! Elena also won the Stevenage Sporting Futures Elite Performer of the Year Award for her achievements in Karate. Congratulations to them all. It has been lovely to see their progress over the years – they train here on a Tuesday evening and are really dedicated. We hope to hear of their continued success in the future.



Village Day and Dancing

After so much good weather, it was a real shame that Village Day had to be cancelled this year. I am extremely grateful to Beth Whitbread for all of the work she put into our walking float – we have kept everything safe for next year! Thank you too, to the amazing Mrs Eaton, who again, decorated our maypole crown so beautifully. This wasn't wasted either – it still looked fantastic when we took the dancers to Poynders Meadow to perform. The children's dancing was brilliant, and we were really impressed with how sensible they were too.

Despite the disappointment of not being able to lead the parade, the Village Day King - Will, Queen - Chiara and Princesses – Poppy M and Freya, have shown the qualities they were elected for, throughout the week and behaved with grace and dignity. They have handed out medals and certificates, opened events, helped in Assembly and generally been fantastic!



Piano Assembly

Well done to all of the children who performed in the recent Piano Assembly. This was our first since before the pandemic, and all of the children did really well, with children sharing pieces they have learnt from Reception to Year 6! Thank you to everyone who came along to watch, and to our Piano teacher – Yanessa Welch.



Printer Cartridges

Thank you very much to Sara Llewellyn, who has been running the cartridge re-cycling project for us. This year, we raised a total of £47.85 for the Red Cross. Thank you for your donations. We will continue to collect and re-cycle computer cartridges next year.



House Trophy

The children have earned an incredible amount of house points over the year for excellent behaviour and hard work. The final results are as follows: Mimram – first place, followed by Bury, then St. Giles, then Lodge.



Sports Day

Well done to everyone involved in Sports Day! Although we had to come up with a plan B, the children showed a truly sporting attitude throughout, and tried their hardest in every activity. We really appreciated your support and the positive feedback you gave. Thank you to Miss Doran, who organised the day for us, and to our staff and former pupils for all the work they put into making things run smoothly. The results were: Lodge – first place, followed by Mimram, then St. Giles, then Bury.



Music Club

Thank you to our fantastic Music Club team, who staged a magical production of *The Wizard of Oz* last Friday. The singing, dancing, acting and scenery were all fantastic. Thank you to our performers, Props Club – led by Mrs Pyle and Miss Grainger, and the producers – Mrs Foster, Mrs Ogle and Mr Pyle.

I hope everyone has a very enjoyable and relaxing summer, and look forward to welcoming everyone back on Tuesday 5th September, at 8.50 a.m.

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

Yours sincerely,

Liz Pollard
HEADTEACHER

*Term dates for 2023 – 2025 shown below

<u>2023 - 2024</u>	<u>2024 - 2025</u>
<p><u>AUTUMN TERM 2023</u> Friday 1st September 2023 – Wednesday 20th December 2023</p> <p>(Half term Monday 23rd – Friday 27th October)</p> <p>Inset Days: Friday 1st September Monday 4th September</p> <p>Occasional Day: Friday 24th November</p>	<p><u>AUTUMN TERM 2024</u> Monday 2nd September 2024 – Friday 20th December 2024</p> <p>(Half term Monday 28th Oct – Friday 1st November)</p> <p>Inset Days: Monday 2nd September Friday 25th October</p> <p>Occasional Day: Friday 29th November</p>
<p><u>SPRING TERM 2024</u> Thursday 4th January 2024 – Thursday 28th March 2024</p> <p>(Half term Monday 19th – Friday 23rd February)</p> <p>Inset Days: Thursday 4th January Friday 5th January</p>	<p><u>SPRING TERM 2025</u> Monday 6th January 2025 – Friday 4th April 2025</p> <p>(Half term Monday 17th – Friday 21st February)</p> <p>Inset Days: Monday 6th January</p>
<p><u>SUMMER TERM 2024</u> Monday 15th April 2024 – Tuesday 23rd July 2024</p> <p>(Half term Monday 27th May – Friday 31st May)</p> <p>May Bank Holiday 6th May</p> <p>Inset Day: Friday 7th June</p> <p>The above dates equate to 190 school days</p>	<p><u>SUMMER TERM 2025</u> Tuesday 22nd April – Wednesday 23rd July 2025</p> <p>(Half term Monday 26th – Friday 30th May)</p> <p>May Bank Holiday 5th May</p> <p>Inset Days: Friday 6th June Wednesday 23rd July</p> <p>The above dates equate to 190 school days</p>