

Newsletter



Newsletter 3

October 2nd 2020

Assembly Themes: Next week: Working together Week after: We are all important/special

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have enjoyed another fantastic fortnight with the children. They have continued to be adaptable, flexible and resilient and cope with the changes in the usual routines extremely well. As the classes cannot physically meet up, we have been holding assemblies on line. Seeing all of the children on the screen is certainly a lovely way to start the day! Last week we held an online Harvest Celebration, focussed on Bees, with each class presenting on screen. Yesterday, we shared National Poetry day, on the theme of Vision, with the children performing a wide variety of poems. Both events were hugely enjoyed by us all. We are all thinking of events and initiatives that we can do with the children, to keep school life fun, and have some exciting ideas for Christmas – watch this space...



Teaching and Learning

We really appreciate all you do to support your child's learning. Many parents have asked how they can help their child further at home, aware that they will have missed some aspects of the curriculum due to the school closures. Today, the children from Reception to Year 6 will be bringing home Curriculum guides for their year group, which include details of Maths, Reading and Writing and tips and suggestions for helping at home. They will also have a curriculum map showing the areas they will be covering this year, and the curriculum design map, which shows the many aspects which make up learning in our school.

I cannot over emphasise the benefits to your children of being read to regularly, practising their reading by reading aloud to you and learning any spellings given using the 'look, say, cover, write, check approach. Learning their times tables makes a massive difference to their Maths, as so many aspects are based around multiplication. Our philosophy regarding any work sent home, is that it has to be of direct relevance and benefit to your child, preparing for, consolidating and re-enforcing learning undertaken in class. For this reason, we hope that children can be expected to complete it, when given. The homework policy is available on the school website. If there is any further information you would find helpful, or you have any queries about home learning activities, please do not hesitate to contact me.



School Expansion

It came as quite a surprise for us all to read in the local paper that planning permission has been granted for the school to expand! You may have seen the article on line – with a very old picture of the school. Although we have been working closely with the local authority, to ensure we can meet the need for school places in the area, there have been a number of delays due to the covid situation. This latest development means that should the

planned housing be built, the school will expand to two forms of entry and there will be sufficient places for the children in the village.

I am not able to give any indication of timescale, as the processes are not within our control. However, I can share that the school is in a position to move quickly if needed – we have a beautiful new block designed with our architects – many of you will have seen it at the open house event – and we have a staffing plan ready too. When we have any updates to share, I will do so.



Jeans for Genes

Thank you so much for your generous support for the Jeans for Genes appeal which raised £222.76! The money has been sent to the appeal, where I am sure it will be put to good use!



Christmas Card Orders

It has been lovely to see the beautiful Christmas card designs coming into school. As you will be aware from the accompanying letter, the deadline for bringing these in is Monday 5th October. Unfortunately, we will not be able to process any brought into school after this time. Thank you for all of the ones returned so far. In due course, you will be given a sample card of the design and can then order any items you wish, in plenty of time for Christmas.



COVID Update

The children are managing extremely well with the arrangements in place. We are keeping everything under review as local and national information is released. This week, we have purchased a large quantity of exciting new playground equipment for the children, as they are not able to play games such as football due to the restrictions on physical contact. We are reviewing our arrangements for PE too, to ensure we can continue to provide plenty of different activities safely, when the weather changes and we have to be indoors more.

We appreciate your help with social distancing around the school premises and intend to continue to allow families to use the car park and side gate to access the classrooms. The main gate can be used for people arriving and leaving from Meadow Way, and the side gate at the front is also used as an exit. The gate from the footpath (next to the bottom playground) is used as an entrance only, to avoid people having to pass each other in a confined space.

With the one way system outside school grounds, we are aware that with the weather worsening, it may not be practical for people to use the path across the field when leaving school premises, so people will need to use their discretion to avoid too many people passing each other at once, when using the footpath. Please let us know if there are individual issues we can help you with, regarding arrivals or departures. We will continue to operate a staggered start and finish to the day to limit the number of people on the school site at once.



Parent Teacher Consultations

With the new restrictions in place, we will be unable to hold face to face meetings, so we are going online! We have been able to work with the company we used last year for the appointment booking system, and will be able to offer online appointments for you to speak with your child's/children's teacher remotely. These will work with phone or laptop cameras. The system ensures the appointments run strictly to time, to ensure people's privacy during their appointment, by starting, and finishing the appointments automatically. The meetings will be for parents and carers, and children should be otherwise occupied.

Any pupil passports for children with additional needs will be sent home prior to the appointments. Mrs Gloyn, our SENCO, will be pleased to arrange a time to discuss any queries or concerns. She can be contacted via the school office.

I hope you all have a safe and relaxing weekend. Please remember that I am always happy to discuss any issues with you. Thank you for reading this newsletter.

Yours sincerely,

Liz Pollard

HEADTEACHER



CODICOTE PRE-SCHOOL

ST. GILES PARISH CENTRE, BURY LANE, CODICOTE SG4 8XX +44 (0)7542 285 412

We currently have limited spaces for Autumn term starts in our setting for Pre-school aged children aged 2 or above and are starting to fill up for the rest of this academic year.

If you are interested in sending your child to us please get in touch:

07542285412 (9:25 am-12:25pm) or info@codicotepreschool.co.uk

At Codicote Pre-School we offer funded places for eligible 2, 3 and 4 year-olds (see criteria below) and to help fee paying we are registered for Employer Childcare Voucher Schemes, Tax -free Childcare and The Childcare Grant Scheme (for full time Higher Education Students).

All 3 and 4-year-olds are eligible for 15 hours of free childcare/early years education from the start of the term after the child's 3rd Birthday. We are also able to accept the 30 hours as funding if split between providers.

Eligibility Criteria for 2-year-old (for some from 2nd birthday) for 15 hours of free childcare/ early years education getting one of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Universal Credit, and your household income is £15,400 a year or less after tax, not including benefit payments
- tax credits, and your household income is £16,190 a year or less before tax
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- the Working Tax Credit 4-week run on

or if the child:

- is looked after by a local authority
- has a statement of special education needs (SEN) or an education, health and care (EHC) plan
- gets Disability Living Allowance
- has left care under an adoption order, special guardianship order or a child arrangement order

You can instantly check 2-year-old free childcare eligibility here:

https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/ufs/CSF_FEE_2YRCLAIM.eb?ebd=0&ebz=1_1601380790992

