

Newsletter



Newsletter 5

5th November, 2021

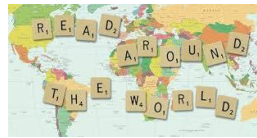
Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! I hope everyone enjoyed a relaxing half term. It has been lovely to hear about the children's activities over the holidays, and they have come back full of energy and enthusiasm. We have lots of things to look forward to over the next half term, and are pleased to be in a position to share these with you.



Well done Children!

As you will be aware, the nasal flu vaccinations took place this week. Afterwards, the team asked me to specifically thank all of the children, for their excellent behaviour and beautiful manners. They said that they visit lots of schools and that our children were outstanding! We can all be very proud of them.



Reading Challenge!

We are setting the children a challenge, to read all the way around the world – hopefully by Christmas! Next week, your child will be bringing a Reading Challenge Card home with them. Each time they read aloud to you equates to 10 km. This means if all 276 children read just once a week, we can all travel 2,760 km. Cards will be given out on Monday for you to initial – these need to be brought into school each day. In Nursery, you can initial the card when you read to your child. On Mondays, the totals for every child in every class will be added up, and on Tuesday, in assembly, we can see how far we can go!

We would like all children from Years R to 6 to read aloud, even if they are free readers, as it really helps them to take note of punctuation and add expression in their reading. Everyone contributes, however many times they read, it all counts!

We have lots of fun and exciting fiction and non-fiction books in our library and classrooms, as well as reading scheme books. Many of our children are avid readers and read a wide range of books – we ask for suggestions from them, and buy the books they would like to read. If your child appears to be struggling to find something they enjoy, please let us know and we will be happy to help them.



Christmas Card Orders

Thank you to everyone who has returned their Christmas card order already. Please can all other orders be returned by Tuesday, in order for us to meet the production deadline? Thank you in advance for your help.



Primary Applications

The Applications system has opened for children due to start in Reception in September 2022. Further details can be found via the following link:

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/school-admissions/primary-junior-and-middle-schools/primary-junior-and-middle-school-places.aspx>

Please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Martin in the school office, or me if you need any help in making your application. All applications need to be made by 15th January, 2022.



School Expansion

We have been informed that it is expected that the school expansion will now go ahead for September 2023. Additional classrooms and facilities will be built on the existing site, and we will acquire the field on the other side of the footpath, which will be fenced in and used for sports lessons and events. These will replace the existing mobile, and add additional classrooms. Some remodelling will take place with the current building too.

The staff and governors have been aware of this possibility for some time and have been considering every aspect, to ensure current and future children experience the ethos and quality of education we value at Codicote. Following the exhibition evening in 2019, feedback on the building design was universally positive. Mr Browne and I have been fully involved in the process to ensure the learning environment has maximum impact on learning and well-being. We will continue to upgrade the existing building and external areas; money has been set aside in the budget to enable this to happen.

Whilst there are a number of differing opinions regarding the village having additional housing, the school focus will be entirely on the children, and ensuring that the expansion process is positive and productive, maximising any benefits and opportunities it offers. The Governors and I will update you at every stage of the process, and as details are finalised, we will report these to you via the newsletter.



Football

Following a very successful tournament last term, when the football team did not concede a single goal, they are now through to the County tournament. We are keeping everything crossed for them – they are a fantastic team, who really go the extra mile to do their best!



School Plays

We are delighted to be able to start Christmas Plays again and look forward to sharing these with you in December; rehearsals are underway and things are shaping up well! This year, things will need to be a little different from usual, to protect families, children and staff, and hopefully ensure people are able to celebrate Christmas with each other.

To ensure we are able to give our audience enough space and be a suitable distance from the stage, we have decided to reduce the amount of seating in the hall. This means we will be providing two free tickets per family for the performances. Parents of children in Years 3 to 6 will be able to choose between the Thursday or Friday productions. We are aware that this means grandparents may not be able to attend, and apologise for any disappointment this may cause. However, parents will still be able to film their children to show family members, provided they abide by the school's rule that this must not be shared on any social media. This is to protect children in the school who are not able to have any images of them online.

This decision only applies to this year – in future we expect to be able to return to welcoming wider family members back into school, but we want to protect you and your children as far as we possibly can, whilst continuing with Christmas events we all enjoy.



PTFA



Film Night – Friday 12th November, 2021 6.00 p.m. – 8.00 p.m.

Tickets for film night are selling quickly – these cost £3 and need to be purchased in advance so that we can ensure appropriate distancing in the classrooms.

Children are asked to bring a drink with them and a snack will be provided – cost included in the ticket price.



Meet Father Christmas! Thursday 25th November 5.00 p.m. – 7.00 p.m.

Come along to meet Father Christmas in his outdoor grotto! Tickets will be on sale soon, with a half hour entry slot, at a cost of £2.50. This includes a

small gift from Father Christmas himself! Mulled wine, hot chocolate, cold drinks and snacks will be available to purchase. All funds will go towards the Whole School Pantomime visit.



Save the date! Summer Do – 25th June 2022 - 6.30 p.m. until late!

We are planning the return of this popular family event for the summer, which includes food and live music.

Next meeting: Monday 10th January at 7 p.m. Everyone welcome!

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

Liz Pollard
HEADTEACHER

Dates & Events Autumn 2021

Date	Time	Event	People involved
25.11.21	5.00 p.m. – 7.00 p.m.	PTFA Meet Father Christmas evening	PTFA
26.11.21	All Day	Occasional Day – school closed	Everyone!
8.12.21	p.m.	Reception Dress rehearsal	Children & Staff
8.12.21	p.m.	Year 1 Dress rehearsal	Children & Staff
8.12.21	a.m.	KS 2 Dress Rehearsal	Children & Staff
9.12.21	10.30	Reception Play	Children, Staff & Parents
9.12.21	2.15	Year 1 Play	Children, Staff & Parents
9.12.21	7.00 p.m.	KS 2 Plays	Children, Staff & Parents
10.12.21	a.m.	Panto!	All Children & Staff
10.12.21	7.00 p.m.	KS 2 Plays	Children, Staff & Parents
14.12.21	10.00	Nursery Play	Children, Staff & Parents
15.12.21	a.m.	Year 2 & 6 Service with School	Children & Staff
15.12.21	6.30 p.m.	Year 2 & 6 Service with Parents	All Year 6 & 2 Children, Staff & Parents
15.12.21	12.15	Christmas Lunch	Children, Staff & volunteer Parents
16.12.21	p.m.	Years R, 1 & 2 Party	Children & Staff
17.12.21	p.m.	Years 3 & 4 Party	Children & Staff
20.12.21	p.m.	Year 5 & 6 Party	Children & Staff
21.12.21	a.m.	Nursery Party	Children & Staff
21.12.21	1.15	Term ends	Children, Staff & Parents