

Newsletter



Newsletter 5

November 6th 2020

Assembly Themes: Next week: Remembering

Week after: Trust

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been lovely to be back in school after the half term holidays, and as ever, seeing the children learning, laughing and playing together is wonderful! I have particularly appreciated it after my forced isolation at the end of term, when a member of my family (not my cat – as some of the children thought!) tested positive. Luckily, they had very mild symptoms and I remained covid free. Although I was able to continue to work from home – including doing assembly on google classroom (the highlight of my day, seeing the children) it did give me a real insight into the challenges many of you have faced during lockdown. You have my sympathies!

We are continuing to plan some exciting new events for Christmas this year, to ensure the children have plenty to look forward to. We will share as much as possible with you, via the newsletter and website.



Parents Evening

Thank you very much for your positive feedback for Parent teacher consultations. Apart from some technical hitches for a minority of people, everything seemed to go very smoothly. My understanding is that where this was the case, teachers have been able to arrange phonecalls; if this hasn't been the case, please do not hesitate to contact us and we will arrange a mutually convenient time with you.

Should face to face contact still not be possible in February, we will use the same system – finding ways to overcome any technical hitches!



School Admissions

The application process for School Admissions for Reception places for September 2021 have now opened. We would recommend making the application as soon as possible to ensure your application is in within the timescale. If your circumstances change, including house moves, amendments can be made right up to the deadline. Further information is available at: <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/schools-and-education/school-admissions/school-admissions-and-transport.aspx>

If you have any queries regarding the process, please do not hesitate to contact either Ms Pearce or me.



COVID Update

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. I am delighted that we are able to stay open for all children, during this second period of lockdown, as we know how much they benefit from learning in school, alongside

their friends. We will continue with all of the current arrangements, including staggered break and lunchtimes, keeping year groups together, getting through vast quantities of liquid soap and anti bac gel and flexible start and finish times. We are also holding staff meetings online to minimise contact between adults in school. Parents have been very vigilant in taking their children for tests, as required and supporting their children in following safety guidance.

To date, the only positive case we have had in school has been a member of staff. They were not in contact with any children in the time frame prior to developing symptoms and any members of staff in contact with them were identified immediately. All self isolated according to Government directions and I have been in written and verbal consultation with Public Health England to ensure every requirement has been met. I am pleased to report all are well.

Obviously, in light of the raised level of alert, we need to ensure that we are complying with the arrangements in place on the school site. We understand that sometimes, it is appropriate for two parents to come to school, so that they can take their children to their respective classes. We would request that no additional adults beyond these enter the school grounds, as this can make the areas around school congested.

The climbing frames are out of use before and after school. To enable the children to play on the equipment a class rotation system has been arranged. One class uses the climbing frames and trim trail from Monday to Thursday – these are then ‘quarantined’ on Friday and over the weekend, so that a new class can use them the following week. Unfortunately, if they are played on after or before school by children, this prevents the whole class on the rota from using them at breaktimes. I have reminded the children of this.

After children have been collected, they need to leave the site straight away with their parents, so that we have as few people on the school grounds as possible, at any one time. This feels quite alien to us, as we love seeing families enjoying spending time with each other, but hopefully it won’t be for very much longer!

We are aware that some schools are requiring parents and carers to wear masks. As this is not a government requirement, and given the size of our site - which enables social distancing - we will continue to leave this for people to make a personal choice. If the guidance on wearing masks outdoor changes, we will make sure we inform you appropriately.



Uniform

After the summer relaxation of rules, we are back on track with uniform again, and expect all children to follow the uniform code. If anyone is uncertain, this can be found on the school website with a link to online purchasing too: <https://codicote.herts.sch.uk/school-office/uniform/> As part of our commitment to re-cycling, we are always pleased to offer parents any items from our stock of good condition second hand uniform – the School Office will be happy to help in person, or in response to email requests.

The exception to the uniform rules is Funky Fridays – children can wear funky socks and tights with their uniform every Friday. Until we are back to ‘normal life’ we have also introduced funky hairstyles on Fridays too.



Codicote Food Bank

For many people, the second lock down will pose a real challenge. The Codicote Food bank is still going strong and is keen to offer help to get people over this patch. They can be contacted directly, or if people prefer, food parcels can be arranged via school, in strictest of confidence.

Direct contact details: Codicotefoodbank@gmail.com or telephone 07716 760 615

Here is a link to the facebook page: <https://m.facebook.com/110008487342678/posts/many-people-might-be-thinking-why-does-codicote-need-a-food-bank-codicote-is-con/111833010493559/>



Christmas Events

There are a number of events planned for the last few weeks of term. Here are some you may wish to have in your diary for your children to look forward to:

- **Thursday 26th November**, there will be a pyjama day, as requested by School Council. Children can come in PJs or comfy clothes.
- **Friday 27th November** – Occasional day – school closed to staff and children.

The last two weeks of term:

Monday 7 th Dec	Tuesday 8 th Dec	Wednesday 9 th Dec	Thursday 10 th Dec	Friday 11 th Dec
Online Christmas Service	Staff Pantomime for Children	*Year 6 Carol singing in locations in Codicote if restrictions permit.	*Year 6 Carol singing in locations in Codicote if restrictions permit.	Christmas Breakfast & Jumper day
Monday 14 th Dec	Tuesday 15 th Dec	Wednesday 16 th Dec	Thursday 17 th	Friday 18 th Dec
Parties for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2	Christmas lunch	Parties for Year 3 and 4	Parties for Years 5 & 6	Nursery Party Term finishes 1.15



Dance Aid

I have been asked by Laura to share the amazing dance performed by the children from her dance school, which was filmed in a very familiar location – I have been extra vigilant when I leave school at night since watching it! You may spot some familiar faces!

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=qo99zs6ybGA>

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

Liz Pollard

HEADTEACHER