

Newsletter



Newsletter 5

November 8th 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! It was lovely to see so many of you at the parent/carer and teacher consultations, and to hear your feedback. I hope you enjoyed the half term break. I am delighted to share that Mrs Day is making an excellent recovery after her knee surgery and is looking forward to when she can return to school in her role in the office.

We have already enjoyed some fun events this week, with Year 5 taking part in a Growth Mindset Workshop, and Year 6 winning the Stevenage Basketball Tournament. Today, I am attending a Transition Conference with four children from Year 6, at Hitchin Boys' School. All of the children have made a great start to the new term and I am sure they will enjoy the activities planned in the run up to Christmas. I have included details of trips booked to date to help with planning, and an updated dates list at the foot of the newsletter. As ever, please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any queries.



Pantomime Visit

Our whole school pantomime visit to Peter Pan at the Gordon Craig Theatre takes place on Tuesday 17th December. Tickets have been ordered for all of the children in advance, to get the maximum discount possible! We take all of the staff with us, as well as regular helpers, so that we have the highest possible ratio of staff to children. Therefore, if there is any reason why your child will not be going, please can you let us know as soon as possible so that cover can be arranged?

We are very grateful to the PTFA for paying for the coaches, which reduces the price for every child. As always, please do not hesitate to contact me, should finances be a barrier for your child attending.



Curriculum Information

Thank you for your feedback regarding the curriculum maps sent home. On the website, in addition to these, we also have English and Maths guides for each year group, which include more information on the teaching of these basic skills and ways you can support your child at home. If you would like a paper copy of these, we would be pleased to provide them – just let the School Office know.

These are on the Curriculum tab - the link to the website page is here: [Codicote C of E Primary School » Curriculum](#)



Primary Applications

The admissions process for applications to our Reception Class for September 2025 is now open. Further information can be found at: [Primary, junior and middle school places | Hertfordshire County Council](#)

Please do not hesitate to contact the school office, if you would like a tour of the school, need any support in making your application, or need access to a computer to do so.



Reading Challenge

Back by popular demand, we are hoping to read all the way around the world and be back by Christmas! This is how it works: next week, your child will be bringing a reading challenge card home with their reading book. Every time they read aloud to you equates to 10km of travel. There are up to 5 spaces each week for you to initial – obviously they can read more than 5 times a week! 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 will see how far we can go! We will also celebrate the classes and houses who help us to travel the furthest. 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!

There are lots of fun and exciting fiction and non-fiction books in our library and classrooms, as well as reading scheme books for the children to bring home. If your child appears to be struggling to find something they enjoy, please let us know and we will be happy to help them find a book they like.



School Trips

To give you advance notice, these trips have been booked for the following year groups to date. Details will be sent out nearer the time, and I will let you know when new trips are added to the calendar.

Date	Visit	Year group
13.11.24	Roald Dahl Museum	Year 3
17.12.24	Pantomime	Whole school
6.3.25	St.Albans Cathedral	Year 5
12.3.25	RAF Museum	Year 1
13.3.25	Hertford Museum	Year 3
6.5.25 – 7.5.25	Tolmers Residential	Year 5
20.5.25	Harry Potter	Year 6
16.6.25 – 20.6.25	Isle of Wight Residential	Year 6
25.6.25	Shepreth Wildlife Park	Year 2



Kiln

I am sure that many of you have an impressive collection of pottery items created by your child at school. Sadly, after decades of regular use, our kiln is now worn out and no longer works. We are therefore hugely grateful to the PTFA for funding a smart new kiln, which has now been installed.



PTFA Film Night

The PTFA Film Night takes place on Friday from 6 – 7.45 p.m. Entry costs £3.00 with refreshments included in the price. All children who attend the school, and are able to maintain the concentration needed to be able to watch a film independently, are welcome! Films showing include:

- **Leo** – A classroom lizard and his turtle friend decide to escape from the classroom.
- **Bad Guys** – A criminal gang of animals makes a deal to stay out of jail and learn to be good.
- **The Canterville Ghost** – a family move into a haunted mansion, but to his annoyance, don't find the ghost scary.



PTFA Christmas shopping evening

The PTFA Christmas Shopping evening is the start of our Christmas celebrations and events. It will take place on Thursday 28th November, from 7-9 p.m. Please come along and spread the word to friends and neighbours too! Entry is £3 for adults – children and former pupils are free. There will be a number of stall selling a range of items, and Father Christmas has confirmed he will be there too!

The PTFA would welcome:

- Donations of cakes, mince pies, yule logs or other Christmas refreshments.
- Help to set up the hall & clear away
- Staff the PTFA stall for a short amount of time.



Christmas Present Wrapping Competition

Children are invited to donate a small gift, wrapped as creatively as possible by them! These items are then sold on the PTFA stall. Entries need to be brought into school on the morning of the 28th November. Please could these be labelled with the wrapper's name (so we know who to give the prizes to) and the age band of the child the present is intended for?



Chocolate Day – Monday 25th November

For one day only, the break time snack rules go out of the window and children are invited to bring two bars of chocolate (no nuts, please) into school – one to eat, and one to donate to the PTFA Chocolate Stall.



Raffle Prizes

If you have any unwanted gifts which could be used for raffle prizes, we would love to have them!



The right technology at the right time

Parents may be aware of a national and local initiative regarding delaying giving children a smartphone until the most appropriate point at secondary school. There has been information in the press regarding how this has worked in St. Albans and parents at some of our local schools have signed up to this initiative. This week, a parent and I attended a meeting at William Ransom School, regarding how this initiative could work across our local schools. There are obviously many factors to consider, so going forward, we will be sharing further information for parents to consider whether this is something which they would like to be part of.



Climbing Frames

I have not mentioned the use of climbing frames in the newsletter for some time, so thought it would be helpful to explain the system we have in place. Equipment is not used before school. After school, we have always liked the fact that people are not in a rush to leave school. Whilst under their parent/carers' supervision,

Foundation and Key Stage 1 children are able to play on the KS1 climbing frame. Key Stage 2 children may play on the bottom playground climbing frame - children below Year 3 are not permitted as the equipment is designed for older children. The bottom playground and equipment then need to be vacated when the gate is closed, so that the 326 children can play outside. If you have any questions regarding this, please do not hesitate to ask me.



Breakfast Club and 326 After School Club

Over time our costs for 326 have risen but we have managed to keep the charges to families the same; in the 19 years we have been running 326, we have only increased the charges twice. However, we are now in a position where we need to increase the fees, in order to make sure the clubs are sustainable. We have kept these as low as possible, and they are still much lower than other clubs in the area. Although Breakfast Club will be increasing by 50p too, we will be opening from 7.30 a.m. after Christmas – following feedback from parents.

From January, the charges will be as follows:

Breakfast Club:

- 7.30 – 8.50 a.m. - £4.50

326 After School Club:

- Session 1: 3:20 – 4.20p.m. - £4.50
- Session 2: 3:20 – 5.20p.m. - £9.00
- Session 3: 3.20 – 6.00 p.m. - £13.50 (includes hot ‘substantial snack’)



Piano Assembly

There will be a piano assembly on Monday 25th November, at 9.15 a.m. for children who have lessons in school through the Herts Music Service. Families are welcome to join us.

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

Yours sincerely,

Liz Pollard
HEADTEACHER



Dates & Events for Autumn 2024

Date		Event	People involved
8.11.24	6-7.45p.m.	PTFA Film Night	Children & PTFA
12.11.24	7.00 p.m.	PTFA Meeting – Staff Room	Parents, Carers & Staff
13.11.24	All Day	Visit to the Roald Dahl Museum	Year 3 children, staff and parent volunteers
15.11.24	All day	Flu Vaccinations	Children & Staff
25.11.24	9.15 a.m.	Piano Assembly	Children, their families & staff
25.11.24	a.m.	PTFA - Bring two bars of chocolate to school.	Children & staff
28.11.24	7.00 – 9.00 p.m.	PTFA shopping evening	Everyone
29.11.24	All Day	Occasional Day – School closed	Everyone
3.12.24	10.45 – 12.15	Year 6 Carol singing at Poynder's Meadow	Children & Staff
10.12.24	12.00 p.m.	Christmas Dinner	Children & Staff
11.12.24	All day	Play Dress rehearsals	Children & Staff
12.12.24	10.30 a.m.	Reception Play	Children, families & staff
12.12.24	2.30 p.m.	Year 1 Play	Children, families & staff
12.12.24	7.00 p.m.	KS2 Plays	Children, families & staff
13.12.24	10.30 a.m.	Nursery Play	Children, families & staff
13.12.24	7.00 p.m.	KS2 Plays	Children, families & staff
15.12.24	11.30 a.m.	Choir singing at the Hitchin Christmas Tree Festival	Children, families & staff
16.12.24	a.m.	Party - Reception	Children & Staff
16.12.24	6.30 p.m.	Year 2 & 6 Carol Service	Children, families & staff
17.12.24	9.00 a.m.	Whole school trip to the panto!	Children & Staff
18.12.24	p.m.	Party – KS1 p.m.	Children & Staff
19.12.24	p.m.	Party – KS2	Children & Staff
19.12.24	5.30 – 7 p.m.	PTFA Disco	Children & PTFA
20.12.24	1.15 p.m.	Term Ends	Everyone



Community News



Santa's Singing Workshop

Attached to the newsletter is a flyer advertising Santa's Singing Workshop at Welwyn St. Mary's Church, which takes place on 23rd December, 2024. It will give you a whole 2.5 hours of a child free house - or alternatively a nice last-minute present buying trip! It includes games, singing and a lovely concert at the end with some audience participation!



Karate Club – Tuesday 5-6pm

Karate club has spaces on Tuesday evenings, ages 5-75. This takes place in the school hall, and is operated by Hatfield Karate Club. Further information can be found on the attached flyer.