

Newsletter



Newsletter 6

November 22nd 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

The term is continuing to go well and the children continue to impress us with their enthusiasm and the effort they put into their learning. Last week, Year 3 went on a very successful visit to the Roald Dahl Museum in Great Missenden. Reception enjoyed a Pudsey activity session, run by Stevenage Sporting Futures, and a visit from a librarian. The netball team played extremely well in a league match, winning by 25 goals! This week, it was the turn of our Year 5s. They finished in 4th place in a Rural Schools Football Tournament and won the Stevenage Bench Ball competition. Year 2 enjoyed a fantastic pirate day – fortunately, none of us had to walk the plank!

We are now preparing for all of the Christmas activities – I have included a timetable of the busiest weeks at the end of the newsletter, to help with planning. We look forward to seeing you at these events. I hope you enjoy the occasional day next Friday, when school will be closed.



Sad News

Some of our parents, grandparents and former pupils will remember Jillian Jennings – mother of Mrs Eaton – who taught at Codicote School for a number of years. Sadly, she has died after a short illness. Her funeral will take place at Oakhill Crematorium, Hatfield, on Tuesday 26th November, at 2.p.m. No flowers please – donations to the Air Ambulance and RNLI.



Primary Applications Reminder

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.



University Challenge

We were really proud to see one of our former pupils, Ella Dorn, Representing the University of Oriental and African Studies on University Challenge last week. Although the team didn't win, they have made it through to the next round as a result of their high score. We wish Ella and her team every success for the next stage.



Free Compost

Thank you very much to Envar, for providing two bulk bags of compost free to the school, and to Mr Loughman for applying for these for us! He, and the wonderful Mrs Martin (senior) have started work on the winter planting for the pots and troughs around the school.



Reading Challenge

Thanks to everyone's reading efforts, we have now reached Salerno in Italy – and were able to go via Paris, Barcelona, Marseille and Rome! Class 6B read the most times per child, so finished in Gold position. The race is now on for next week. Please can all children bring their cards into school on Monday, so we can work out how far we can go in assembly on Tuesday? Thank you for listening to your children reading.



PTFA Film Night

Thank you to everyone for their help at Film Night and for supporting this event. We have a large number of children attending – all funds are going towards paying for the new stage lighting in the hall and the coaches for the pantomime.



PTFA Christmas shopping evening Reminder

We are all looking forward to the PTFA Shopping Evening next week, on Thursday 28th November, from 7-9 p.m. Entry is £3 for adults – children and former pupils are free! Father Christmas has confirmed he will be joining us; this year, there will also be a human sized snow globe – come along and get your family pics to share with friends and family! Please bring any cake donations to the school office. Christmas Wrapping Competition Entries can be brought into the classrooms on the day. Other reminders:



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!



Guitar Lessons

There are currently spaces for children wishing to learn to play the guitar in school, with lessons provided through the Hertfordshire Music Service. For more information, please contact the School Office, or go to the HMS website: [Music Lessons](#)



The right technology at the right time

As mentioned in the last newsletter, there has been a lot of discussion amongst parents across the country regarding the use of smartphones by young children. Attached to this newsletter, is a letter from the Hitchin Headteachers' Consortium regarding this, and outlining potential steps forward for parents to take. We are committed to families having the right to make the choice which works for them – please let us know if you would like us to help in any way.



Piano Assembly reminder

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.



Maypole/Country Dancing Costumes

Thank you to everyone who has returned items already. We are still missing:

- Skirts & neckerchiefs– new navy floral design and also the turquoise/lilac costumes worn by the older girls.
- Elastic belts and sashes
- Floral headdresses.

Please can these be brought to the office? No questions asked, we would just like them back!



Countdown to Christmas!

| Monday 9 th Dec | Tuesday 10 th Dec | Wednesday 11 th Dec | Thursday 12 th Dec | Friday 13 th Dec | Saturday 14 th Dec | Sunday 15 th Dec |
|---|---|--------------------------------|--|--|-------------------------------|--|
| | Christmas jumpers may be worn. Christmas Lunch Chocolate for foodbank | Play dress rehearsals | 10.30 a.m.: Reception Play 2.30 p.m.: Year 1 Play 7p.m.: Year 3 & 4 Play 7.50 p.m.: Year 5 & 6 Play | 10.30 a.m.: Nursery Play p.m. Year 2 Party 7 p.m.: Years 3 & 4 Play 7.50p.m.: Year 5 & 6 Play | | Christmas Tree Festival – Holy Saviour Church Hitchin Choir singing Arrival at 11.45 – singing at 12.00 |
| Monday 16 th Dec | Tuesday 17 th Dec | Wednesday 18 th Dec | Thursday 19 th Dec | Friday 20 th Dec | | |
| 9.30a.m.: School Carol Service – St. Giles a.m. Reception Party 6.30p.m.: Year 2, 6 & parents Carol Service at St. Giles. | 9.00 a.m. Whole School Pantomime Visit | KS1 Party p.m. | KS2 Party p.m. 5.30 – 7.00 p.m. PTFA children's disco | Christmas jumpers may be worn. 9.00 a.m.: Nursery Party Term Finishes at 1.15p.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

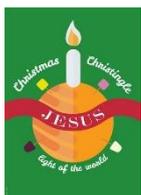


Community News



Café Church

December Cafe Church falls right at the beginning of Advent, the Church's season of preparation for Christmas. The theme is 'Follow the Star - all is CALM'. The cafe will be open from 10 am selling delicious fresh pastries and hot drinks. Chat around the cafe tables will pause at around 10:30 to allow a focus on the topic of the day. There will be craft activities for the children throughout the morning. All are very welcome.



Christingle Service – 8th December, 2024 4.00 p.m.

Come along to St Giles Church at 4pm when we will be making Christingles. There will be craft activities for the children, some singing and refreshments available. Donations at this service will go towards the work of The Children's Society.

For more information about the services at St. Giles over the Christmas period, please see the flyer attached to this newsletter. Everyone is welcome!



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.



Note from our Cleaning Company

We are looking to recruit Cleaning Operatives in the local area. Shift times: 3.30pm to 7.15pm, Monday to Friday at £11.44 per hour.

If you believe you are the right person for this role, please contact **Recruitment**. On **01753 323 227** or email **recruitment@haywardservices.co.uk**