



Newsletter



Newsletter 7

3rd December, 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a very busy couple of weeks at school with lots of excitement in the lead up to Christmas. We cannot believe we are less than a week away from Christmas plays and that there are only two and a half weeks until the end of term! It has been a magical time, and we are all looking forward to being able to share some of our Codicote School traditions with you again.



The Bishop of Hertford

We were all delighted to meet Bishop Michael, the Bishop of Hertford, when he visited us last week with Philip. He led our assembly where he explained about his role, the significance of the clothes he wears and about the best parts of his job. He also answered a wide range of diverse questions from the children with great humour, honesty and patience. We all enjoyed the visit tremendously, and received lovely feedback from Bishop Michael, regarding the joy and vibrancy of the children and the welcome he received.



Meet Father Christmas Evening

Thank you very much to everyone, including Father Christmas, for making our Meet Santa evening such a success. The staff and PTFA did a wonderful job setting everything up, and the Year 6 (and Year 7) elves were fantastic helpers. Both they and Father Christmas were very impressed with the children's manners and behaviour.

Thank you for supporting this event; all of the proceeds will go toward the whole school pantomime visit next week.



Travel Plan Award

We also had another visitor last week, Chi Ming, from the Active and Safer Travel Team at Herts County Council, who presented us with a Bronze Travel award. We have been working on a number of initiatives to develop safe and sustainable travel to school, including the range of

workshops and initiatives Chi has led with us. In the spring term we will be involved in further activities, including pedestrian skills and scooter workshops, as we continue to build on the work undertaken so far. We have been really impressed with the huge increase in families who walk, scoot or cycle to school over the last three years – we certainly have very active school community!



Reception Class Applications

If your child is due to start in Reception in September 2022, your school application needs to be in by 15th January. Applications can be made online at:

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

If you have any issues making the application, please do not hesitate to contact us and we will do our best to help.



School Plays

Play tickets will be sent home on Monday 6th December for those who have requested tickets. As the productions for Nursery, Reception and Year 1 involve fewer children, we have a limited number of additional seats available on a first come, first served basis. Please ensure you request tickets for all performances by Monday 6th December to enable us to process the orders. We strongly recommend testing, using lateral flow tests, before attending, and wearing face coverings. I am sure we will all enjoy the productions – the rehearsals are looking amazing!



Parking

We really value the support of the community and are keen to enjoy Christmas events without causing inconvenience to local residents. There is limited parking on the school site, and in the surrounding area; where possible, families are encouraged to walk to the school plays and productions and if they need to drive, to park with consideration to the local residents – e.g. ensuring driveways and entrances are kept clear.

Thank you for your support.



Christmas Tree Festival

Once again, we will be taking part in the Christmas Tree Festival at Holy Saviour Church in Hitchin. The children have been busy making decorations in every class. This is always a lovely

event. Please come and vote for our tree – ‘Wishing you a Heavenly Christmas!’. The festival is on Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th December, open from 12 – 6 p.m. Refreshments are available. Admission is £5 for adults, with accompanying children free.



Carol Service at St. Giles Church

The Carol Service will take place at St. Giles on Wednesday 15th December at 6.30. Year 2 will be performing their nativity play - please can they arrive at church wearing their costumes? Year 6 will be singing and leading the service – they are able to wear home clothes with a Christmas jumper, if they wish. We look forward to seeing you there.



Pantomime

We are all looking forward to our trip to see the Pantomime of Aladdin on Friday 10th December. We will be leaving promptly from school at 9.00 a.m. and will return for a late lunch at about 1.00 p.m. If your child has a school dinner, this will be provided.

As lunch is later than the children are used to, we would like all of the children to bring a small snack with them. This could be a bag of crisps, some fruit, or a sandwich, and a drink, preferably in disposable wrapping. The children will need to come to school in school uniform (except for Nursery of course). This is so that they can be easily recognised. The staff team and regular parent helpers will be accompanying the children, so that a high ratio of staff to children is in place. Thank you for sending in your forms and money so promptly - I am sure we will have a fantastic time!



Reading Challenge!

The Reading Around The World Challenge is continuing to be very successful – we have now reached the Antarctic! Every time a child reads to you, it counts to the whole school's progress. Year 3 C have been our champions over the last two weeks, with a fantastic average of 58 km per child! Years 2, 6 and 5G have also clocked up a high score – we may even manage to circle the world twice, if we can keep up the pace. Thank you for supporting this initiative.



Ks 2 Morning Activity Sessions

One of our former pupils, Lucas Murley will be running a Multi Sports Club before school, in the Spring Term for children in Key Stage 2. Lucas is a Sports Apprentice with Stevenage Football Club. The club will run on Tuesdays and Fridays from 8.00 a.m. to 8.45 a.m. - starting on Tuesday 11th January and finishing on Friday 1st April. There will be a small cost of £4 a

session, or all of the sessions can be booked, giving a small discount. Initially, 16 spaces will be available – it may be possible to increase the number of spaces if there is sufficient demand. Places can be booked on the following link: [Codicote Breakfast Club \(KS2 Multi Sports\) January-April 2022 - Stevenage FC Courses | Official Soccer Schools](#)

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

Liz Pollard
HEADTEACHER