

Newsletter



Newsletter 7

4th December 2020

Assembly Themes: Next week: Humility Week after: Christmas

Dear Parents and Carers,

I cannot believe we are only two weeks away from the end of term! The children and staff have really embraced the Christmas spirit, and we have had a really happy, harmonious and busy few weeks. Next Friday, Miss Grainger and I are going to decorate the tree at St Giles with the children's angel decorations – I will post some pictures on the website when it is finished. We have also decorated our Christmas tree with baubles created by the children. They will be bringing these home at the end of term for you all to enjoy.



Christmas cards and gifts

A number of people have been asking what the position is with regard to Christmas cards and gifts this year. Children can bring these in for their 'bubbles' – year group - and they will be given out by the adult in their class. People then have the option of quarantining them if they so wish, before opening. Cards for other adults in school can be given to the school office, but we will not have the post box system for children in other classes, due to the amount of handling necessary to sort and distribute these



Car Park

As people are aware, we are currently allowing people to walk across the carpark in the mornings to reduce congestion on the paths around school. The pedestrians are taking great care. However, we are becoming increasingly concerned about drivers speeding into the car park at peak use times to drop off children or use it as a turning circle, putting others at risk. We want to be able to keep the car park open for parents' convenience at this time, but need to ensure the safety of the children and their adults.

We therefore request that only cars needing to enter the car park because of mobility issues for children or adults, do so between 8.45 and 9.15a.m. and 3.00 – 3.30p.m.. This means that people dropping children for the morning sessions at 8.15 and 8.30 are welcome to continue to use the car park at this time, and those collecting from 326 will also be able to use the car park as usual.

Thank you for your support in keeping everyone safe.



Carol Singing

I am delighted to be able to confirm that under the new Tier 2 restrictions, we will be able to take our Year 6 children carol singing on Thursday 10th December. We will meet the Year 6 children at school at 5.50 p.m. ready to set off at 6. We will start at 6.05 p.m. at the top of Meadow Way. Our next stop will be on the High

Street by the Codicote sign at 6.30 and we will then be moving on to Poynders Meadow at 7.00 p.m. If you live in any of these areas, please feel welcome to stand on the doorstep and enjoy the singing! All timings are approximate. We will return to school for 7.30 p.m. The children will be accompanied by the Year 6 staff and me.



Christmas Breakfast

We are all looking forward to the Breakfast and Christmas/favourite jumper day next Friday. Orders have been taken from the children – all dietary requirements have been accounted for. Children will be served in their classrooms. We are hugely grateful to The Codicote Farm Butchery who have kindly donated the bacon for this event, and are looking forward to a delicious start to our day!



Christmas Lunch

To ensure everyone who would like a Christmas lunch receives one, please could you book via the school Gateway, at your earliest convenience. A vegetarian option is available. Here is the link:
<https://codicote.herts.sch.uk/school-office/online-payments/> Ms Pearce will be pleased to help with any queries.



Virtual Sports Events

The children have all enjoyed taking part in the virtual school sports events organised by Stevenage Sporting Futures. We are very proud of the children for taking part with such commitment and impressed with the following results:

Boccia: Inclusive event: 2nd place Years 3 & 4: Codicote A team – 2nd place, Codicote B team – 3rd place and Codicote C team – 4th place

Individual boys: 3rd place

Year 5 Archery: Boys' team – 3rd place, Individual boys: 3rd place and Mixed team – 3rd place.

Football: Year 5 team – 1st place and Year 6 team – 3rd place.



COVID Update

With the new Tier 2 requirements, the current arrangements we have in place will continue. This includes the extended drop off and collection times, social distancing, using the additional entry/exit points and ensuring children – including younger children – stay off the climbing frames and leave the outdoor resources alone before and after school. We really appreciate your support in keeping all of our children safe.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our staff who are working even harder than usual. Teachers and teaching assistants have been doing daily break duties with their classes as break times are staggered to enable

each year group to have their own area to play in. As we have separate lunchtimes for each class, our Midday supervisors have kindly agreed to cover two hours at lunchtime, whenever they are able, meaning that they are often outside for a long period of time – even when it is very cold! Our kitchen staff, led by Mrs Martin are also working additional hours to cover the extra serving time needed too. They have helped so willingly and cheerfully, to make sure the children have the best possible care – they are all amazing!



Christmas Events

Following discussion with School Council, it has been agreed that children can come to school wearing their party clothes on the day of their class party. Food will be provided for the children by school, taking account the needs of those with allergies. This will be in the form of a drink, savoury snack and a cake.

Monday 7 th Dec	Tuesday 8 th Dec	Wednesday 9 th Dec	Thursday 10 th Dec	Friday 11 th Dec
Online Christmas Service - in school.	Staff Pantomime for Children – in school.		Year 6 Carol singing in locations in Codicote 6.00 – 7.30 p.m.	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 Hats may be worn!	Parties for Year 3 and 4	Parties for Years 5 & 6	Nursery Party Term finishes 1.15

The
Children's
Society



Message from St Giles Church - Christingles

We would love you to join us for a 'Virtual Christingle' celebration on **Sunday 13th December at 4pm**. During the week of 7th December you will receive a bag of goodies to use to create your Christingle. Please see the list below of a few items you will need to add and how to access the Zoom link.

We hope to see lots of you there to create shining light and to help begin our Christmas festivities in support of The Children's Society.

Please fill in your details here <https://forms.gle/6B89vxxTcAX2UheU6> to gain access to the Zoom link. You will need to register by 12 noon on Saturday 12th December. The link will be emailed to you during the weekend of 12th/13th December.

You will need:

- The goodies in your pack from school
- An orange with a small hole cut in the top
- A red felt pen or red ribbon
- A way to light your candle with an adult
- A square of tinfoil to catch the wax (optional)



The Children's Society would be very grateful for any donation you could make to help support their work.

Follow this link thyg.uk/CUS047782 or scan the QR code to be taken to the St Giles Church donation page for The Children's Society. Thank you for your support and kindness.



Community News

Sara Llewellyn (mum to Evelyn in Yr4 and Morgan Yr 9), who as you may know, is a professional opera singer, has taken on a challenge for a month to try and bring some extra light and joy to the village in these difficult times while trying to help out some of our struggling musicians in their time of need. She is going to be singing one song a day from her home balcony on Valley Road in aid of 'Help Musicians'. This will usually be at 12.30 and will be streamed live on her ensemble facebook:

<https://www.Facebook.com/ukprofessionalsingers>. She will be singing in different styles every day including opera, musical theatre and even some pop classics and some Christmas favourites a little nearer the day. Here's the link with more details in case you might be able to help with a little donation to support her

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/hartley-voices>

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

Yours sincerely,

Liz Pollard

HEADTEACHER