

# Newsletter

Newsletter 8

18<sup>th</sup> December, 2020



Dear Parents and Carers,

It may have been a very unusual term for a whole variety of reasons, but there has been a huge amount to celebrate too. The weeks have flown by, and the children have achieved so much. We are really impressed with their endlessly positive behaviour and ‘have a go’ attitude, and the way they have worked with us to adapt to the rules we have needed to put into place. This year, we have had a number of special initiatives to make up for those we were not able to do this year. Read on to find out more!

Thank you for your incredible efforts and support during the challenging times we have experienced since March – we never dreamt that so much would be demanded of our home school partnership this year and I think we can all be very proud of the way we rose to the challenge together to teach and support our children through home learning, key worker school and the return to the classroom.

On behalf of all of the staff, I would like to wish you a very merry Christmas, and a happy and peaceful New Year. I look forward to welcoming everyone back on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January. We are all looking ahead to 2021 with optimism and enthusiasm!



## Christmas COVID Contact

I will be continuing to work with Public Health England over the Christmas holidays to ensure all relevant information is shared to keep families safe. If your child develops COVID symptoms within 48 hours of being in school, and subsequently tests positive, please email me at: [head@codicote.herts.sch.uk](mailto:head@codicote.herts.sch.uk) so that I can make sure all the relevant families and staff are informed. If a member of staff were to be in this position, I will contact families directly, ahead of any information sent by public health England. At the time of writing, we are not awaiting any results.

All of the current arrangements regarding arrival and departures from school will remain in place for the start of the new term.



## Operation Christmas Card!

Hopefully, you will now be aware of Operation Christmas Card because you will have received a card through your door. We have been keeping it top secret, so that it has been a surprise for everyone. We know how hard the year has been for many people in Codicote and really appreciate being part of such a caring village. The children wanted to share some of the joy and happiness in our school with everyone else, so we came



up with the plan of delivering a Christmas card to every house. The Christmas card featured a tree made up of hearts drawn by all of the children. We printed over 1,200 cards and managed to deliver them all, with the assistance of Year 6 who helped us to plan the delivery routes for each class. The response from people has been amazing and we have been really touched by the messages we have received. It has been a whole school effort, with all staff and children helping and rising to this great challenge; we hope you liked your card. If anyone was accidentally missed out, we have spares in school and will put on a special delivery service! Just let us know.



### **Carol Singing**

Last week, you may have heard our lovely Year 6 children out carol singing. Although it was a dark and drizzly evening, the children remained bright and cheerful and sang a series of carols, including some with solos, at three different locations around Codicote. The Year 6 team and I were really proud of the children, and appreciative of them all coming back to school in the evening to take part. They are fantastic!



### **Christmas Breakfast**

A huge thank you to the Codicote Butchers, who provided all of the bacon for our Christmas breakfast. It was delicious, and very much enjoyed by us all – although I am surprised Mr Browne and I didn't attract all of the dogs in the neighbourhood by the time we had barbecued 480 slices!

Thank you to everyone who came to help – our lunchtime team kindly came in at the crack of dawn to help prepare the food for the classes and Mrs Mansell came in on her day off – it could not be a Codicote Breakfast without her! This was another of the School Council ideas to make Christmas special this year.



### **Pantomime – The Elves who Saved Christmas**

It may not have been the Gordon Craig, but our staff certainly put on a panto to remember! I am really appreciative for their commitment, as always, and their willingness to give their time and sacrifice their dignity, to creative fun occasions for the children. I am hugely grateful too, to the wonderful Mark Howie, who kindly came into school to film, stayed up most of the night editing it and didn't even laugh at us whilst he was filming!



### More Sporting Success

Mel has done a fantastic job training and entering children for the Stevenage Sporting Futures Virtual games. We have had a number of great results, including in speed stacking. They are as follows:

Year	Individual Girl	Individual boy	Girls team	Boys team	Mixed team
3	2 <sup>nd</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	Codicote A: 1 <sup>st</sup> Codicote B: 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Codicote A: 1 <sup>st</sup> Codicote B: 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Codicote A: 1 <sup>st</sup> Codicote B: 2 <sup>nd</sup>
4	1 <sup>st</sup> 2 <sup>nd</sup> 3 <sup>rd</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup> 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Codicote A: 1 <sup>st</sup> Codicote B: 2 <sup>nd</sup> Codicote C: 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Codicote A: 1 <sup>st</sup> Codicote B: 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Codicote A: 1 <sup>st</sup> Codicote B: 2 <sup>nd</sup> Codicote C: 3 <sup>rd</sup>

Our results from all of the virtual games were entered in into the County finals and out of the 12 districts, we achieved the following results:

<b>Year 4 Speed Stacking team:</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	<b>Year 5 A Team Football:</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> place	<b>Year 5 Team B Football:</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	<b>Year 6 Football:</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> place
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### Christmas Lunch

Thank you very much to our fantastic cooks for the delicious Christmas lunch they prepared for us. Preparing and serving nearly 300 meals is quite a challenge, and they did a wonderful job. Although we couldn't all eat together as usual, everyone made a great effort decorating the tables and classrooms, and it was lovely to see each class having lunch together with their grown ups – a bit like a Victorian Christmas card scene. Thank you to all the midday supervisors, teachers and teaching assistants for making this such a special occasion.



### Baubles

One of our new initiatives this year was to decorate our school Christmas tree with baubles painted by the children. We took a fingerprint theme, with each class doing a different design – fairy lights, reindeers, penguins, robins, angels, wreaths and trees were amongst the designs. Hopefully yours reached your home yesterday, ready to adorn your tree or home!



### Angels

Although our real 'little angels' were not able to go to St. Giles for our Christmas service this year, we were able to send some substitutes! All of the children made angels to decorate the trees and church – we will post some more pictures on our website. Philip has written a message about services and visiting St. Giles below.



### Visits to St.Giles Church

Children and parents might like to see where the angels they created in school have ended up, as well as seeing St.Giles Church decorated with flowers and a wooden crib scene for Christmas. Members of the Church have made arrangements to open the building for anyone to look inside:

Saturday 19th December, 10.00am - 12noon; 1.00pm - 3.00pm

Sunday 20th December, 1.00pm - 3.00pm

Also, here is a reminder of the Christmas services at St.Giles (please book where possible):

Friday 18th Dec 7 pm Walk-In Carols

Held in St. Giles Churchyard. No booking required, but space will be limited by social distancing measures. Wrap up for all weathers and come to sing some favourite carols. Put the words of the carols on your phone in advance via our website.

**Tuesday 22nd Dec 4pm Family Nativity Service In church.** Short nativity film, recorded songs from the School Choir, Christmas readings. Booking essential

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/family-nativity-service-22nd-dec-tickets-131858723993>

**Christmas Eve 4pm Family Nativity Service (a repeat of the 22nd)**

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/family-nativity-service-24th-dec-tickets-131859510345>

**11.30 pm Midnight Communion in Church (Booking advisable)**

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/christmas-eve-midnight-communion-service-tickets-131857889497>

**Christmas Day 10 am All Age Communion in Church (Booking advisable)**

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/christmas-day-all-age-communion-tickets-131842730155>

Finally, there is a trail in the churchyard called "Journey to the Manger", which families can follow in their own time. The young and not-so-young are invited to paint a stone with something Christmassy and leave it at one of the trail stations.



### **Reception Places**

The deadline for submitting an application for a Reception place is 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2020 – even if your child already attends our Nursery, you need to make an application for a place in Reception. If you have any queries regarding this, or need any support in making your application, please do not hesitate to contact either Ms Pearce or me, and we will be happy to help you.



### **Jingle Bells**

You may be aware of a national initiative to join together for Christmas by ringing bells on your doorstep on Christmas Eve at 6.00p.m. The idea has spread across the country – you and your children may wish to join in!

Thank you for reading this newsletter. Please remember I am always happy to discuss any issues with you – see you on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January!

Liz Pollard  
HEADTEACHER