

Newsletter

Newsletter 9

12th March, 2021



Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a fantastic week back with 99% attendance, and it has been lovely to hear the school filled with the chatter and laughter of the children's voices again. We have really enjoyed sharing the work completed by the children at home and appreciate all you have done in helping them to organise it, ready for the return to school. I hope you have had a good week too. We have gone back to the usual Newsletter format now that we are all in school again.



Dennis Hibbert



Many of you with older children will remember Dennis Hibbert – our wonderful Road Crossing Patrol man. I am very sad to share the news of his death, on February 28th, aged 91. Dennis was a very special part of our school and much loved by us all. When I arrived at the school, he had been forced to retire due to the laws of the time. When the retirement age was scrapped, Dennis came straight back to work and resumed his duties looking after our children as they crossed the road. Some years later, the county council wanted to make his job redundant, but thanks to the campaign run by the children, parents, staff and community, his job was saved. All of the children wrote and drew pictures. The executive member for highways said of the posters he received: "It's not often we get much through the mail that really makes us smile but they really did. It was a lovely thing to see."

His gentle sense of humour and twinkling eyes were legendary. He joined us for celebrations and events at the school, and would accompany us to Church Services at St. Giles to make sure we arrived safely. When he was shortlisted for the School Crossing Patrol of the Year Award, I went to the presentation evening with some of the children. We could not have been prouder when he won, and having heard the reasons for his nominations, everyone there took to their feet and cheered when his name was announced. He accepted his award with great modesty but it was very touching to see him quietly open the box in the darkness to look at it, when he had resumed his seat and see the pride on his face.



Dennis was a true gentleman, with genuine charm and beautiful manners; he will be remembered with much love and affection.



Nursery Applications

If you have a child due to start Nursery in September – i.e. your child will have their fourth birthday between September 2021 and August 2022, the last day for applying on-line is today. The link is on our website: <https://codicote.herts.sch.uk/school-office/admissions/> Offers for places will be sent out on Friday 23rd April.



Naming clothing

Along with the children returning to school, we have approximately 4,416 items of clothing coming through the doors each day (including PE kits!). We would be really grateful if you could check that the children's clothes and shoes are named so that any stray items can be quickly returned to them.



Future events

We are starting to plan provisionally for the summer term, hoping that we can go ahead with some of the traditional events we hold. Please be re-assured that whilst we will make every effort to these to go ahead in some form, we will only do so if they can be done safely. Any dates planned will be included in newsletters and on the website.



School Trips

Next week, meetings are being held with local authorities, regarding the possibility of any residential visits taking place this year. If we are able to go ahead with any of those we had planned, Year 6 children will be given priority, as it will be their last chance to go away on a residential trip with their friends. We are also planning day activities as a backup plan for the end of the summer term. When we know what the position is, we will let parents know.



Parent Governors

I am delighted to inform you that the three Parent Governor vacancies on our Governing body have been filled. Helen Allum will be starting a second term in the role and we will be joined by Marlene Evans and Katie Mille. We will be introducing them to you in our next Governor Newsletter.

After careful consideration, Vic Hibbins has decided to step down from the role, with her daughter moving onto secondary school in September. Vic has been a fantastic asset to the Governing body, and her background in HR has been invaluable in steering us through the challenges of GDPR, amongst many other personnel projects. We really appreciate all she has contributed and she will be much missed.

Bob Kay, our other parent governor has kindly agreed to remain with our governing body in a different role. Bob has been an invaluable governor, over a long period of time, with his background of project management in the construction industry. One of his early successes was vanquishing the 'playground puddle' which had plagued our lives for years. He continued to play an integral role in the two large building projects and has been an active member of the premises and finance committees. Whilst Bob has had to scale down his role due to work commitments, he will be continuing to support the school as an associate governor.



Travel initiatives

After Easter, we will be undertaking a range of activities related to road safety and pedestrian skills. Workshops will be run via the internet for different classes, appropriate to the age of the children and will take place in school. Further information will be provided nearer the time.



Red Nose Day – Friday 19th March

We have been talking in the assemblies this week about superheroes, courage and bravery – in the way children have faced the challenges of the last few months and in terms of how they can manage times when they feel anxious. This year, the Red Nose day theme is ‘Superheroes’. Children are welcome to come into school dressed as superheroes (can be before transformation as well as after!), or wearing something red/connected with Red Nose day. They are invited to bring in 50p as part of a collection, if you wish to contribute.



Woodland Creatures

You may have noticed some wooded creatures appearing around the school grounds. A kind parent, who wishes to remain anonymous, has painted these and added some jokes on the back for the children to read. They are lovely - keep your eyes open and see if you can spot all 12!



Talent Show

The highlight of our year – the Talent Show, will be taking place on Thursday 25th March. We will be holding it online. Children will need to bring in any props, costumes, music or resources needed for their performance!

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

Liz Pollard
HEADTEACHER