



Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

After our third spell of snow recently, it is lovely to think that the Easter holidays are coming soon and hopefully some pleasanter weather is on its way. As with the National Education Union strikes, we have worked hard to keep our school open and maintain our 'business as usual' attitude. We are really grateful for the support you give us at such times.

School has definitely returned to its pre-COVID levels of activity. Just this week, we've really enjoyed welcoming mums into school for our Mother's Day lunches; we have marked Science Week with STEM workshops for pupils from St Nicholas and Birches First Schools, which were planned, organised and led by our STEM Ambassadors; we've also welcomed our first volunteer parents into school to share their careers experiences with Year 8 pupils, and of course, welcomed many parents in for the first of our parents' evenings.

We are also busy behind the scenes with one important change that will impact parents next term.

### **Changes in the Parent Portal – Introducing Arbor**

As you may remember, in the recent parent survey we asked for your views about Go4Schools. A lot of parents expressed the idea that they like what Go4Schools does, but they don't necessarily like the way it does it! As a school, we quite agree with that: we find the platform a bit limited and clunky. When we signed up for Go4Schools it was cutting edge, but we definitely feel that better options are now available.

For that reason, we have decided to make a change, moving away from Go4Schools, to a platform called Arbor. We believe that Arbor is easier to use and can bring into one place a lot of the functions that our various online platforms perform, making life easier for parents and schools. We are really excited about the move to Arbor, but I can't overstate what a big change this is for our school. It reaches into every area of school life and requires a lot of planning and training. It has been recommended that we make the transition step by step, rather than trying to do everything all at once, so we'd really appreciate your patience and understanding as we make the change.

You don't need to do anything now – the portal won't be live until after the Easter holidays at which point we'll send you all of the relevant information.

For the time being, here are some headlines:

- We plan to 'go live' shortly after the Easter break
- We'll send out logins and passwords when the site is ready to go.
- Getting started with Arbor is very easy but we'll offer lots of support for you, if you need it, including parent drop-ins on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April (session 1: 3.30-4.30 and session 2: 5.30-6.30)
- We won't use the full functionality at first but over time, we will broaden our use.

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#### **Codsall Middle School**

Wolverhampton Road, Codsall, Staffordshire WV8 1PB

Tel: 01902 843177 Fax: 01902 841648

Email: [office@codsall-middle.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:office@codsall-middle.staffs.sch.uk)

Website: [www.codsall-middle.staffs.sch.uk](http://www.codsall-middle.staffs.sch.uk)

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- **Please note:** There will be a week or so when behaviour points and online homework may be disrupted. We'll let you know when this happens. Please be patient as we transfer these processes to Arbor.
- We are sure there will be the occasional hiccup, but with your support and feedback, we think this will be a really positive move for the school and our community.

### **Forthcoming Events**

As always, we've got a busy few months ahead. Here are some dates for your diary – although we're sure more will be added as we go.

Red Nose Day – Pyjama Day	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> March
Poetry Event – Y5 and 6	Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> March
Parents' Evening	Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> March
Easter Egg Hunt – Y5 and 6	Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March
Soloists' Concert	Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> March at 6.00pm
Easter Fayre	Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> March
School closes for Easter holidays at 3.15pm	Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> March
School reopens for Summer Term	Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> April
Year 7 and 8 Residential – Bryntysilio	w/b 24 <sup>th</sup> April
Arbor Parent Drop-ins (see above)	Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> April
May Bank Holiday	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> May
Additional bank holiday – King Charles III Coronation	Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> May
SATs Tests	Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> May – Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> May
Y5 Residential – Boreatton	Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> May – Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> May
Y6 Residential – Boreatton	w/b 15 <sup>th</sup> May
Y8 HPV Vaccinations 2 <sup>nd</sup> Dose	Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> May

I look forward to getting started on an exciting new term and hope you all have a lovely Easter break.

Please remember, if you have any questions or concerns. We are always happy to help!

Yours sincerely



Mrs K Reade  
**Head of School**

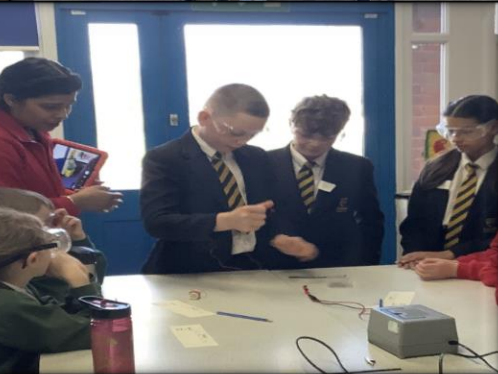


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