



Wednesday 20th December 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

I'd like to wish all of our community a Merry Christmas! Before our pupils break up for a well-deserved break, I thought I'd just update you on the latest CMS news.

As always, we've got an incredibly busy term ahead. Here are some dates for your diary – although we're sure more will be added as we go through the term!

Forthcoming events...

School closes for Christmas break	Thursday 21 st December, normal time
Spring Term begins	Monday 8 th January
Year 6 Art Workshops – Portraiture	Tuesday 16 th January
Year 5&6 Praise Assembly (invite only)	Friday 19 th January, 2.15pm
Young Voices, Birmingham	Tuesday 23 rd January
Year 5 Space Centre, Leicester	Wednesday 24 th January
Year 5 Writing Morning	Friday 26 th January
Year 7&8 Praise Assembly (invite only)	Friday 26 th January, 2.15pm
Year 8 Holocaust Memorial day	Monday 29 th January
School closes for half term break	Friday 9 th February
School reopens	Monday 19 th February

Some headlines from after spring half term...

Spring Term Interim reports published*	Friday 23 rd February
<small>*(Main reports are published in summer term)</small>	
Mothers' Day Lunches	Monday 4 th – Wednesday 6 th March
Year 7/8 Chasewater parent meeting	Thursday 7 th March, 5.00pm
Parents' Evenings**	Monday 11 th March, Tuesday 19 th March
<small>** (Appointments available in person)</small>	
Year 5 Boreatton parent meeting	Thursday 14 th March, 5.00pm
Easter Fayre	Wednesday 20 th March, 5.00-7.00pm
School closes for Easter break	Friday 22 nd March
Year 6 Newby Wiske parent meeting	Thursday 11 th April, 5.00pm

Staffing Changes

As we approach a new term, I wanted to let you know about some staffing changes that will be happening in school this January. Miss Watson, who has been a highly valued Computing teacher and Assistant Head is leaving us for a new opportunity. She will be replaced full time by Mr Mistry, whom many children will already know. Miss Saville is also leaving us. Her Maths groups will be taught by one of our very experienced Maths teachers, Mrs Cuthbert, and other subjects will be taught by faces familiar to the pupils too. Mrs Steventon will be taking over duties as form tutor.

We're also very pleased to say that Mrs Dickson, one of our French teachers, has returned fit and well after a sustained period out of school with ill health.

Codsall Citizens

You'll be aware of how important it is to us that our pupils develop as well-rounded Codsall Citizens, achieving their personal bests academically and engaging fully with the world around them. We continue to think about our school values (Considerate, Ambitious and Proud), focussing especially on being considerate members of our community, so it has been wonderful to see our pupils running our senior citizens party, supporting a local foodbank, contributing to Anti-Bullying Week, performing in our carol concert, as well as, making Christmas cards for a local residential home and our Ambassadors and Champions have been working to make the school a better place for all of our community.

We look forward to seeing what our wonderful Codsall Citizens achieve next term!

Parent Survey Results

Thank you to everyone who completed the parent survey. We are very heartened by the overwhelmingly positive results. It is lovely to read that well over 90% of parents say that their child is happy, that they feel safe and that they do well at our school. They also said they'd recommend our school to other parents. Over 95% of parents also felt that there was a good range of subjects and extra-curricular activities available.

It was good to hear that 79% of parents said that their child has not experienced bullying at our school – this is much higher than the 60% of pupils in the national figures from OFSTED. No school can honestly claim to be free of bullying and we continue to strive to prevent it but when it does happen, we will always try to deal with it quickly and effectively. This is definitely an area where communication between school and home is very important.

Some parents mentioned difficulty with getting the appointments they wanted at parents' evening. We want to see as many parents as we can so we're going to make the change back to fully in-person evenings. Remote appointments have been less popular with parents, leaving some unfilled slots. They are also easier to forget – for nearly 20% of online appointments the parents didn't join! We feel we could use the time better with in-person appointment and see more parents. We would ask please, that if you book an appointment you do attend or send us a message about cancelling. Also, if you can't make the evenings, please do contact us and we'll make alternative arrangements.

We really appreciated your feedback on Arbor. Although the majority of parents said they found it easy to use and that it helps them monitor effort and behaviour, we do know that a number of parents have frustrations with the platform. Frustrations we share as a staff. I have included some responses below that might help to clarify some of the issues.



ARBOR Homework Assignments

- We know that these have built up for pupils so...
- We are giving them computer time during the school day to go through and submit any homeworks that are overdue. This should clear some of the backlog, and then pupils should be able to keep on top of logging onto Arbor and submitting work they have completed.
- During this computer time, pupils can also get help with their log in from their teachers.
- We've also asked staff to close any homeworks that the pupils can't close.
- We're encouraging the pupils to think of the 'submit' button as meaning 'I've completed it', whether they have any work to physically submit or not.
- We are talking to Arbor about improving their system.

ARBOR Calendar

- You can see your child's timetable for the day in the parent app.
- By using the desktop version of Arbor, you can see the full timetable of your child.
- We've fed back to Arbor that parents would like to be able to see the full timetable in the parent app.

ARBOR Other useful things to know

- Sometimes you need to scroll all the way down to see links or submit homework
- Reports are called 'Report Cards' in Arbor.
- We had to stop notifying parents that their child met expectations in lessons (receiving a '2') because of the number of notifications Arbor was sending. Please rest assured that your child is meeting expectations unless you see a '1' or '0' behaviour incident or a '3' for exceeding expectations. If you don't hear about behaviour points in a day, that means your child has come to school and met expectations in all of their lessons.
- We book appointments for parents evening in the School Cloud system at the moment (see the link on the website, no login information required). We may begin using Arbor in the future.
- We want everyone to be logging on and having conversations about school life with their children. Please don't struggle on your own! Contact us at arborqueries@codsall-middle.staffs.sch.uk

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

Thank you for all of your support. Have a lovely Christmas break and we look forward to seeing the pupils return to school In January refreshed and ready to face the spring term with enthusiasm.

Yours sincerely

Mrs K Reade
Head of School



Foodbank delivery



Choir



Y5/6 Football



Codsall's Got Talent



Netball



Senior Citizens' Party



STEM day



Baking