

COURTWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL

December

2017

Nurturing Knowledge,
Learning for Life



NEWSLETTER

General News

Welcome to the December newsletter. This time of year is always particularly magical in a primary school, with lots of Christmas events and the preparations for the new year. We have already been treated to fantastic Christmas productions by both Reception class and Year 1 and Year 2 and have some budding actors in the making for future events.

Sadly, you will be aware that Mrs Farrelly will be leaving us at Easter to begin a new job as Headteacher at a school in West Sussex. Governors will be writing to all parents in the Spring term to advise about their decision for the best way forward for the school.

Courtwood Crowd Funding

Thank you to everyone who shared or donated to our crowdfunding campaign to raise money to buy new charging lockers for the laptops. We have met our target but still have until 27th December to top it up—we will be able to purchase extra items with additional money. Please continue to share and promote using the link: <https://spsr.me/xAe7>

Healthy Tuck Shop

We are delighted to say that we will be extending our Healthy Tuck Shop provision (juniors only) from one day a week to three. The tuck shop will be open on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday at break time. ALL items will be priced at 50p. The three days a week will begin in January 2018. Between now and then, the tuck shop will continue to run on a Friday.

Young Carers

We have recently begun working closely with Croydon to support young carers in our school community.

A Young Carer is a child under 18 who regularly helps to look after a family member or friend who is disabled, ill, has a mental health condition or addiction problem. Children may engage in:

- Practical tasks (cooking, housework and shopping)
- Physical care (lifting or helping someone use the stairs)
- Personal care (dressing, washing, helping with toilet needs)
- Managing the family budget (collecting benefits and prescriptions)
- Managing medication
- Looking after younger siblings
- Helping someone communicate

Courtwood can support young carers. If you, or a family member, needs support please contact Mrs Cook or Miss Stawman. All contact will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Term Time Holidays

Please can we remind you, as the new year approaches and people begin thinking about booking holidays, that **holidays should not be booked in term time.**

These will never be authorised by the school or governing body unless there is an exceptional circumstance as detailed in our Attendance policy available on the school website. Last year, 11 Courtwood families were issued with penalty notices by the local authority for unauthorised absence at a cost of £60 per pupil, per parent. Thank you for your support with this matter.

Support the PTFA

If you are doing your last little bit of Christmas shopping and grabbing a bargain in the new year sales, please remember you can help support the school at the same time by purchasing your shopping through the easy-fundraising site. Just use this link

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/courtwoodprimary/>

and then purchase as you would normally do—it won't cost you a penny extra but could bring much needed funds into the school to benefit the children. Thank you.

PTFA News

Huge thank you to the PTFA for their hard work in organizing and running the Christmas Fair. The children enjoyed all the stalls and activities available and the choir sung beautifully to open the fair. Thank you to all the parents who helped either set up, man or tidy away after the fair—we couldn't do it without you. The fair raised a grand total of £1150.

The PTFA have also supported our year 1 and 2 and Reception plays with refreshments—thank you.

Facebook: Remember to keep up to date with all school news and events so you never miss a thing; search '**Courtwood Primary Parents**' and request to join the group. Please note the page is only for parents who have children at the school.

Attendance Update

Class	Attendance	Punctuality
Reception	94.6%	8lates
Year 1	93%	33 lates
Year 2	94.7%	14 lates
Year 3	96.4%	16 lates
Year 4	94.4%	13 lates
Year 5	97.1%	7 lates
Year 6	97.6%	15 lates

Congratulations

Netball Results:

23/11/17 League match:
Courtwood (1) vs Gresham (6).

28/11/17 League match:
Courtwood (4) Vs Atwood (3).
Friendly: Lost 3—0.

5/12/17 League match:
Courtwood (7) vs Forestdale (6)

RIPPLE Award Winners for Autumn 2

Congratulations to our winners of the prestigious RIPPLE awards. These are displayed on the Wall of Fame in the school hall, and are awarded to children who continuously exemplify our school learning behaviours. Ahad Mirza Y6 (resilience); Millie Elvin Y5 (perseverance); Kieran Hill Y4 (perseverance); Zach Hill Y3 (practise); Spencer Lockwood Y2 (practise); Charlie Jarman Y1 (practise) Helena Mair Y2 TH (practise); Lewis Francis Y5 TH (independence).

Attendance

- Congratulations to the 149 pupils who achieved 95% plus attendance for the second half of Autumn Term.
- Of these, 103 pupils achieved 100% attendance.
- 81 children achieved 100% attendance for the whole of Autumn term (Sept.—Dec.) They will be awarded with their 'Attendance Bug' prize.
- 43 children achieved 98-99% attendance for the whole of Autumn term and will receive a certificate.
- 178 children were above their target of 95% for the whole of Autumn term and will receive a sticker for their achievements.

Parents and carers will have received a 'Green' traffic light letter informing them of this achievement. If your child is slightly below the 95% target you may have received an 'Amber' traffic light letter, making you aware of their current attendance percentage.

Our '**Every Day Counts**' week was held on the 27th November 2017. The children responded fabulously and attendance for the week compared to the same week last year increased by 2.4% to 95.8%. Lates dropped from 26 to 7 across the whole school. The children thoroughly enjoyed their reward of time using the trampoline, tumble track and wall bars and we hope to run a similar event next term.

Upcoming Diary Dates

December

20.12.17— Last day of term—break up 2pm.

20.12.17— KS2 Carol Service 9am.

January

3.01.18—School OPENS

15.01.18—Year 6 Whitgift Week

30.01.18—Mum's Breakfast at 8am.

February

02.02.18—PTFA Cake Sale, 2pm.

w/c 5.02.18—Every Day Counts Week

09.02.18—PTFA Valentines Disco/ School closes

Fundraising

Currently we have raised **£205**—thank you to all who have contributed.

The next time you log in to ParentPay please have a quick look at the new link at the bottom of the page. We have set up a fundraising link 'Fundraising Donations' to enable anyone who wishes to support the school in this way to be able to do so. If you click on it you will be able to donate an amount of money of your choice, to the school.

