

COURTWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL

November

2017

Nurturing Knowledge,
Learning for Life



NEWSLETTER

General News

The second half of Autumn term is well under way and we have a busy and fun-packed half term ahead including all of the Christmas celebrations that will soon be here! Year 6 enjoyed an excellent trip away to Sayers Croft for their residential while Year 3 performed an excellent Harvest Festival assembly, with all the songs sung beautifully. Thank you to all who sent in donations, which have been collected by The Salvation Army and will be distributed to those in need within the local community. Our Year 6 Prefects, JTAs and School Council Reps have all been elected and are working hard to support the school.

Nut Free School

Please may we remind you that we operate a 'no nuts' policy at Courtwood, to safeguard and protect several of our children who have nut allergies. This includes peanut butter and Nutella sandwiches, which can not be sent in as part of a packed lunch. Severe and potentially life-threatening reactions can otherwise occur.

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.

Keeping Safe Week

This week has been our 'Keeping Safe' week where lessons, assemblies and activities have focused on ways to be safe. Our Junior Travel Ambassadors have been busy helping the children cross the road safely as they come into school in the mornings. Assemblies have focused on e-safety and anti-bullying and reminding the children of how they can stay safe both online and day-to-day. Children have also been learning First Aid through an online video. The children will finish the week with a visit from the Fire Brigade for a safety talk and chance to look closely at a Fire Engine. All the children have been invited to wear odd-socks to school on Friday 24th November to help support The Anti-Bullying Alliance.

Sports For Champions Event

On Monday 16th October, the children received a visit from Team GB long jumper, Ezekiel 'Zeeks' Ewulo, on behalf of the charity 'Sports For Champions UK'. Sports For Champions helps fundraise for athletes who have just broken into the GB squad and are not funded by The National Lottery. Ezekiel worked with all classes in the school, from Reception up to Year 6, to complete a sponsored fitness circuit consisting of Spotty Dogs, Leg Drives, Press Ups and Star Jumps. He then met with the children in an assembly where he spoke to the children about the importance of healthy eating and a healthy lifestyle, as well as the challenges and successes he has encountered in his career to date, and how he has overcome them. The children were stunned to see how far Ezekiel was able to jump and compared it to some efforts of their own and their teachers! The children raised just over £1400 which will be split between Sport For Champions UK and the school. Thank you to everyone who helped the fundraising effort.

Be the Difference

A huge thank you to everyone who has contributed either to the school fund via the ParentPay link, or by supporting their class with tissues/pencils/glue sticks etc. Particular thanks must go to the Green family for their donation.

We have also begun to purchase some of the things the children told us they would like: 2 mini goals for the infant playground and 2 for the junior playground, these should arrive shortly. Plans are also afoot for a gymnastics club to start in the Spring term.

Positions of Responsibility

Year 6 Prefects

Cara Burn; Matthew Harvey; Rose Riches; Mariam Khan; Tanzi Haque; Olivia Onyeachom.

JTAs

Ryan Wallace; Tanzi Haque; Archie Spackman; Emma Gwilliam; Moriah Oyedele; Loui McGrath; Adam Twining; Kiera Lee.

School Council Reps:

Annie Elvin; Lexi Abs; Sade Akinbi; Mehduy Neil; Reshaun Hamblin; Moriah Oyedele; Millie Elvin; Aimee Steele; Olivia Onyeachom; Rose Riches.

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	96.8%	1 late
Year 1	96.8%	15 lates
Year 2	97.5%	10 lates
Year 3	98.9%	10 lates
Year 4	91.7%	3 lates
Year 5	98.5%	11 lates
Year 6	97.5%	6 lates

Congratulations

Netball Results:

9/11/17 League match:
Courtwood (5) vs Fairchildes (3).
Friendly: 1—1.

15/11/17 League match:
Courtwood (3) Vs Greenvale (8).
Friendly: 2—0.

Well done to all the girls.

RIPPLE Award Winners for Autumn 1

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.

Elijah Grant (Effort); Aman Bahra (Perseverance); Siobhan Li (Listening); Trejean Gicquel (Resilience); Holly Gray (Perseverance); Lottie McNamara (Effort); Charlie Sims (Effort) and Ellie-Rose Watts (Effort).

Attendance

- Congratulations to the 188 pupils who achieved 95% plus attendance for the first half of Autumn Term.
- Of these, 145 pupils achieved 100% attendance.

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. Please do not take offence, these are simply to keep you informed of where your child is at throughout the year, rather than only becoming aware of it in the end of year school report.

We will be having an '**Every Day Counts**' week starting on the 27th November 2017. Each class will build up time for attendance and being on time each day of that week, resulting in a set period of reward time where they will have access to sports equipment and class competitions on Friday 1st December. Please support your child in arriving at school on time and not scheduling appointments etc in the day.

Upcoming Diary Dates

November

27.11.17— Every Day Counts week

27.11.17—Year 2/Year 6 SATs meetings for parents (6pm)

December

1.12.17—PTFA Christmas Fair, 3.30-5pm

4.12.17—Assessment Week

12.12.17—KS1 Xmas Play to parents (9.45am)

13.12.17—Reception Play to Parents (10am)

13.12.17—Christmas lunch

13.12.17—KS1 Xmas play to parents (6pm)

14.12.17—KS1 children in at 10am

15.12.17—Christmas Jumper Day

Fundraising

Currently we have raised **£190**—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.



Safeguarding

As many of you may be aware, each school in Croydon, by law, must have a member of staff in charge of Safeguarding. The term 'Safeguarding' is used to describe the care given to both children and families, ensuring that they are safe and well.

We would like to take this opportunity to highlight that at Courtwood, the safeguarding lead teachers are **Mrs Farrelly, Mrs Grant, Miss Stawman and Mrs Cook.**

Occasionally, there are times where children or parents may display certain behaviour that may raise concerns with other parents or staff. This could be something that may have been said by the child to another child or parent, an unusual mark on a child's body or may even be something that has come up in conversation with the parent.

Safeguarding is **everyone's responsibility** and if you, as a parent, have a concern, it is vital that you report this. We would like to reassure you that we would always deal with matters in a sensitive manner and take appropriate action if we feel necessary. It may well be that you just want something brought to our attention.

We would like to highlight that Safeguarding is not something that we are only concerned about when the children are at school. We are equally keen to ensure that children are safe when at home or out with their friends or during the school holidays.

We would also like to remind you that although Safeguarding discussions are not an everyday occurrence, they do happen fairly frequently in school. Being part of a small community can sometimes make things more difficult for people to share. We therefore ask that if you have concerns or are worried, that you come and speak to one of us.

Concerns may include things such as:

- * The way in which a child is disciplined
- * The care of a particular child
- * A child is being bullied by others
- * One off incidents that may have been witnessed by an adult
- * Concerns about domestic violence in the household
- * Concerns that children are being kept off school unnecessarily
- * Children socialising with others inappropriately outside of school
- * Inappropriate behaviour online

Email contact:

Mrs Farrelly

tfarrelly@courtwood.croydon.sch.uk

Mrs Grant

ngrant@courtwood.croydon.sch.uk

Miss Stawman

j.stawman@courtwood.croydon.sch.uk

Mrs Cook

c.cook@courtwood.croydon.sch.uk

Finally, I would like to say that many people are fearful about having to speak to someone about concerns that they may have as they may feel that what they say may result in the children being taken away from the parents. This is very rarely the case and would only happen in the most extreme of circumstances. If we as a school are aware of issues, we will be able to help signpost the appropriate services to families so that they are able to get the support that they require.

By reporting such issues, we are also able to educate the children about matters that may arise throughout the year. An example of this could be to do with online safety. As we are made aware of issues we can speak to children about the dangers and put a stop to any dangerous situations arising for them.

The NSPCC are also incredibly useful and can provide some useful advice on any safeguarding matters. To contact the NSPCC, please call 0808 800 5000.