

COURTWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL

September

2017

Nurturing Knowledge,
Learning for Life



NEWSLETTER

General News

Welcome back to the new school year; it is hard to believe that we have already been back four weeks and term is well underway. We welcome our new Reception children and parents to Courtwood and also Mr Strong and Miss Bird, our new teachers in Reception and Year 5 respectively. An additional sports coach, Coach Mikey, joins us at lunchtimes to support play in the infant playground. We are delighted to share that Mrs Sisson had a baby boy during the summer holidays, named Xavier, and both are doing well. We also say a sad goodbye to Mrs Gifford, who is leaving us to start her new job full-time. Mrs Gifford has been at Courtwood for eight years and we must say a huge thank you to her for all of her hard work and dedication to the school, it's children, parents and staff during her time with us— she will be hugely missed.

Mrs Farrelly

Mrs Farrelly will continue her role of executive head at Gilbert Scott and Courtwood Primary schools. Her time will be shared between the two schools with Thursday as her set day at Courtwood. Please feel free to come and say hello when she is in school or if you have any concerns you wish to discuss.

Vegetable Garden

You may have noticed our beautiful new vegetable garden at the entrance to the junior playground, which has been built and paid for by Mr Rynkiewicz. It has been named 'The Garden of Memories'. Ms Guest is very excited to get started planting and growing with lots of the children, with Year 3 children taking a lead role in this.

Nurture Room Build Update

The build is now progressing well and the structure has begun to take shape. The windows are in and the electrics and plumbing will now start before the plastering takes place. We hope that the building will be finished and handed to the school by October 31st and children will be able to benefit from it shortly after half term. Thank you specifically to parents of the infant children who have been navigating a smaller playground space while the build has been in progress. The work was supposed to have been completed during the summer holidays but as is often the case with these things, encountered a few delays along the way! Our lunchtime staff have been ensuring the children have access to the field and also the school hall at playtimes and lunchtimes so the children still have space to run around and enjoy themselves in these times.

Be the Difference—Can You Help?

At the end of last term, we shared with you some of the things our children at Courtwood told us they would like, to help make the school even better. Our staff team remain committed to ensuring that children have an excellent education during their time here and to trying to make the things they would like to happen, happen! However we need your help! However much we would like to be able to provide some things, budgets mean it is not always possible. Listed below are some of the things that we think are possible to make happen with a little bit of help. If you know of someone who may be prepared to volunteer some time/expertise, can put us in touch with a contact/business who could help, or make a donation however large or small, we would be hugely grateful. These things really do make a difference to our children. Please contact: office@courtwood.croydon.sch.uk

To make Courtwood even better I would like it if ...we had more computers/ iPads ...we had more rubbers, glue sticks, pens and pencils ...we had football every day ...we had a climbing frame and monkey bars and a swing and a slide...we had more Lego/toys/books...we had a gymnastics club...more tennis balls... better goals on the field and ... we could have Heinz ketchup and mayo at lunchtimes!

Thank you in advance for anything you can do to help.

Notices

We have been informed that there will be roadworks directly outside of the school in Courtwood Lane, for the next 2—3 weeks. This includes temporary traffic lights and may at times put the zebra crossing out of action. Please allow a few extra minutes at drop-off and home time to navigate the traffic and ensure we keep all of our children safe on the roads outside.

Lost Property

Please ensure you name absolutely **everything** that your child wears to school—we can only return if the name is clearly on the item and you will probably be unsurprised by the amount of items that are already cluttering up our lost property bin. Thank you.

Year 6 Parents

Please note that the deadline for online applications for secondary schools via Croydon Admissions is **October 31st 2017**. Applications received late may affect your child's chance of gaining the school of their choice.

Attendance Update

Class	Attendance	Punctuality
Reception	N/A%	N/A%
Year 1	97.4%	0 lates
Year 2	96.0%	4 lates
Year 3	97.0%	2 lates
Year 4	96.2%	5 lates
Year 5	96.1%	2 lates
Year 6	96.0%	7 lates

Parking

Please be careful not to block the entrances to garages opposite the school when collecting your children. Local residents have on occasions been unable to access their garages, required to safely transport a disabled child to and from school. Thank you.

Congratulations

- To the football team who won their first match against Forestdale 3—1 and drew their second against Gilbert Scott 2—2. They then played Fairchildes and lost the first match 2—0 before winning the second 2—0.
- To the Orienteering team in Year 5 and 6, who took part in a competition on the 26th September and came first, beating all the other schools present!
- Our new team point captains for the year are: Max Troy (red); Riley Shute (blue); Maia Begley (yellow) and Sari-Sola Ribeiro (green).

Attendance

Our school target for every child to achieve is **95%**. We are keen to celebrate good attendance as well as perfect (100%) attendance and every child who achieves at least 95% attendance for the half term will be entered into a raffle to win a prize, as well as receive a sticker. Any child achieving 97-99% will receive a certificate and for those who achieve the magical 100%, there will be a 100% praise bug awarded in assembly. Attendance is a life-long skill that is best ingrained young. **Even children who achieve 95% attendance will have had 10 school days off across the year**, which equates to two whole weeks of learning! That could be as much as 14 weeks in a child's time at Courtwood, which is why it is so important that we all try to aim for the 95%. Please try and book dentist/ doctor appointments after school if at all possible and **do not book holidays in term-time**. Our policy clearly states that these will not be authorised other than in exceptional circumstances and we will pursue Fixed Penalty Notices for unauthorised absence with the Local Authority. Should your child's attendance fall below 95% you can expect to receive a letter inviting you to meet with Miss Stawman in the first instance to discuss any support we may be able to give you. We thank you for your understanding and support.

Upcoming Diary Dates

October

w/c 02.10.17—Year 6 Sayers Croft week

04.10.17— New Reception Parents PTFA Afternoon Tea at 3.30pm.

11.10.17—Sports for Champions Sponsor Forms and money due in to school.

12.10.17—Harvest Festival Donations due in school.

16.10.17—Multicultural Week.

16.10.17— Sports for Champions event.

Fundraising

Currently we have raised **£158**—thank you to all who have contributed. We are hoping to use the money to put towards activities/visitors for multicultural week and will let you know how the money has been spent in future newsletters.

Mrs Troy raised £80 towards the new kit for Cross Country/Athletics and the PTFA have kindly agreed to fund the remaining £50.

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.