

COURTWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL

September

2018

Nurturing Knowledge,
Learning for Life



NEWSLETTER

General News

Welcome back to Courtwood after the summer holidays - we hope you had a fabulous time and are looking forward to the new school year as much as we are. There are a number of new faces to welcome including our Tree House teachers Mrs Filus and Mrs Harwood; our year 3 teacher, Miss Khan; our Tree House TAs, Miss Bond and Miss Harding and our new sports coach, Ben Uzun. We also welcome all our new Reception children

Academy Status

On the 1st September, Courtwood officially became an academy as part of The Collegiate Trust, joining Riddlesdown, Quest, Gilbert Scott, Gossops Green and Waterfield Primary schools. We are excited about the opportunities this will bring for our children, as well as support development of our staff. Gordon Smith, CEO, will be coming to meet the children during an assembly this week. The day-to-day running of the school and learning will remain unchanged.

Get Fired! Competition

Thank you to all parents and supporters of the school who managed to achieve an amazing 2100 plus votes on the Get Fired! competition over the summer. We came second overall, losing by just 67 votes to a 3 form entry primary school. As a result of your fabulous efforts Get Fired! Have offered us the chance to receive the same prize as the winners but at a cost of £1 per pupil rather than the normal £9. We have accepted and a **mufti-day** will be held on **Friday 28th September** as a fundraiser.

Young Carers In Schools Awards

We are delighted to share that we have been awarded the Bronze and Silver Young Carers in Schools Awards. This is a huge achievement to have achieved both awards within a school year and we are very proud of the programme of support that we have in place for our Young Carers at Courtwood. The Young Carers in Schools programme helps primary and secondary schools improve outcomes for young carers and celebrates good practice through the Young Carers in Schools Award.

"To achieve their Bronze Award Courtwood has demonstrated that it supports young carers in many ways, including homework clubs and drop-in sessions with a member of staff who is responsible for this vulnerable group of pupils. Vital information about how to identify young carers is made available to all school staff, and noticeboards and the school webpage let students and their families know where to go for help". YCiS.



"To achieve their Silver Award Courtwood has demonstrated that it supports young carers in many ways, including awareness raising with pupils and staff, and by building links within the local community. Young carers are consulted with, and vital information is made available to pupils and families, letting them know where to go for help." YCiS.



Parent Governor Vacancy

You will be aware that Al Roseweir, our Chair of Governors for a number of years, has stepped down as he is now part of The Collegiate Board. Kirsten Kendall has kindly agreed to act as our new Chair of Governors. **The Courtwood Local Governing Body currently has a vacancy for a Parent Governor.** This is a fabulous opportunity to become involved in a different aspect of school life and help shape the future direction of the school. If you would be interested in joining the governing body or finding out more about what the role entails, please contact either Mrs Grant or the school office. A separate letter will also be sent home soon, inviting nominations for this role.

Notices

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.

Entering School Via the Office

The school bell is rung at 8:45am. Entrance to the school is via the main gate along Courtwood Lane and via the Reception gate for Reception class. Please ensure you are not entering the school via the office as a short-cut. You will be asked to enter via the main gate if you come in this way, whilst the main gate is still open. Thank you.

Year 3 Parents

Now that the children have completed their first few days in the juniors, please can we kindly request that parents do not wait in the junior playground with their children in the mornings. A staff member is on duty in the playground from 8.30am and the children will always be supervised. Thank you for your cooperation.

Year 6 Parents

Please note that the deadline for online applications for secondary schools via Croydon Admissions is **October 31st 2018**. Applications received late may affect your child's chance of gaining the school of their choice. Guidance can be found online on the Croydon Council website as can Open Days for year 7.

Parent Volunteers

We are always looking for volunteers to come and hear children read or support children in other ways. If you have a spare few hours a week that you would be able to dedicate to this, we would be glad to have you. Please speak to the office in the first instance.

Sports Ambassadors

This year we will be introducing a brand new role to Courtwood: child Sport Ambassadors. These will be children who are passionate about PE, Sport and Health, and will have various responsibilities to be carried out during the year, including helping the PE coaches promote games and play during break and lunchtimes, as well as helping shape a better lunchtime experience. Everyone is welcome to apply, so keep an eye out for the letter with the nomination process which will be heading your way soon!

Safeguarding

Keeping children safe remains a key priority for all at Courtwood. Please read the attached information carefully.

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 unauthorized 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

September

- 12.09.18**—Reception start part-time
- 17.09.18**—Reception start full-time
- 18.09.18**—Y6 Sayers Croft meeting 2.45pm
- 25.09.18**—Reception/Year 1/Year 2 Reading meeting for parents at 8.45am.
- 26.09.18**—Reception parents PTFA afternoon tea at 3.30pm
- 28.09.18**—Mufti-Day (whole-school)
- 1st—5th October**—Year 6 Sayers Croft.
- 08.10.18**—Black History Week

Bright Adventures Breakfast and After-School Club

Sam Blakeman, one of our parents, runs the Bright Adventures Breakfast and After-School Club, that is situated at the Forestdale Forum. If you are interested in utilizing this provision for your child(ren), the centre will be holding an open door policy for drop-in visits this week, so parents and carers can visit and see the location and discuss individual need direct with Sam. We have included registration forms with this newsletter, should you be interested in using this provision. Please note that the provision is not managed by the school in any way.

Diary Dates for the year have also been sent out with this newsletter. We hope you find them useful. More detailed information will be sent via letter regarding individual events nearer the time.

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 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

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