



Headteacher: Mrs Deborah Wood

Nurture, Inspire, Flourish.



Courtney Primary School , Courtney Road, Kingswood, Bristol, BS15 9RD
www.courtneyprimaryschool.co.uk

Email: office@courtneyyps.org.uk
Tel: 01454 866670

27th June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Latest Update

We have had another busy week at Courtney. There have been some more class Zoom meetings to unite those in school with those at home and we had our first ever remote meeting for parents and carers of children starting in Reception in September.

While we are in this unusual state, we have managed to move forward with the current Reception area – something we have been planning for a long time. The rotting Fire Station has now gone and the space has really opened up. A huge thank you for Mr 'power tool' Thomas and his Orange Tribe for doing a lot of the spadework to allow this to happen. The children in that bubble have developed their teamwork and also learned how to safely use screw drivers, claw hammers and wheelbarrows.

This week, builders have been in and have converted the very large (unhygienic) sandpit in Reception area into a large artificially turfed area which has almost doubled the available space in which they can play. All exciting stuff!



As you are aware, we hear any changes in guidance and expectation the same time as you do through announcements or reading it on Twitter or the BBC website. Even though much of the future plans are undecided, I thought it would be useful to let you know where we are at with our thinking and share an idea of timescale.

Last Week of Term (beginning 13th July)

We had hoped to provide some schooling for all children before the end of term in order to allow every child to reconnect with school and know that we are still here and eager for them to return. However, we were really disappointed after consulting Public Health with our plans to discover that we would be



breaching current guidance. The fact that the same staff we are currently using would start working with other groups was the problem.

We are, however, able to offer some provision for current Year 3 children as neither Mrs Nicholls nor Miss Park have been working in school this term. A separate letter will be going out to Year 3.

For the other year groups, we are currently working on a plan to have some contact if possible either a Zoom meeting or a reduced class size meeting outside (clearly weather-dependent). We will let you know as soon as we have worked out what we can manage to provide within current constraints.

Year 6

We are mindful of the fact that, for our Year 6, this is their last term and we want to mark this important milestone with them. Fortunately, most of the children are attending school this term which has, at least, allowed them to enjoy some time with a proportion of their classmates. We are looking at what we can do, within the current guidance, to mark the end of their time at Courtney and are in the process of collecting ideas from the children and from other schools.

Summer Holiday Provision

To confirm, the school will not be open to any children during the school holiday period. We have decided, in the current circumstances, not to run our normal holiday club and we will not be opening for Key Workers nor our vulnerable children. The DfE have announced: ["We can confirm that providers offering paid childcare will be able to operate over the summer holidays, in line with protective measures guidance. Additional funded activities may be available in local areas, such as the Holiday Activities and Food scheme."](#) So for key workers, the Local Authority will be announcing what they are offering once they have worked out the logistics.

September

Again, no firm news to share with you. The current indications are that all children will be back in full-time sometime in September but these have not been confirmed nor agreed with the teaching unions. I am in a consultation group with other headteachers and the Local Authority and we are, at the moment, drafting plans on the basis of 'second guessing' what the guidance will say. The next government announcement is due on **30th June** and we will keep you informed as soon as we know what we are doing.

Thank you to you all for your continued support, including your extended families. The whole staff team have been working extremely hard keeping school and home provision going and have really appreciated the positive feedback that you have been giving them. It really does give them a boost.

Have a lovely weekend,

Deborah Wood
Headteacher

