



**Spider -Making
Connections**

Newsletter 27 – 7th April 2017

*'We take responsibility for ourselves and do the right thing
even when it's difficult.'*

Diary Dates

Back to School May Day Bank Holiday Clubs Start School Photographer Year 2 Assembly Year 1 Assembly Year 4 Assembly Break Up Back to School	Monday 24 th April Monday 1st May Week beg 2 nd May Friday 5th May Friday 12 th May at 2.30pm Friday 19th May at 2.30pm Monday 22 nd May at 2.40pm Friday 26th May Monday 5 th June
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INSET Days

Friday 1st September 2017
Monday 30th October 2017
Tuesday 31st October 2017
Monday 18th December 2017
Friday 9th February 2018

Headteacher's News

On September 1st, 2005 (shortly before the birth of Olivia in Y6), Mr Jon Cant joined Courtney Primary School as a newly qualified teacher. Mr Cant's skill has led to impressive progress for the last two Year 6 cohorts but it is from Year 4 that he hands over the teaching baton. He will be much missed by pupils and staff alike; after twelve years, deep relationships are formed. Not only will he be a loss as a teacher, he also takes with him a whole wealth of knowledge about the teaching of Reading and Writing - which we have made good use of over the years.

Mr Cant leaves us to take up a new profession as a Personal Trainer – his daily cycle to school over the years shows that he puts his money where his mouth is! All of us here at Courtney wish him all the very best as he builds up a brand new life which, hopefully, will allow a little more quality time with his young family. I'm sure that he'll be open to new customers – check him out on Facebook!

And finally, have a really super Easter holiday.

Deborah Wood

This week's Crown Values Certificates awarded to:

Year R Cherry: Peter & George
 Year 1 Oak: Laila-Mai
 Year 2 Ash: Oliver
 Year 3 Lime: Jahsiah
 Year 4 Maple: Josh
 Year 5 Sycamore: The Whole Class
 Year 6 Cedar: Emrys



Attendance Total 96.1%

YR Cherry 96.0%
 Y1 Oak 94.6%
 Y2 Ash 97.1%
 Y3 Lime 96.4%
 Y4 Maple 96.1%
 Y5 Sycamore 96.6%
 Y6 Cedar 95.8%



Reading Certificates

Reading 10: Bence, Freya

Reading 20:

Reading 30: Chelsea-Jo, Ellis, Tyler, Evie, Alesha, Imogen, Ashley, Beatrice, Mark, Harry, Jack, Oliver



Attendance

The government have set each school's attendance target as **96%** or more and we are only just achieving that. Each lesson in each day counts.

Although it sounds a lot, even if your child has 95% attendance, that's half a day missed every two weeks!



The other information the government collects is for **broken weeks**. We have to send in information about the percentage of children who have had a lot of odd days off.

Ways you can help:

- If your child is under the weather, send them in and let us know to keep an eye on them.
- Book holidays in holiday time
- Wherever possible, make medical appointments after school

Thank you for your support in helping us reach our attendance target.

Funding

As you will have heard on the news, schools are facing large cuts in their budgets and Courtney is no exception. We are having to pay a lot more for staff on-costs, the Apprenticeship Levy, South Glos Special Needs overspend clawback to name but a few. We will be tens of thousands of pounds worse off in 2017-8. If you want to find out more about fair funding, please look out for the parent groups which are being set up. Our local one can be found via Twitter @SOStrfwia or Facebook

https://www.facebook.com/groups/650593441811495/?ref=group_cover



Feedback from Explore Learning Team who visited Year 2

"Firstly thank you so much for letting us come in and work with your fabulous children yesterday!! Becci and I really enjoyed coming in to Ash Class and came away with massive smiles on our faces! You should be so proud of where they are right now and they really are a credit to you. We work with a large number of schools in the local area and your class really stood out to me yesterday, so engaged and forthcoming with their imaginative answers, it really was a pleasure!"

Sparkling Starts

It's that time of the term again. A quick explanation for those families who are new to our school. Below are listed the topic questions for next term. In order to generate enthusiasm and maybe even sneak in a bit of prior learning, we would like your child (with or without your help) to complete a task of their choosing which can be displayed on the Sparkling Starts wall outside their classroom. It could be an in-depth piece of work, a photo of a special visit, a model, a picture, a story, or... Get inventive!

Cherry Class YR – "What makes our world wonderful?"

Oak Class Y1 – Oh we do like to be beside the seaside – "What animals might we see at the seaside?"

Ash Class Y2 – That's Entertainment (the Circus) – "When is the Circus coming to town?"

Lime Class Y3 – "How do we get colour?"

Maple Class Y4 – "What is the water cycle?"

Sycamore Class Y5 – "What did the Ancient Greeks do for us?"

Cedar Class Y6 – "Where have you been?" - this will cover places they have visited in the UK and abroad as well as places they would like to go.

During the holiday we still expect you to fit in those very important reading opportunities five times a week. However, in order to take the pressure off families to complete homework during school holidays, we pass the option over to you. If you want to join in but are away all week, don't miss out - work may be handed in at any time during the first week back.

Hedgehogs

We now have 3 hedgehogs living in the pond area (called Aida, Dina and Sonic). They were rescued by Dean, Aiden and Mr Smith (Site Manager). Stockwood Hedgehog Rescue looked after them until they were fit and well enough to go back into the wild.



New Families

During the course of the year, families come and go. We have had quite a few new families join us recently so if you see someone that you don't recognise standing on their own, please be brave and go and introduce yourself.

Introducing Maple Class' New Teacher - Mr Thomas



My name is Mr Thomas, and from Monday 24th April, I will be the class teacher of Maple Class, Year 4. I am really looking forward to starting a new challenge at Courtney Primary School. I have been a teacher for eight years, with the first of those four years in a school in Withywood, with the following four years in Thornbury. I have enjoyed leading PE and most recently mathematics within my schools. In addition to the development of the school as a whole, I will have responsibility for English (reading, writing and phonics) from EYFS to Year 6. I feel that Courtney is at the beginning of a really exciting journey, and I am really excited to be a part of that. It has been a busy eight years to date, but a career which I love. I have certainly learnt more in that time than I expected!

My world outside of school is equally as busy. Keeping up with my two sons, one aged two and a half and the other 6 months is no walk in the park! My family and I enjoy spending as much time as we can outside, which suits the boys down to the ground. If we aren't going for *stomping muddy-puddle* walks, or running amok in the garden, we can be found going for a walk at the beach. We are keen gardeners, growing as much as we can and tending to our daily supply of fresh eggs – our two happy hens. Make sure you ask me what other pets I have! Other than spending time with my family, I am an avid rugby follower, watcher and player. Even though I've hung my rugby union boots up, I am representing a local team in a touch rugby league.

That is all from me until after Easter, which leaves me with one message to the families and staff of Courtney Primary School. Enjoy the rest of this term, as the weather improves, and have an egg-celent Easter break.

School Council

Our School Council would like to thank everyone who entered our Easter Egg competition. Special well done to our finalists, Brody Colingborn-Hughes, Eva Russell, Dorothy Harris, Zaila Hemming, Lacey Fordham, William Flew from KS1 and Cole Adams, Shayla Bullock, Mia McMillan, Louise Murphy, Ashley Millington and Mark Page from KS2.

Y5/6 Football Match

Well done to the Year 5/6 football team who played Our Lady of Lourdes on Thursday. Although they didn't win they played brilliantly and showed great teamwork. Thank you to all the parents who came along to support them. Our Man of the Match was Bence.

Team Players – Tyler, Danial, Sebastien, Trenae, Ashley Sam, Dragos, James, Emrys Taylor, Kyeron, Endry, Tyler and Bence.

Year 6

Y6 have worked very hard this term in all areas and they should feel proud of all the progress they are making. Thank you to those parents who came along to our science Wow event. We hope you enjoyed all of the practical activities - the children certainly did!



Year 5

The learning in Sycamore this term has been fantastic; we have written our own information texts about a hybrid animal; dissected and constructed a heart; and had an amazing time at Noah's Ark Zoo!



Year 2

Ash class have had a fantastic term swashbuckling their way through pirate adventures! We've enjoyed a great school trip to the SS Great Britain, worked hard as detectives to solve a mystery and written some beautiful stories all about Peter Pan's adventures. Brilliant work Year 2 - thank you for being so fabulous!



Year 1

Year 1 have loved all their outdoor learning this term with our topic 'Get Your Wellies On!' However, a highlight has got to be making our own picnic and enjoying it in the sun.



Governors' News

Hello Courtney families,

We have decided to include a Governors' section in the last newsletter of each term; we can use this to let parents know who our Governors are and exactly what Governor monitoring we have been doing in school.

Long gone are the days where governors would spend their time discussing school uniform colours and logos, or raising funds. The Governing Body have a more serious job to do: 'a statutory obligation for ensuring the school is operating effectively and in line with legislative and educational requirements' This means 3 things...

- Acting strategically
- Being accountable to the stakeholder (that's you)
- Overseeing the management of the budget

We will include a little on our responsibilities each term so you get an understanding of the very important job we all do...**voluntarily.**

MEET THE GOVERNORS

Each newsletter you can meet the Governors and get to know the roles they have and the committees they sit on.

I'm Janet Hinchliffe (I'm not very good at selfies as you may tell) a Co-opted Governor, Chair of the Governing Body. I have been a Governor for over 6 years. I am on the Resources, Pay and Curriculum committees. My Link Governor roles are

- Safeguarding
- Pupil Premium
- EYFS



I enjoy seeing the school flourish and meeting the children on my many visits. The staff are very welcoming and the children are keen to support us by answering our many questions, spending time in school is definitely a perk of the job.

SPENDING TIME IN SCHOOL

The following Governor monitoring has taken place this term

- Pupil Premium Visit - Mrs Gee met with Janet Hinchliffe
- SEN Visit - Mrs Gee met with Gemma Sellars
- Task Group -Mrs Wood and Lindsey-Ann Sauerlander met with the school council
- Pupil Voice conferencing - Janet Hinchliffe and Gemma Sellars met with KS1 and KS2 children to talk about 'feeling safe in school' and 'bullying'

OFSTED

The Governors are extremely disappointed with the Requires Improvement outcome to the recent inspection. We do urge you to read the full report as it is bursting with positive comments and a reflection of the journey we are on. We have an ambitious vision for the future and we are well on our way to achieving this.

Finally we wish you all a happy and relaxing Easter Holiday



