



**Newsletter 38 – 20<sup>th</sup> July 2018**  
**'We think creatively and are brave enough to take risks'**

**Diary Dates**

<b>INSET Day</b> <b>INSET Day</b> <b>Children Back (not Cherry Class YR)</b> <b>Y4 Year Group Meeting with the Teacher</b> <b>Y5 Year Group Meeting with the Teacher</b> <b>Y6 Year Group Meeting with the Teacher</b> <b>Y2 Year Group Meeting with the Teacher</b> <b>Y1 Year Group Meeting with the Teacher</b> <b>Y3 Year Group Meeting with the Teacher</b>	<i>Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> September</i> <i>Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> September</i> <i>Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> September</i> <i>Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 3:20</i> <i>Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> September 3:20</i> <i>Friday 7<sup>th</sup> September 3:20</i> <i>Monday 10<sup>th</sup> September 3:20</i> <i>Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> September 3:20</i> <i>Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> September 3:20</i>
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**INSET Days 2018-19:**

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> & Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> September, Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> & Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2018 and Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2019**

**Headteacher's News**

It is the time of year for farewells.

**Children**

Cedar Class, our current Year 6, have been an absolute delight this year both working extremely hard and being good role models for the rest of the children. Not only that, they have made a huge difference to the wider life of the school by being reliable monitors, setting an example as House and Deputy House Captains, taking their roles of Reception Buddies seriously and representing the school well when out and about. As one parent texted "an outstanding assembly" this morning.

We are also saying goodbye to some of our families: Tommy in YR will be starting at a school nearer to his home and the Dobos family are moving back to Hungary. Each of them will be missed by us here at Courtney and especially by their friends.

**Adults**

If it were a cricket match, I would say that there are some big hitters leaving this year with an accumulation of 69 years at Courtney between them. Our four long-serving staff members had all been associated with the school long before I arrived three years ago now, and long before the new building was even dreamt of.

**Theresa Gee**

Mrs Gee is leaving Courtney after 20 years (she describes herself as part of the furniture) in order to dedicate some quality time with Wilf while he is still pre-school age; clearly, precious time.

In 1997, Mrs Gee started as a young, fresh-faced newly-qualified teacher and has never left! Recognising her clear talents, Mr Ledbury, my predecessor, gradually promoted her until she reached her current position as Deputy Headteacher in 2007 and Special Educational Needs Leader (SENCo).

Since I was appointed Headteacher in September 2015, she has shown how thoroughly she knows the children and how passionate and dedicated she is to her work. Her encyclopaedic knowledge of families and individual pupils she has worked with is partly recorded but there is a lot of information spanning the years which we may have to tap into with the odd phone call! In recent years, she has made a huge improvement to our whole school Behaviour Policy which is now celebratory as well as clear about sanctions; the children love the reward system she has put into place. Courtney has a greater than average proportion of children with Education and Health Care Plans (EHCP) which demonstrates how effective the paperwork and provision has been in the lead up to the applications as they are very difficult to get. Personally, I must say that she has been a really supportive colleague and has proved herself to be discrete, loyal and resilient. Part of the fabric of the school family, she will be sorely missed by us all.

**Anne Phillips**

Mrs Phillips joined Courtney even longer ago than Mrs Gee in 1989 so has worked at the school for 28 years. Starting as a lunch break supervisor, as her own family's needs changed, so too has her role and she has for many years been a Teaching Assistant. I have only seen her work in Reception class, but am reliably assured that she is equally as skilled in other year groups too. Mrs Phillips quietly and expertly gets on with her work and has shown such incredible skill

as she has nurtured and inspired a wider range of children: those refusing to do what they have been asked, those who are upset, those who find their learning difficult, those lacking confidence. She has been a calm and reassuring presence with parents and carers at drop off and pick up times. Every teacher who has worked with her has recognised how brilliant she is and have fought tooth and nail to keep her in their classes. I feel fortunate to have kept her at Courtney for as long as I have (she has been threatening to retire ever since I started) but the call of the expanding collection of grandchildren has finally proved too strong.

#### **Fran Florendine**

Mrs Florendine started Courtney in 2008 so her 9 years' service makes her a relative newcomer! She returned from maternity leave when I started so I have only ever known her as a Reception Class teacher although again I am reliably informed that she has taught other infant ages. Mrs Florendine supposedly works half the week as a job-share but I can count on the fingers of one hand the number of occasions she has not worked longer in school than her contracted hours. She took on the leadership of EYFS in 2016 and leaves with the Early Years practice in a much stronger position because of her commitment to teamwork and her reflective approach to provision. I wish to thank her, on behalf of us all, for everything she has done for the school and, if she remains free, will be seeing her again as one of our supply team.

#### **Julie Castle**

Another long-standing member of our team is Mrs Castle who started in 2005 covering maternity leave and has taught here for 12 years. Originally trained as a secondary school teacher, Mrs Castle has brought her musical talent and expertise to Courtney. Because of the nature of her role, she has had an enormous influence on many, many children who have been inspired by the opportunities she has created: Carols at Candlelight, numerous KS2 productions, weekly singing assemblies across the school, the KS2 choir singing at a wide range of community events. She has organised the musical instrument tuition which has led to children realising they had untapped talent and passion they could develop to enhance their lives. Again, thank you never seems quite enough. Although technically she is retiring to spend more time with her retired husband, if she is available, she has agreed to come and do supply teaching for us - so our link remains for a while yet.

And we also say goodbye to Laurie Knowles-Smith who, although a long-term agency supply teacher, has been with us since January so has become part of our family. I wish to thank her for keeping a steady ship with our Year 1 children and for coming back from her travels earlier than she would have liked just to keep that stability going.

And finally, thank you to each and every one of you who has in some way helped Courtney to get even better this year, from governance, to helping with homework, to coming to see us if there is a concern to sort, to attending WOW events, to supporting FOCP, to using our OOSC club... Have a super break and see you all back on the 5<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Deborah Wood**

#### **This week's Crown Values Certificates awarded to:**

- Year R Cherry: Finley Y
- Year 1 Oak: Rhys I
- Year 2 Ash: Carson H
- Year 3 Lime: Madison P-W
- Year 4 Maple: Shayla B
- Year 5 Sycamore: Mira D
- Year 6 Cedar: Freya C



#### **Attendance Total 95.6% \* this is below our 96% target**

- YR Cherry 95.9%
- Y1 Oak 93.6%
- Y2 Ash 96.9%
- Y3 Lime 96.7%
- Y4 Maple 94.0%
- Y5 Sycamore 95.9%
- Y6 Cedar 97.1%



#### **Reading Certificates**

#### **These children have reached their next Reading 25s Certificate:**

Millie C, Megan W, Mia F, Millie D, Peter M, Jessica G, Sam P, Dylan J, Mark W, Ruby G-M, Evie S, Lilly B, Lily B, Archie L, Poppy S, Josh S



#### **Multiplication Masters**

William F

### New Year Group Meeting with the Teacher

During the first two weeks back, we would like to invite you into school for a year group meeting with your new teacher. It is really important that you attend if you possibly can because the teacher will be going through important expectations and plans for the year. Clearly, the paperwork will be available on the website at a later date but it is always more effective to hear things first hand.

### Visitors from Belarus

A really big thank you to yourself and everyone at Courtney School for making the children from the Chernobyl Children's Life Line Charity so very welcome yesterday afternoon.

A special thank you to the wonderful Students from Year 6 who did their very best to help the guests feel at home.



### School Uniform

Before you spend any money on smart new uniform ready for September, could we remind you of our policy:



Plain, black shoes with closed toes. (We prefer proper shoes but if do buy trainers instead, please buy ones that both look smart and have black soles.)



Black or grey trousers, pinafore, skirt or shorts. (We have not banned leggings but would prefer more formal clothing.) Socks should be plain white, black or grey.

### Uniform Suppliers



For schools, businesses,  
clubs and individuals  
Sales & Enquiries: 0117 956 0909

Last orders for Initially Yours is 4<sup>th</sup> August to ensure delivery in time for September.

### School Council Tea Party

There was an amazing tea party that thanked all our school helpers who make the school nice and fun. Thank you for coming, have a great summer and please come back next year. Thank you for helping our school. The School Council.

### Arrears

There are still many arrears on children's accounts. The office will be contacting parents with significant arrears or parents with children in Year 6 over the holidays. Please could we ask all parent/carers to clear their arrears this weekend to avoid our phone calls during the holidays!

### Out of School Clubs (OoSC)

#### School's out!



So the end of my first term at Courtney Primary School. It has been amazing. I can honestly say this has been my best job to date – even though it doesn't feel like a job. The Out of School Club Team have some brilliant ideas for the Autumn Term for your children so please consider giving us a try. Thank you to everyone, including the OOSC team and children, who have made me so welcome.

Two highlights were the Kidztime show and the Tea Party where we served 49 plates of scones/jam/cream and cup cakes. The OOSC team are keen to make this an annual event so hopefully you will be able to join us next Summer for this event. You don't have to be an Out of School Club family to come to this. It is open to all.



The whole team wish you a safe, warm and happy Summer Break and look forward to welcoming your children next term. Jan Bernard

**Come and Enjoy the Fun at Out of School Club**

### Digital Parenting Magazine from the Vodafone Foundation

An article discussing screen time and a useful guide to parental and privacy controls.

The full magazine can be downloaded from: <https://parentzone.org.uk/digital-parenting-online-safety-magazine-archive>

### Community News

#### THE READING AGENCY AND LIBRARIES PRESENT



Our local library team have been telling children how to take part in Mischief Makers, this year's Summer Reading Challenge. The children will tell you all about it! All they have to do is read SIX library books and visit the library regularly over the summer, collecting special stickers and incentives along the way. Please encourage your children to visit the

library and sign up so you can see the difference the Summer Reading Challenge makes to their reading. PLUS beat the boredom this summer! Find out about libraries FREE Mischief Makers Fizz Pop Science workshops and fun craft activities at [www.southglos.gov.uk/childrenslibrary](http://www.southglos.gov.uk/childrenslibrary). Like us [www.facebook.com/sgloslibraries](https://www.facebook.com/sgloslibraries) and follow us on Twitter @southgloslibs for the latest Mischief Makers updates. Join Mischief Makers, Summer Reading Challenge 2018 at any library during staffed opening hours. All libraries staffed days and hours changed in October 2017 – find our new ones at [www.southglos.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.southglos.gov.uk/libraries).