



Headteacher: Mrs Deborah Wood

Nurture, Inspire, Flourish.



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### Newsletter 1 – 11<sup>th</sup> September 2020

We understand how to lead physically and mentally healthy lives.

#### Term Dates

Term	Starts	Ends
Term 1	Tuesday 1 September 2020	Friday 23 October 2020
Term 2	Monday 2 November 2020	Friday 18 December 2020
Term 3	Monday 4 January 2021	Friday 12 February 2021
Term 4	Monday 22 February 2021	Thursday 1 April 2021
Term 5	Monday 19 April 2021	Friday 28 May 2021
Term 6	Monday 7 June 2021	Wednesday 21 July 2021

#### INSET Days

<b>INSET Days</b> (These days are for training purposes.)
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November 2020
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2021
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2021

#### Headteacher's News

My first Newsletter of the academic year, marks the end of our first full week back in school. We have all been thrilled both to welcome our brand new Cherry class children but also to see the return of the whole school, some of whom we haven't seen since March! I know that some of our families were understandably nervous about sending their children back into school but every child has been back so thank you for trusting us to minimise the risks. My movements have been somewhat curtailed as I have to keep out of class bubbles, but I have managed to peep round the classroom doors from time to time. The atmosphere in school is really positive with plenty of learning and reconnecting happening and, most importantly, happy children. We are fortunate to have a super team who will always go that extra mile to help support any child who might need that little bit more to help them settle back in. Can I give a huge thank you to the school community for making our drop off and pick up arrangements work so effectively. Everyone is respecting our rules (one adult, keep 2m apart from other families, straight home after pick up) which means that we are keeping our community as safe as we can. With the start of term, we also see the rise in the usual coughs and colds. Ordinarily, I would ask you to send your child in but, with the Covid cases rising locally, we need you to err on the side of caution. If your child has a temperature or a new cough or a change in taste and smell you must not send them into school and must get them tested. The office team can give you advice on this. If you haven't got one already, I suggest you invest in a thermometer for home to help aid your decisions. We have already heard of two local schools (Kings Forest and Two Mile Hill) who have confirmed cases. We all need to be vigilant.

We are very fortunate to have very little staff change this year but we do have one new member of staff. Please look out for our brand new Higher Level Teaching Assistant, Mrs Claire Scammell, who joins us from one of our Envision Hub schools, Redfield Edge. She is working in the Year 1 and 2 bubble. I know that you will make her feel very welcome.

And finally, we have worked really hard to make it possible for our children to have hot school dinners but, for some reason, uptake is really low even with our younger children who are eligible for free school meals. Just to remind you, your child can have a hot meal (with a vegetarian option) or a jacket potato with a filling and salad. This is free for all children in years Reception to 2. The children with packed lunches and school dinners are all sitting together to eat so choosing a hot meal won't mean any child misses out on that important social time. Have a great weekend.

**Deborah Wood**



**Whole School Attendance Target**  
**96%**

**Current Attendance**  
**96.2%**



### Reading Certificates

These will be coming soon but none so far this year. Remember to record those reads each day. Our expectation is for each child to read at least five times a week.



### After School Clubs

We will be able to start after school sports clubs but only for Year 3 to 6 this term; these are the bubbles Mr Smith, our sports coach, is working with in school so won't compromise existing bubbles. However, because Mr Smith is due to go on two weeks paternity leave soon, we won't be starting them until he comes back. Watch this space.

### Guinea Pigs

Gail and Mitch, our two guinea pigs have returned from their long holiday. Thank you to the McMillan family for looking after them so well. Miss Inman is really happy at being reunited.

### Wellies

As Autumn approaches, can we remind you to bring in a pair of (named) wellies for your child to leave on their class' welly rack. We want to get out and about as often as we can to help the levels of fitness of our children; having wellies in school will help that happen.



### OoSC

Just to remind you that our Out of School Clubs (OoSC) are running.

Breakfast: 7:45am – start of school

After School: end of school – 5:45pm

At the moment, we have plenty of free places so do sign up.



### Wanted: Old Mobile Phone Handset

OoSC's mobile is slowly dying. Does anyone have an old handset which could be used with Giff Gaff/any network that they would be willing to donate to school? Thank you!



## Virtual Courtney K 2020

Run ... or walk, hop, skip, jump ... **3km or 5km**

The Friends of Courtney Primary are holding our first ever **Virtual Courtney K** on the weekend of **19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> September!**

FoCP had to cancel the Spring Disco and Summer Fair earlier this year but we wanted to organise something fun and safe for everyone to enjoy, whilst raising valuable funds for our school which will benefit all children.

Simply complete 3km or 5km your own way and in your own time. You could flaunt a fancy-dress outfit, go mad with hair chalk or parade with face paint. We want you to get colourful and creative at home. You can choose to complete it however you like, in one go, or shorter bursts over the two days. Why not get your whole family involved?

Although not essential, it would be great if you are also able to ask friends and family to sponsor you whilst doing it to raise money for FoCP. You can set up your own JustGiving fundraising page via this link:

<http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising-page/creation/?cid=2991734&eid=6123566>

However, this is only voluntary – Just taking part is the most important thing!

If you don't already follow us on social media, please find us to keep up to date with details:

Facebook : **@focpcourtney**

Twitter : **@courtneyfocp**

**Please note that taking part in the Virtual Courtney K must be under the supervision of a responsible adult and according to current government guidelines.**

**FoCP and Courtney Primary School do not accept any liability for any injuries**