



Headteacher: Mrs Deborah Wood

Nurture, Inspire, Flourish.



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Newsletter 13 – 11th December 2020

We respect the rights of others through understanding similarities and differences.

Dates for your Diary	
INSET Day	Monday 4 th January
INSET Day	Tuesday 5 th January
Children Start Back	Wednesday 6 th January

Headteacher's News

Although it's not quite my last week, I would like to take this opportunity to write my 'last hoorah' before the final week's organised mayhem that is Christmas. After just over five years here as Headteacher at Courtney and 33.33 years teaching in schools (the 0.33 is important), I go off to find my next new adventure in life.

Although I tried to resist it, I came from a family of teachers so my fate was clearly sealed! Boy, times have changed in those intervening years; when I began my career in 1987 there was no national curriculum and there were no computers. I spent most of my Saturdays in the local library finding poems or information I had to research for my lessons (What, no Google?).

As Headteacher at Courtney, Ofsted inspections have not been one of my favourite experiences, but getting the 'good' outcome for which the whole staff team had worked so hard to achieve was one of my proudest (that is after I'd got over the feeling of relief) moments. And just as we settled into making the 'good' judgements even stronger with whole school consistency and sense of drive and purpose, along came the Covid left hook.

Running a school in a time of pandemic has been by far the hardest sustained period I have had as a Headteacher. However, although it has been tough, I am pleased that I was able to stay on to help support the team and not leave the Courtney ship captain-less for two long terms.

Life will change for me now. I invariably go to the children's book section when I visit second-hand shops and am always on the look-out for 'interesting artefacts' for school when I'm on holiday. My brain will have to be retrained otherwise my house will become even fuller with 'stuff' that I no longer need.

I will no longer need to stick to the daily school timetable. (My house backs onto a school so I am not totally escaping the excited playtime squeals from children nor that infernal school bell for a while yet.) And I can finally enjoy holidays in term time, saying yes to invitations whatever time of year!

And now for a few thank yous:

Thank you first of all to the children. The smiles and good mornings, the proud faces, the determined looks, the quirky behaviours which make me laugh, the creativity and imagination, the overcoming of personal challenges, the resilience. You are what make the job so very special.

Thank you to all of you families who have supported me and the school along the way both by appreciating the hard work that goes into each of your children in order for them to succeed and for having trusted the school during our more challenging times.

I want to thank FoCP, members past and present, who have raised thousands of pounds, contributing to the costs of the library and the trim trail amongst other things as well as organising fun events for the children. My message from the present elf was truly special ☺ so thank you for that.



I want to acknowledge the governors who monitor the school and help develop its strategic direction. It is a responsible role, again voluntary, and crucial for the school's successful running. Thank you to the current and past governors for providing a good balance of challenge and support.

Lastly, I wish to thank the wonderful, wonderful staff – from office team, teaching assistants, cleaners, reading assistants, after school club leaders, leadership team, lunchbreak supervisors, cooks, site manager, general dog-bodies, to teachers. If you have never worked in a school, it is impossible to appreciate the blood, sweat and tears which go into working in such an emotive profession.

Bottom line, it is all about the children and providing the right conditions for Nurture, Inspire and Flourish. And, I think, between us all, we do that rather well at Courtney.

And finally, I am leaving, confident that I am leaving the next chapter for you in safe hands with Miss Scott. To help her on her way, she will find a dedicated and skilled team, a supportive community and a school full of children who are ready to be the best they can be. I can't wait to see what happens to Courtney next. **D Wood**

Whole School Attendance Target
96%

Current Attendance
95.9%



This week's Crown Values Certificates awarded to:

Year R Cherry: Sophia P
Year 1 Oak: Freddie S
Year 2 Ash: Lucia B
Year 3 Lime: Lillia B
Year 4 Maple: Carmen C
Year 5 Sycamore: Marcel Z
Year 6 Cedar: Liam B



Reading Certificates

Skylla P, Lily B, Ruby H, Bella P, Demi-Leigh G, Madison H, Ellie N, Carson H, Zena G, Mitchell E, Marcel Z, Lucia B, George B, Ilia B, Lily C, Emily C, Hayden H, Charley D, Georgia F, Katy D, Kara L, Thaddaeus A, Darcey F



Multiplication Masters

Piper M, Caitlyn J



Last Week of Term

In last week's newsletter, we informed you of changes we were going to make next week in order to reduce the amount of contact people had with each other in the final week of term.

We have managed to organise the week so that bubbles are made up of one class. We are stretched very thinly at the moment as there are a number of members of staff out but we will endeavour to keep this organisation going.

If you are not sending your child to school in order to extend the self-isolating period, this will be marked down as unauthorised. If you are keeping your child off, please do let us know that this is the reason so we can report accurately when asked about the impact of Covid-19.

A reminder that Breakfast and After School Clubs are continuing but we are highly recommending that you only use this service as a last resort.



A Very Special Baby - EYFS

Although we were unable to invite parents in for a nativity play this year, Cherry Class have still been busy over the last few weeks learning lines and rehearsing songs for 'A Very Special Baby'. In the play, a team of narrators tell the story about the birth of Jesus. Unfortunately, the kings get lost on the way to see the baby so the stars and angels help them to find the stable. They performed the play in the classroom and Miss Mundy recorded it so it can be uploaded to Tapestry for the children's families to enjoy watching together at home. The whole class tried hard in all the rehearsals and we are very proud of their performance. Well done Team Cherry!



Christmas Dinner

... was absolutely delicious. Thank you to Michelle Higgs and Donna Murphy in the kitchen for making it such a feast! And to the 'Little Helpers' who helped create the party atmosphere.



Twitter Fame

One of our Y6 pupils got a special mention from Pie Corbett. High praise indeed.



Pie Corbett
@PieCorbett

...

Great line.



Gareth Thomas @garethct · Dec 9

We have been truly inspired by @PieCorbett's 'What Are You' poem. Liam (Y6) wowed me with one of his lines: 'You are the brackets of a squirrel's jump'. Oh boy! @_Reading_Rocks_ @SchoolReading @Talk4Writing @MrWalkerPrimary @CourtneyPrimary



Menu w/c 14th December

Monday

Cheese & Tomato Pizza and Jacket Wedges (v)
Veggie chilli with Rice (v)
Jacket Potato with cheese, beans or tuna (v)
Apple & Pear Crumble with Custard
Fruit, Yogurt

Tuesday

Spaghetti Bolognese
Potato Longboats (v)
Jacket Potato with cheese, beans or tuna (v)
Chocolate & Beetroot Brownies
Fruit, Yogurt

Wednesday

Roast of the Day with Gravy & Roast Potatoes
Cauliflower Cheese & Roast Potatoes (v)
Jacket Potato with cheese, beans or tuna (v)
Strawberry Jelly with Pineapple Chunks (v)
Fruit, Yogurt

Thursday

Pork Sausages & Mash with Gravy
Vegetable Bolognese with Pasta (v)
Jacket Potato with cheese, beans or tuna (v)
Chocolate Banana Cake with Custard
Fruit, Yogurt

Friday

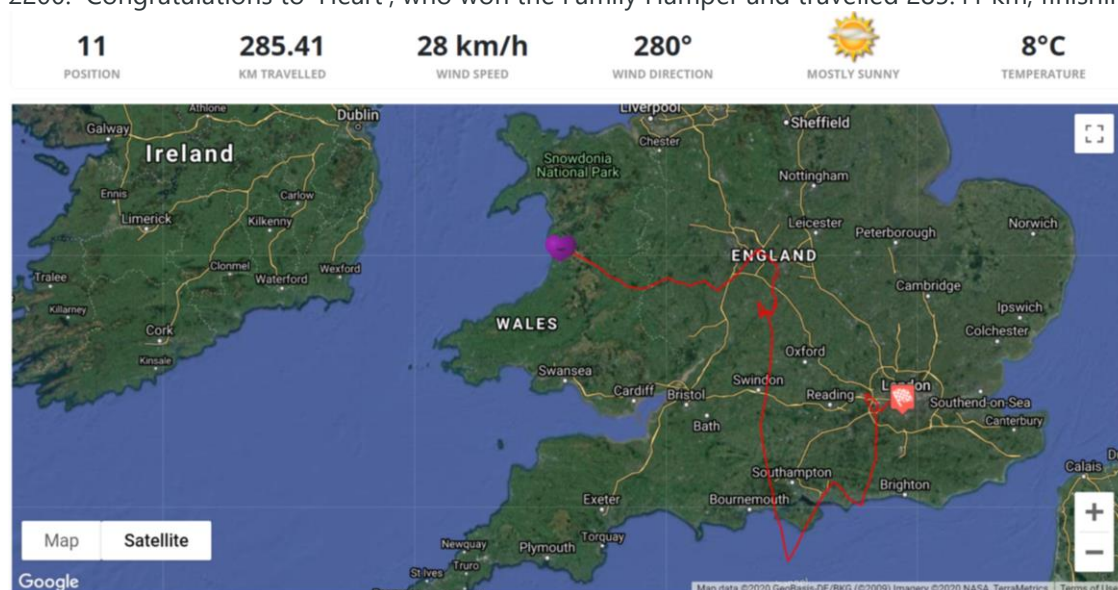
Fish Fingers with Chips and Tomato Sauce
Cheese and Onion Quiche with Chips (v)
Jacket Potato with cheese, beans or tuna (v)
Vanilla Cookie with Yogurt
Fruit, Yogurt



FOCP News

Virtual Balloon Race

Thank you to everyone who purchased a balloon in our Christmas Shopping Virtual Balloon Race 🎈. We raised over £200. Congratulations to 'Heart', who won the Family Hamper and travelled 285.41 km, finishing near Aberystwyth.



There were five runners up who each won a chocolate selection box. We hope you all had fun.

Jack and the Beanstalk Online Panto



Thanks to your support over the year, we are able to treat the children to an online pantomime, created by Blue Peter's Peter Duncan, and a snack. We have even arranged a virtual visit by Dame Trott (aka Peter Duncan). We hope the children enjoy it!

Stay Warm this Winter

Connecting Kingswood have produced a magazine with information about local services which each family will be receiving along with some free items. (The packages have been self-isolating for over 72 hours!)

If you would like an electronic copy, it can be downloaded here:

<https://www.healthwatchsouthglos.co.uk/news/2020-11-20/connecting-kingswood-your-winter-warmer>

Stay warm this winter - 'Connecting Kingswood' have created a magazine full of fun activities & FREE local services!

