



Headteacher: Miss Georgina Scott

Nurture, Inspire, Flourish.



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Newsletter 15 – 8th January 2021

We commit ourselves to be resilient and persistent when working towards ambitious targets.

Headteacher's News

Happy new year to you all and welcome back to what perhaps has been for many, an interesting and challenging start to the new year. I hope you have managed to have a restful, albeit quieter, Christmas break!

I would like to take this time to formally introduce myself as the new Headteacher here at Courtney. I have been welcomed by the staff team and am struck by their dedication and enthusiasm to the Courtney community. I have also had the pleasure of meeting some of our key worker and vulnerable children in school and recognise just how resilient and adaptable our children at Courtney are. I very much look forward to getting to know you in time.

Whilst we engage with another lockdown and prepare learning for both our online platform and in school we wanted to share some top tips for parents who are working with children remotely that may be of help. We will be sharing a survey with you in the coming weeks to find out how you are finding the process of teaching remotely using our online service in the hope to help improve our offer further. We recognise that for some of our parents/carers the learning is challenging to understand so please do not hesitate to get in contact with the class teachers and teaching assistants to ask for some support or guidance. For some of us, it has been a while since our schooling!

We have had some wonderful feedback from parents and carers already so thank you all for your continued support. Wishing you a wonderful weekend.

Kind regards,

Georgina Scott

Our Top Tips for Home Learning:



10 TOP TIPS REMOTE LEARNING FOR PARENTS

Remote learning can be a great way to continue learning outside the classroom, particularly in difficult circumstances. For parents and carers, the idea of remote learning isn't always straightforward and there can be a number of factors they need to consider, especially around ensuring their children feel comfortable and are familiar with the whole concept. That's why we've created this guide to help parents and carers support their child in getting the most out of their remote learning experience.

1) Take an active interest in your child's learning

As a parent or carer, remote learning will be a new concept for your child and there are bound to be a few teething problems to start with. Take an active interest in their learning and help support them whenever they need a helping hand.



2) Monitor your child's communication and online activity

It's important to remind your child that despite being at home, the same level of behaviour and conduct exists as if they were at school. Encourage them to remain polite, remember their manners and not to post or send any negative comments just because they are behind a computer.



3) Establish a daily schedule and routine

Working from home and trying to learn in a more casual setting that children might associate more with play and a degree of freedom might take a bit of getting used to. Try to stick to a daily routine and use the timetable/schedule that schools have sent home to help children keep on top of their daily learning.



4) Encourage screen breaks away from devices

Remote learning will inevitably require more interaction with computers, laptops and tablets. Teacher's will invariably advise on screen breaks however it doesn't hurt to keep a check on their time online or encourage them to get some fresh air/exercise.



5) Ensure your learning device is in a public space in the home

It's important to consider where your PC or laptop is placed if live video is being used. Try to keep the background neutral with no personal information visible and move learning devices out of the bedroom as this could be deemed inappropriate.



6) Implement safety controls and privacy restrictions on apps and software

Dependant on how your school implements remote learning, your child may be required to download certain software or apps. Whilst these are likely to be relatively safe to use, like any other new app or platform, parents should still implement safety controls as a precaution.



7) Ensure your child only uses official school communication channels

It's important that all communication with teachers and school staff is directed through approved school channels, whether that be through the school's online portal or the relevant secure messaging site.



8) Familiarise yourself with relevant school policies

Schools should have a policy on remote learning and direction that they can share with parents. Familiarise yourself with this and ensure you know what is expected of teachers and your child during lessons, both online and offline.



9) Maintain feedback with teachers

Engage in communication with teachers where possible and try to feed-back progress and development as well as any helpful suggestions around the learning process. Be transparent but remain professional and only use official channels to communicate.



10) Monitor your child's wellbeing and mental health

Remote learning will likely mean that your child won't get the same level of social interaction and might not see their friends for a while. Keep a check on their wellbeing and try to encourage them to get out as much as you can. Whilst learning from home might seem fun and exciting to start with, missing out on seeing their friends everyday might take its toll.



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Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 20.03.2020

Devices for Home Learning

We would like to say a huge thank you to Computer World who are generously donating some laptops to help pupils working from home. In addition, we may be able to apply to government schemes for more laptops, broadband access or increased data capacity for some parent/carer's mobile phones.

If you are struggling at home with the number of devices you have or your ability to access the internet and you have limited financial means, please, please complete our questionnaire (link below) so we can consider how we might help you.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/JQTBRZM>



Application to Primary School 2021/2022

Just a reminder from the last newsletter- the closing date to apply for entry into primary school in September 2021 is 15 January 2021. We are close to having a full set of 1st choices so our spaces are filling up!

This is for any younger siblings born between 1 September 2016 and 31 August 2017. It is important to apply on-time as siblings are not guaranteed a place at the older child's school and the school may fill up with on-time applications making it harder for late applicants. It is unlikely you will hear back regarding your space until after the deadline.

Applications should be made to the local authority where the child lives; regardless of the location of the school they are requesting. For more information or for South Gloucestershire residents to apply on-line, parents can go to www.southglos.gov.uk/admissions. If parents' need help with the application process please ask them to telephone the contact centre on 01454 868008.

Greater Accessing Home Learning

If you have an Xbox or PS4 you are able to access Google Classrooms through them by following the instructions below.

PS4

1. Turn on PS4
2. Use your controller to scroll to the far right of the bar with games to *Library*
3. Select *Library* application
4. Within the library use the search bar to type in *Internet*
5. Select the *Internet Browser* app
6. Start Internet Browser and press the triangle button on the controller to search
7. Once on the internet, type in the search box *Google Classroom* and select the first link that comes up:
Classroom: manage teaching and learning Google for Education - link below'
<https://edu.google.com/products/classroom>

8. Select *Go to Classroom*. Then log in using student email and password.



1. Go to Home Menu
2. Select *My Games and Apps*
3. Scroll down to Apps
4. Go to *Microsoft Edge* application
5. Type in a search for Google Classroom
6. Select *Go to Classroom*
7. You will need to log in using your student email address and password.

PIC•COLLAGE

Friends of Courtney Primary Update

We are looking at other ways to raise money and/or support children in these difficult times. If you haven't signed up already, perhaps you could support us by creating an Amazon Smile or Easyfundraising account which will raise funds without costing you a penny whilst shopping online. Details are as follows:

Amazon Smile



You can now support Friends of Courtney Primary when buying from Amazon. By shopping at smile.amazon.co.uk, they will donate to FOCP at no cost to you. Just follow this link to set up an AmazonSmile account or, if you have one already, link it to Courtney Primary School Parent Teacher Association:

<https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1042399-0>

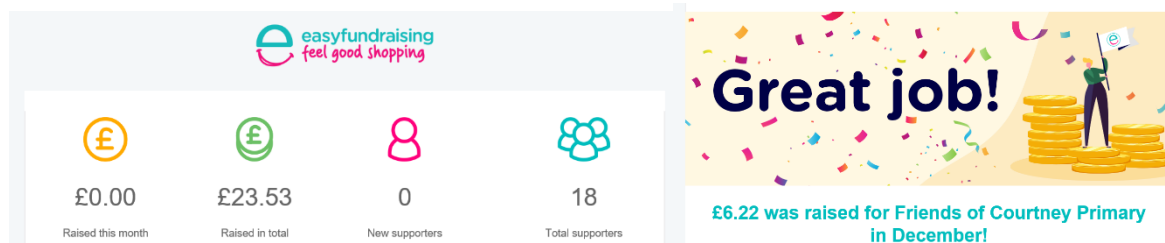
Once you have set it up, there is no difference to using the smile.amazon website and you can still use Amazon Prime.

Easyfundraising

Thank you to everyone for raising donations for Friends of Courtney Primary with #easyfundraising! If you haven't signed up yet, it's easy and completely FREE. 4,400 shops and sites will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to do your everyday online shopping - at no extra cost to you! Every donation you raise makes a difference to us so please sign up & share today. It all adds up over the year!

For this week only, you can raise TWICE as much for Friends of Courtney Primary when you use #easyfundraising to book your much needed summer vacations and staycations! TUI, First Choice, Secret Escapes, THORPE BREAKS, LEGOLAND and more are DOUBLING DONATIONS until 10th January! This is an easy and FREE way to raise BIG donations!

Please visit: <http://efraising.org/rD4rexgVq9>



FOCP Meeting

The next FOCP meeting will be 7pm – 8pm on Thursday 14th January and will be via Zoom. Everyone is welcome. We will be discussing future events/activities to make life a little more fun, so please come along! Please email chairfocp@gmail.com if you would like to attend. You will then be sent the meeting details nearer the time.