

COURTWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL

April

2019

Nurturing Knowledge,
Learning for Life



SPRING NEWSLETTER

General News

We have had a fabulous term here at Courtwood, with a huge amount of events happening, alongside all the normal learning and work that happens every day in the classrooms. We have welcomed some new children and staff to our Courtwood family, and today we sadly say goodbye to Mr Clery, who is off to re-train in a different sector. Miss Harding begins her maternity leave today, we wish them both all the best. Congratulations to Mrs Cook, who has completed her SENCO award and graduated in March. We also wish Miss Guest lots of luck, as she runs The London Marathon during the Easter break! We will be cheering you on!

Tesco's Bags of Help Scheme

We are delighted to have received notification that Courtwood has been awarded £1,000 after our Tesco's Bags of Help application was successful and went to vote. The money is to be used to make improvements to the Reception class outdoor area and we will be working with our site team closely, to ensure this can be completed in due course, improving the outdoor facilities for our children. Thank you to everyone who voted in stores during January and February.

Books and Bagels

As part of our Book Week celebrations, parents were invited to come and have a bagel for breakfast, with their child, whilst spending some time sharing a book together. There was a lovely atmosphere in the school hall as stories were shared, to the backdrop of the aroma of warm toasted bagels! Parents and children also had the opportunity to visit our Book People Book Fair and discover some new favourite authors and books, to enjoy reading together at home.

Edible Playground

We are delighted to announce that an Edible Playground will be built on site at Courtwood, during the Easter break. Trees for Cities have invested £25,000 into the project, with a £5,000 contribution from the school and PTFA. The project will allow the children to access gardening, growing and harvesting activities all year round, with lots of support from Trees for Cities and the teachers. The news was shared with the children in an assembly, and they were shown pictures of the raised beds, greenhouse, garden shed, bicycle wheel trellis, wormery and tools that they will be able to access as part of their outdoor learning across the curriculum. There will also be an open classroom space for the children to work in while outside. Each class will have a raised bed and be able to grow their own produce. Hopefully we will be able to use the produce grown for some of our school lunches and perhaps even in a school shop to parents.

Year 3 TATE Project

Our Year 3 class were visited by photographer, Cora James, to capture their contribution to the project being completed by Steve McQueen. The children watched a short film explaining the project prior to the visit, and had lots of fun during the session completing some drama games and had the opportunity to ask questions about the project. We are looking forward to seeing their photo as part of the gallery. Turner Prize-winning artist and Oscar-winning filmmaker Steve McQueen, is under-taking his most ambitious contemporary art project to date. This vast new work of art will be one of the most ambitious visual portraits of citizenship ever undertaken, in one of the world's largest and most diverse cities. Explored through the vehicle of the traditional school class photograph, Steve McQueen, together with Tate, Artangel and A New Direction, has invited every Year 3 primary school class in London to be photographed. The class photos will be brought together into a single large-scale installation, capturing tens of thousands of Year 3 schoolchildren in a milestone year in their development.

The Ridiculous Rhyme Show

The children were treated to a performance of The Ridiculous Rhyme Show on Tuesday, and Years 5 and 6 to a television workshop afterwards. The Ridiculous Rhyme Show was written and developed by Cbeebies presenters Joe Chambers and Andrew Crawford. They began their rhyming adventure in 2012 playing First Officer Ditty and Professor Poet on The Rhyme Rocket. The show was written to engage a primary school aged audience using interactive performance and comedy. It encourages children to enjoy literacy through creative word play which can be carried back into the classroom. The children had a fabulous time, listening to and coming up with their own rhyming words, playing competitions and generally laughing lots at the silliness! Thank you to Rhyme Rocket for a fabulous show.

Year 4 Easter Performance

Year 4 performed their Easter play, 'Easter Praise on Netflix', to all their parents and carers this week. There were children watching a TV programme on Netflix to learn about the meaning of Easter and how it is not just about eating lots of chocolate! The songs were exceptionally catchy and the parents went home singing too! The children all remembered their lines, which they delivered with great expression and their singing was beautiful. Father James spoke to the audience about the meaning of Easter and how it represents love, support and friendship. Well done Year 4 on a great performance.

Attendance Update Year to Date

Class	Attendance	Punctuality
Reception	96.2%	37 lates
Year 1	96.5%	40 lates
Year 2	96.1%	99 lates
Year 3	95.6%	34 lates
Year 4	97.9%	32 lates
Year 5	95.3%	123 lates
Year 6	96.7%	46 lates

Twitter: follow us on twitter
@CourtwoodSchool

Facebook: Remember to keep up to date with all school news and events so you never miss a thing; search '**Courtwood Primary Parents**' and request to join the group. Please note the page is only for parents who have children at the school.

PTFA Events and News

Sponsored Bounce

Courtwood Primary School held their PTFA Sponsored Bounce on Tuesday 12th March. After lunch the hall was prepared by putting up a huge bouncy castle! Class by class, the children came in and the aim was to see how many bounces each child could achieve in one minute. Each child received a certificate and there was a prize for the winner in the class, who completed the most bounces. Lots of fun and even a bit of healthy competition was had by all. The PTFA and the children raised an amazing £736.65. Thank you to everyone who sponsored and supported.

Mother's Day Tea

Lots of fun was had by all in attendance at the Mother's Day Tea on Friday 29th March. The children were able to give a present to their mum to say thank you for all she does. The event raised £165, of which £50 will be donated to Autism Awareness. Thank you to the PTFA for a lovely event.

Easter Craft Competition

Well done to all who entered the Easter Craft competition. There were lots of fabulous and very creative entries, making it very difficult for the judges to decide on the winners from each class. Prizes and certificates were presented in merit assembly today, with everyone who took part receiving a certificate. Well done everyone!

Year 2 Florence Nightingale Trip

On Monday 1st April Year 2 went on an exciting school trip to the Florence Nightingale Museum in London. It was a great way to launch their new History topic all about Florence and other nurturing nurses. During the visit the children had the opportunity to meet Florence herself, who told them all about her life, family and her struggle to become a nurse. The children then took part in a number of activities which helped them understand the impact Florence had on nursing and how she helped to transform the hospitals during the Crimean War. There were opportunities for dressing up, role play and to gather lots of information to use back in class. The trip was enjoyed by all and the children are looking forward to learning more about Florence after Easter.

Year 5 Academy Day at Quest

On Thursday 7th March, Year 5 visited Quest Academy for a taster day. We had a great day experiencing lots of different lessons. In Geography the task was titled 'Can you point me in the right direction?' and involved a navigation challenge. In PE, we particularly enjoyed learning volleyball (a sport we had never played before) and in maths the lesson was about the binary number system. However the highlight of the day was using Bunsen burners in science. We were amazed that when we burned different metals in the flames, the flames turned a range of colours! We learned that these metals are used in fireworks to make them multi-coloured.

Out of this World Year 4 Maths

Year 4 have been working hard in their maths lessons, learning how to calculate area of rectangular shapes. As part of their learning, the children were challenged to create robots formed from rectangular shapes, to travel to the moon on a space mission. Each piece of their robot had to measure a specified area. The children had great fun calculating, re-calculating and using their mathematical skills to make their robots perfect. Miss Eastmond then wrote to NASA, sharing the children's work with them. We are delighted that NASA have replied with the following

Dear Students:

Thank you for your inquiry to NASA. NASA applauds your efforts and wishes you every success. NASA wants you to know that your thoughts and ideas to further space exploration are important, and we hope that you will continue to learn all you can about NASA's space programs, missions, and accomplishments. Just think - in a few years, you all could be one of the pioneers that may help lead the world's activities for better understanding of our earth and for exploring space. For information about NASA's Robotic Alliance Project visit:

<http://www.robotics.nasa.gov/>. Again, thank you for your inquiry. Your interest in NASA is appreciated. NASA wishes you every success in earning good school grades and encourages you to keep reaching for the stars!

*Sincerely,
Public Communications Program*

Year 4 were delighted to receive their reply and have been inspired to keep working hard in maths, understanding that their learning has real links to jobs in the wider world.

Book Week 2019

The children of Courtwood have enjoyed a fabulous week long celebration of books! The children arrived on Monday to find the school full of mysterious lily pads. This provided an exciting start to book week as the school came together, using the illustrations in David Weiner's book 'Tuesday' to piece together the mystery. The children then used the book as a stimulus for some fabulous writing and have worked with Mrs McCormack to create a lovely piece of artwork for the new KS1 reading area.

On Wednesday we celebrated our love of books by dressing as our favourite characters. Children and teachers took part in a reading parade and the children loved sharing their book recommendations with their friends. The day ended with a whole school reading session, during which the children shared books with other children across the school. It was lovely to see the older and younger readers enjoying lots of stories together.

Throughout the weeks lots of children visited our book fair and bought some new and exciting books to read. We raised lots of money, some of which we will now be able to put towards restocking our library with some of our favourite authors.

The week has been a great success and we hope it has provided opportunities for children to discover new authors, rediscover old favourites and most of all inspired them to pick up a book and read for pleasure!

Year 6 Whitgift Week 2019

Year 6 had a fantastic week at Whitgift Secondary School! Throughout the whole week all 30 children travelled to Whitgift to take full advantage of the great facilities and teachers.

The students were based in an ICT suite and everyday had at least two hours' worth of ICT and computing where the children were introduced to brand new equipment and software. The lessons included using micro bit, PowerPoint, Go-Robo, Sound Lab, i-movie, stop motion movies (using ZU 3D) and using Photoshop to change their faces. Not only this, but the children were taught by a range of secondary school teachers in different subjects.

Within the science labs the children used Bunsen burners to test reversible and irreversible changes, in the sports hall the children played table tennis and in the music studios they were able to play different African drums. By far their favourite subject was Chinese and Japanese in which the children were able to explore their culture, look at inventions and even learn a song in Japanese!

The week allowed the students to have a great insight into what secondary school is like, getting them ready for their transition into secondary school after Courtwood.

Year 3 Science Museum Trip

On Wednesday 27th February, Year 3 went to visit the Science Museum up in London. In Science the past half-term we were learning all about forces and magnets. The Science Museum had a great 'Feel the Forces' workshop that demonstrated laws of motion and different forces. We saw and got to participate in lots of experiments. After lunch, we headed off to the infamous 'WonderLab'. Here there were lots of activities that linked to forces and magnets. We read lots of information about the different activities then got to have a go at them too. We got to see gravity in action, went down different friction slides and pushed ourselves up on a windmill-swing.

It was magne-ficent!

Year 6 Natural History Museum Trip

On Thursday 28th February, Year 6 went back in time and met scientist Alfred Russell Wallace at the natural history museum. He told them all about the theory of evolution and how he was one of the scientist that enabled Darwin to publish his theory. The children were able to explore the museums evolution section and understand exactly how different species have developed over time, including bizarre species that have very similar characteristics to humans! They took part in the beak challenge that Darwin used whilst studying birds and the survival of the fittest. All children had a great day and a great insight into their new topic science evolution and inheritance.

Year 6 Praise

During Year 6 Whitgift week, the class travelled to and from Whitgift school on the local buses.

We were delighted to hear from a 73 year old gentleman who was travelling on the bus with Year 6, on their return from Whitgift on Wednesday afternoon. He wanted to pass on how impressed he was with the behaviour and manner of the children in the class. He was on his way back from Croydon, already on the bus when they boarded. A child sat next to him and others stood, all the children were sensible and polite during the journey. He said that when he pressed the bell, the child next to him stood up to let him off without him even asking. He worked for years in Lambeth on the buses, running school routes and he wanted to say that in his whole working career on the buses, he has never seen more well-behaved children.

Well done to year 6 for demonstrating such excellent behaviour while representing Courtwood in the local community!

Safer Internet Day 2019

Tuesday 5th February was Safer Internet Day and the theme was 'together for a better internet'.

The whole school took part in lessons and activities throughout the week ranging from class assemblies and quizzes to sharing e-safety tips and debating what we would do in different online scenarios. The aim was not only to educate our children but to give them the opportunity to help to make the internet safer and better for everyone.

See www.saferinternet.org.uk for more information.

Active Trail

We are thrilled to be able to reveal our new Active Trail in the junior playground.

The trail runs around the edge of the playground, featuring hot spots where the children can skip, stretch, run, jump, spin, balance etc to help keep them entertained, active and healthy at break and lunch times.

The money was spent from our PE Premium grant and we will be looking to create something similar in the infant playground with the next allocation of money.

The children have been having a great time in the mornings and at break and lunchtimes using the trail with their friends.

NSPCC Sponsorship

The NSPCC visited our school on Wednesday 23rd January and delivered their **Speak out. Stay safe.** assembly to share information with the children about how they can keep themselves safe from harm and get help if they have any worries. It was a very worthwhile and empowering session for both pupils and teachers.

The NSPCC's mascot, Buddy, was introduced to the children to encourage speaking out with any worries that they may have. They spoke to the children and staff about the valuable work they do across the country, and talked about how important it is for everyone in our school community to join them in their 'fight for every childhood'.

To support parents, the NSPCC hosted an internet safety talk on Tuesday 29th January at 9:15.

Our school chose to support the valuable work of the NSPCC this term by taking part in a fundraising event, a *danceathon*, on Wednesday 6th February.

All 220 children and staff took part in their sponsored danceathon for the NSPCC.

Miss Bird (Year 6 teacher) put in an heroic effort leading 2 and a half hours of fabulous dancing! All the children gave 100% effort and had fun along the way whilst raising awareness for a very important cause. The grand total raised was £1,404.23

Courtwood Dining Experience

Our new school dining hall experience has been launched, much to the excitement of the children here at Courtwood. The tables in the hall now replicate a restaurant dining experience, with flowers, napkins, cutlery, tablecloths and bread plates laid out for the children as they enter. Conversation cards are on each table, to prompt the children with their conversation at the dining table and our dining hall rules have been fully explained and understood by the children. A new clearing away trolley as well as a salad bar have also been purchased and allow the children to have more independence in the dining hall. We will be continuing to work on embedding dining hall manners and behaviour to ensure that lunchtimes are the best that they can be and a great experience for all at Courtwood.

Year 4 Trip to the Shard

On Tuesday 26th February, Year 4 went to The Shard as part of our geography city study of London. We travelled by train directly to London Bridge. After travelling up one of the fastest lifts in the country, we saw the fantastic landmarks of London. The children discussed the different landmarks, the history and the purpose of them. After spending an hour admiring the magnificent sights, we went and enjoyed our lunch in the sunshine by Tower

Half Marathon Heroes

On Sunday 24th March, Mrs Squires and Mrs Cleaves took up the challenge of running 13.1 miles in the London Landmarks Half Marathon. Weaving in and out of many of London's famous sights, the half marathon supports fundraising for many charities and was the first half marathon ever for our amazing pair, who only started running in the last 6 months! The ladies were running for Action Duchenne, a charity supporting research into Muscular Dystrophy, after the diagnosis of Mrs Squires son in May 2018. They were cheered on on the day by several staff, as well as family and friends, and in completing the race, raised an incredible £7,170 for the charity, the seventh highest fundraisers of the 15,000 entrants. Nearly £2,000 was donated by Courtwood staff and parents alone; thank you all in our Courtwood community who were able to support.

Mrs Barnard's Retirement

In March we said a fond farewell to our longest serving member of staff, Mrs Barnard, who has worked at Courtwood since 1999. During her twenty years service, Mrs Barnard is estimated to have worked with over 600 children during their time in either Reception or year 1! The children said goodbye during a special assembly where they shared memories, poems written for Mrs Barnard and sung a specially written version of 'If you're Happy and You Know It', entitled 'Thank You, Mrs Barnard.' After school the staff celebrated all of Mrs Barnard's contributions to the school, with afternoon tea. Carol, we wish you a happy, healthy and restful retirement. Thank you for all you have done for everyone at Courtwood.

The RSPB Big Schools' Birdwatch

Just before half term, on a rather damp and cold Friday morning, our intrepid Birdwatch Champions ventured outside to see how successful our supply of bird food had been. The children waited patiently and quietly and over about half an hour they saw pigeons, blackbirds, crows, seagulls and even a couple of robins! Not surprisingly, pigeons were the most common bird that came to visit!

The children carefully noted down all the birds they saw, and the results were sent off to the RSPB to support their national research. Thanks again to everyone who helped out with this - we had a very successful outcome and the children really enjoyed taking part.

