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Head Teacher of Court Lane Academies: Mrs Judith Ramshaw

Friday 17th July 2020

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Never have I not known in many years of teaching and school leadership, what to say as we end an academic year. 2020 has certainly been extraordinary! I think the most fitting comment is that we are still, and will remain 'all in this together'. People make the biggest difference and the more we can believe and inspire each other and ourselves the more that can be achieved. I am proud to lead Court Lane Academies, and a little sad as I say goodbye to children and their parents moving on from Court Lane. Children - We thank you for all you have contributed to Court Lane Academies during your time with us. We have very fond memories of the journey and wish one and all every success and lots of luck in their new schools.

Parents

You have been most complimentary and appreciative of the professional love of the staff and recognise the amazing teams of adults we have in our school community. The thanks for our home learning provision from many parents has been extremely welcome and messages and generous gifts to staff have been much appreciated but, we all take our hat off to the hundreds of parents who have been working so effectively with your children at home. Your commitment to your child's education has never been in doubt, but clearly many of you have turned into amazing teachers. 😊

Get reading

Thank you to all families who have returned library books. Over the next seven weeks, we would love every child to read as much as possible. Please follow links on the Court Lane Junior School website to borrow box Hants public library services and to Wheelers (Portsmouth Schools Library Service and Ebooks). www.stories.orderable.com has a range of free audio books for children. All books can be instantly streamed with no log in required and no downloading. Oxford Owl has also launched free Ebooks too! Follow this link <https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/books/free-Ebooks/>

If your Junior child is struggling to decide what to read next this holiday, why not take a look at our recommended series list for each year group on our website.

If your child will be in Year 1 or Year 2 next year, please remember that they will still be able to log on to Reading Eggs and use Education City.

There is also a Government top tips link for reading with your children.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/10-top-tips-to-encourage-children-to-read>

The Importance of Reading!

HERE'S THE IMPACT OF READING 20 MINUTES PER DAY!

 <p>A student who reads 1 MINUTE PER DAY will be exposed to 8,000 words per year and scores in 50th PERCENTILE on standardized tests</p>	 <p>A student who reads 5 MINUTES PER DAY will be exposed to 282,000 words per year and scores in 50th PERCENTILE on standardized tests</p>	 <p>A student who reads 20 MINUTES PER DAY will be exposed to 1.8 MILLION words per year and scores in 90th PERCENTILE on standardized tests</p>
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Proud to be part of the **UNIVERSITY OF CHICHESTER** ACADEMY TRUST

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Don't forget to take part in the summer reading challenge. Simply sign-up online and read six books over the summer. Packs are being sent home with children in Yrs R-1 and Yrs 3-6 in school today. Year 2 children will be given a pack at their transition morning next week. If your child is not in school, you can sign up online or, Junior children can collect a pack from the hall via the car park, or infant children can collect one from the Infant office on Monday next week. Everyone who takes part will receive a medal and certificate in the autumn term.

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/librariesandarchives/summer-reading-challenge/take-part>

Trek to Tokyo

To commemorate the Tokyo 2020 Olympics which are no longer taking place this Summer, the Hampshire School Games Organisers (SGOs) are challenging you to Trek to Tokyo! This is a 6-week challenge for the summer holidays, asking you to complete daily physical activities and creative challenges throughout each week. Earn miles for each activity you take part in and record your daily miles on the chart as you trek your way across the globe to Tokyo. Every week there'll be a new booklet for you to download from the website containing different challenges for you to try and have a go at – get your family and friends involved too! It's 5,991 miles from Hampshire to Tokyo! That means you need to travel 1,000 miles a week to reach Tokyo by the end of the summer.

<https://www.energiseme.org/schools/hampshire-school-games/hampshire-school-games-trek-to-tokyo/>

School Uniform – Price and Buckland

We have been informed that the final order date for delivery before the start of term is **2nd August**. Due to COVID-19 they have extended home delivery times and there **will be no delivery option into school at the moment**. For those who are joining the school community in September, a full list of uniform items required and where to purchase them from can be found on the uniform page under the parent section of the school websites.

Trainers can still be worn in September. Black or grey ones please.

Governors

Although the local governing board have not been able to meet together in person since March, nevertheless they are continuing to work hard behind the scenes for Court Lane Academies staying connected, including meeting remotely. Their priority continues to be to support the staff during this most difficult and changeable times. The chairs of governors have been updated regularly by Mrs Ramshaw and the senior leadership team, to ask questions about the children's education and the ways in which everyone at school is being kept safe. Thank you to each of them who play an important voluntary role across our schools.

Wednesday afternoons

Thank you for your patience in allowing me to seek further guidance and evaluate all options available, before sharing detailed plans for Court Lane schools on Wednesday afternoons for next year. Whilst I wholeheartedly supported the decision of the Trust for the primary consideration of staff wellbeing with mid-week PPA and protected professional development collaborative opportunities, as well as the time for mid-week deeper cleans, I could also see the huge quandary it presented to some working parents, including some who are staff. Following new advice from the DfE and Public Health England, **I am writing to inform you that the Trust have now decided not to go ahead with the plans for academies in our Multi-Academy Trust to close on a Wednesday afternoon in 20-21**. This means both Court Lane Academies will be open for all children on a Wednesday afternoon until the end time. I hope this alleviates those worries of working parents with childcare issues. Some of you had spoken to me directly or contacted the Trust about the matter and the senior leadership team had been considering how best we could enable our community to go forward positively. We are now re-planning how logistically each teacher can have their statutory non-contact PPA entitlement within the constraints of the Covid-19 restrictions.

All children in school

The safety plans issued by the Department for Education (DfE) say that *"given the improved position, the balance of risk is now overwhelmingly in favour of children returning to school"*. The following are the intentions of the DfE and this is how it is likely to affect the Court Lane Academies next term:

- Welcome back to school for every child in Year groups 1-6 on Monday 7th September 2020. (First days of the new term - 3rd & 4th Sept - are being used for INSET days. We will be making sure that everyone is ready for the return of all children to school and that we are meeting current government guidelines).
- Covid-19 risk assessments will be enhanced and further additional hygiene regimes will be put in place. We have a full risk assessment regarding matters such as suspected or known infections that we will follow in line with NHS guidance.

- Two layers of bubbles of children and staff, increasing in provision to reduce the potential transmission of Covid-19.
Layer 1- Individual class bubbles with specific staff, where there will be dedicated classroom resources, including a class bubble selection of books and bespoke arrangements for eating, playtime and cleaning regimes. Children will have NO contact between classes outside of that bubble.
Layer 2- Some staff may work across a year group bubble.
- Staff will continue to maintain a distance from pupils and other staff as much as possible. They will continue to use Walkie Talkies/phones to communicate with other staff onsite to minimise the need for movement around the school and help reduce the risk of interaction between 'bubbles'.
- Classrooms will have forward facing desks for the majority of pupils other than the younger pupils at the Infant School.
- There will be no large gatherings such as assemblies with more than 1 group bubble.
- We will continue to have an extra and enhanced cleaning programme with additional cleaners. Therefore to increase our provision, we are looking for cleaners during the hours of 8:45-9:15 and 12:45-1:45. For more information please see the vacancies section on the website.
- Back up home learning provision will be put in place to enable continuity of learning for any class bubbles/year groups who are unduly affected by a partial isolation period or a local lockdown.
- We are aware that we have a number of children who may not be able to return to school in the autumn term due to their own serious health conditions. We also know we have children from families where a health issue exists that would make it unsafe for the child to return to school. Although we know September is still two months away and things may change by then, we want to reassure those families that we will continue to support your child with their learning at home. We will continue to provide a home learning pack for shielding children, online meetings will be set up with their teacher and support staff, and regular contact made with parents to ensure the lessons and activities remain accessible. Where there are difficulties accessing online support, we will provide help.
- There will be staggered drop off and pick up times at both schools over a period of 30 minutes from 8.30-9am and 3-3.30pm, and a window of ten minutes per class bubble. The time slots will be confirmed in a separate communication next week.
- After school lettings and activity clubs will not take place during the first half term as we get to grips with the more important task of keeping everyone safe.

Staff

We welcome the return this week of Mrs Wheeler (Court Lane Junior School) and Mrs Bishop (Court Lane Infant School) from maternity leave and thank Mrs Stephens for all her valued work with Darwin and the Year 6 bubble, and to Mrs Fletcher with the Lions and the Year 1 bubble. At Court Lane Infant School we are sad to say cheerio to Mrs Hoade who has supported learning and emotional literacy for so many children and been there for her colleagues too. We wish her a happy, healthy future. Good luck to Mrs White and the family relocating to Cambridgeshire this summer – we have greatly appreciated your flexibility at this time. Early September we will advise and introduce you to staff joining our Court Lane School community for the new academic year.

Urgent

There are still numerous children's personal belongings that **must be collected from either school**. At the Juniors the large hall will remain open for one last day on Monday 20th July for you to collect these. At the Infants these can be picked up from the school office also on Monday. After this time we will recycle, as I am sure you will appreciate the tight protective measures that we have to implement.

Updates and contact over the summer

I am extremely proud of our staff who have worked so hard and flexibly to collectively stay connected, communicate, and show our care for your children throughout the whole of the lockdown period. There are so many examples of where individuals have gone the extra mile - I cannot thank them enough and they have all been truly phenomenal. I commend the leadership and pastoral teams who have personally supported me to steer our way through these extenuating circumstances, with very limited breaks. We are now all aiming to have time off in August to spend with our families, and for some much-needed rest, but I will still be checking e-mails intermittently.

From mid-August our Academies Business Manager, Mrs Cordery will be duty senior leader, happy to help with any queries and will be able to assist with any major difficulties or worries. Please email icordery@courtlanejnr.portsmouth.sch.uk and not the class email addresses as these will be changing over the summer. Critically, as we develop more plans following further information from the government we will continue to advise parents for the details for September.

We will be writing home next week, with bubble information specific to your child, including Year R pattern of entry and on Thursday 3rd September 2020 with summer break updates.

Our websites will also communicate current information, have all the links to helpful resources and support mechanisms such as the Carefirst package, and key dates for the next academic year are available to view on the websites under the community section. Home learning will not be uploaded on any learning platform until the week beginning 7th September once we have all enjoyed a summer break.

I have been reassured by your feedback about the quality of our communications during this pandemic and it is my hope that parents will be reassured by the extent to which we want to have your support for what will be a significant challenge to all schools in the new term.

With warmest wishes for a safe, healthy and hopefully sunny summer break. Enjoy your gorgeous children.



Mrs J Ramshaw
Head Teacher of Court Lane Academies



Mrs K Geddes
Head of School