

Court Lane Infant School
Hilary Avenue,
Portsmouth, Hampshire,
PO6 2PP
Head of School: Mrs Karen Geddes
T 023 9237 8890
E inbox@courtlaneinf.co.uk
W <http://www.courtlaneinfant.co.uk>



Court Lane Junior School
Hilary Avenue,
Portsmouth, Hampshire,
PO6 2PP
Head Teacher: Mrs Judith Ramshaw
023 9237 5444 T
admin@courtlanejnr.co.uk E
<http://www.courtlanejunior.co.uk> W

Head Teacher of Court Lane Academies: Mrs Judith Ramshaw

10th December 2020

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Christmas is nearly upon us and we are gearing up and looking forward to our advent activities taking place next week in school.



Reminders for next week

Theme Days: As part of our farewell to Mrs Ramshaw who will sadly be leaving Court Lane Academies at the end of next week, we will be holding a theme day in each school as follows:

Monday 14th December – JUNIOR School – The theme for the Junior School on this day will be *'Alice in Wonderland'*. All JUNIOR pupils are invited to come into school 'crazily dressed' for the Mad Hatter's Tea Party! We shall be making hats in school so no accessories please.

Thursday 17th December – INFANT School – The theme for the Infant School on this day will be *'Fairy Tales'*. All INFANT pupils are invited to come into school dressed as something from their favourite fairy tale. No accessories please.

Christmas Parties

Monday 14th December – JUNIOR School – (the same day as the 'Alice in Wonderland' theme day)

Thursday 17th December – INFANT School - (the same day as their 'Fairy Tale' theme day)

Children will have their school lunch or packed lunch as usual on their party day but, in addition, we are asking if you could provide a small Christmas snack for your child to enjoy. A single item, no party plates please. Please ensure the snack is brought into school on the morning of their party. In line with our school policy, we request that you do not send anything in that may contain nuts – including chocolate spread.

Christmas Lunch

Tuesday 15th December – JUNIOR School

Wednesday 16th December – INFANT School

All Christmas dinners had to be pre-ordered by 30th November. If you haven't pre-ordered a Christmas dinner, please ensure you send your child in with a packed lunch on the day of their lunch. Children are encouraged to come to school wearing their Christmas jumper or Christmas t-shirt on the day of their lunch. At the Juniors we shall be seizing the opportunity on Tuesday 15th December to also sing outside in our protective bubbles. So coats are absolutely essential. The remainder of the week – Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, please ensure Junior pupils wear school uniform.

New menu for Spring!

The start of a new term brings a new school menu. A copy of the Spring menu is attached and can be found on the school websites. All children across both schools have had an opportunity to comment on the suggested menu and we have tried to accommodate their requests as much as possible. Whilst children are eating in classrooms, milk products and rice have been taken off the menu. We appreciate not everything on the menu will appeal to everyone, but we have worked hard with the children to provide a range of options. If you have any feedback regarding the school meals, please contact the School Office.

PTA funding thanks

School would like to extend our thanks to both CLICA and the Court Lane Junior PTA for their assistance in supporting our bid to the Portsmouth Digital Disadvantage Fund. The PTA support has enabled us to fund five additional iPads at both schools, which can be used to support children who are self-isolating who would not have access to the remote learning by other means. Donations from them of Christmas crackers will also add to the festive lunches.

Thank you to all the parents who have supported CLICA's key fundraising events this half term. We are so appreciative to the team of adults who have pioneered a virtual Christmas fair on behalf of Court Lane Infant School. In addition, CLICA have donated a sum of £6.5k for the renovation of the Early Years Area. All being well, work should be commencing on this as soon as the school breaks up for Christmas, ready for its opening in January. Thank you to all the parents past and present who have worked so hard to generate the funds. This will provide an incredible learning area for our children for many years to come!

Junior PTA funds raised last year are supporting the redevelopment of the main IT suite and more iPads. Further details in the new year from Mrs Flitton and the Junior team. 😊

Parking

As the weather turns colder and wetter, we understand that more parents will take to their cars for dropping off and collecting children. Unfortunately, with the increase in traffic, there has also been an increase in anti-social behaviour and the school has received several complaints from both local residents and parents regarding parking around school. If you have to drive to and from school, please find a spot to park in safely, away from Hilary Avenue and walk the rest of the way to school. Please do not block driveways, park on corners or obstruct the crossing patrols. The safety of all the children outside of the school is a collective responsibility. This means not parking on lines that advise otherwise. No one wants an accident, therefore please play your part in keeping all children safe.

Appropriate clothing

Please ensure your children have sufficient layers of clothing. Coats and jumpers are very necessary during the winter months. Children are outside every lunchtime for 30 minutes we therefore ask that all children have a suitable jumper and coat in school each day. We understand it has been only 5 degrees outside this week. Temperatures in school are monitored to be within a reasonable range and staff are ensuring ventilation in a suitably appropriate way for the variable weather. It maybe necessary for some children to have additional layers of clothing under their uniform if they tell you they are cold. Staff are caring, always responsive and will get children warmed up if they can see or are told a pupil is cold.

Year 3 applications for Juniors and Year R starters for Infants September 2021

Please remember that Friday 15th January 2021 is the deadline for applications for Year 3 to Junior School and Year R entry to Infants in September 2021. We are aware there are some families who are yet to submit their application. It is really important that this deadline is met as your child won't be allocated a Year 3 or a Year R place until all of the on-time applications have been processed.

Extreme weather plans

In the event of disruption e.g. heavy snow, the primary concern of the schools must always be the safety of pupils and staff. Occasionally it has been necessary to close the schools due to bad weather. Fortunately, this situation has not presented itself frequently. It is a difficult decision to make and parents will appreciate the dilemma between giving everyone sufficient notice of closure and trying to guess what road and weather conditions will be like early in the morning. In the unlikely event that the schools have to close, if at all possible, a decision will be taken by 7.00am on the day. It is possible that a decision will be taken to open the schools but with a delayed starting time. Our decision will be posted on the schools' websites. We will inform local radio stations, the University of Chichester Academy Trust and the Local Authority of any closure – this information will be found on the Portsmouth County Council website. The schools will do everything that is reasonable to stay open during inclement weather. A 'no closure' message on our website means that we intend to open and all pupils will be expected to attend.

On behalf of all staff and Governors from Court Lane Academies, we wish you and your families a very happy Christmas, a healthy and safe 2021 and a successful future. Court Lane Academies look forward to welcoming you back to school on Tuesday 5th January 2021.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs J Ramshaw
Headteacher



Mrs K Geddes
Head of School