

# Court Lane Schools Newsletter

Dear Parent and Carers,

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2021.

We hope that you are all keeping safe and well at this time of national lockdown. We both had planned to introduce ourselves to you at the start of term as the new Head Teachers at the Court Lane Schools and bigger events overshadowed this somewhat! As Head Teachers we will be working closely together to create a seamless journey of exceptional learning opportunities for children as they move through both schools and are excited to be working within such vibrant communities of passionate individuals. We will be arranging our own open virtual parent sessions during our Parents Evening Weeks as well.

Thank you to all our families who are keeping their children at home and helping them with their home learning. We know that some of you could qualify as a critical worker, but have tried hard to keep your child at home, which is what the government have said to do. If it is brought to our attention that children of critical workers in school are able to be kept at home, we may withdraw the place.

As you know, the numbers of children eligible for places in our schools is significantly higher than the national picture and we are now not able to offer further places. If you find yourself in exceptional circumstances, please still contact us and we will try to help where we can.

We also know that managing home learning as well as working from home is not easy! It's clear that lots of you are working incredibly hard and we will continue to support you as best we can. We anticipated that closure would last longer than initially indicated and have planned for this, but are frequently looking at how we can move further forward. Teachers are constantly adapting the remote learning offer in response to children's needs and if you require additional support, please let your child's class teacher know.

## February half term

The government have told us they do not expect schools to be open to any children over February half term. We will be closed as usual, including Monday 22 February. This is an INSET day and no children will be on site.

Both Farlington Wrap Around and Dreamcatchers Ltd are offering places to children of critical workers and vulnerable children – please see their websites for details of their childcare offers.

Free school meal vouchers are being provided to eligible families for the 4 weeks from 18<sup>th</sup> January to 8<sup>th</sup> February in the form of a single £60 voucher. Portsmouth City Council are arranging for vouchers to be provided for the half term holidays. More details will be coming as arrangements are put in place.



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## Dates for your diary

1/2/21 Children's Mental Health Week

23/2/21 and 25/2/21 Parents' Evenings (Infants)

2/3/21 and 4/3/21 Parents' Evenings (Juniors)

15-19/2/21 Half term

22/2/21 INSET day – School Closed

## Contact us

023 92378890 (Infants)

023 92375444 (Juniors)

[inbox@courtlaneinf.co.uk](mailto:inbox@courtlaneinf.co.uk)

[admin@courtlanejnr.co.uk](mailto:admin@courtlanejnr.co.uk)

## More info

[www.courtlaneinfant.co.uk](http://www.courtlaneinfant.co.uk)

[www.courtlanejunior.co.uk](http://www.courtlanejunior.co.uk)

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## Testing of school staff

From 1<sup>st</sup> February, school staff will be undertaking Lateral Flow Tests twice weekly to monitor asymptomatic cases and stop the spread of the virus in our community. As a result, class bubbles may have to isolate pending the results of a PCR test, which will then indicate if a longer isolation period is required. We aim to contact parents via text by 8am if their child's bubble needs to be closed that day and will update as soon as we know the confirmed duration of the closure.

## Parents Evenings

Our Parents Evenings are scheduled for

Infants: Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February

Juniors: Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> and Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March

These will still go ahead as virtual conversations, and we are looking into an electronic booking system. We will be sending on more details soon.

## Children's Mental Health Week, starting 1 February

Next week is Children's Mental Health Week and you will find additional sessions for your child based around this theme. We know that this lockdown in particular has put additional strain on children and families and the wellbeing of our community remains a key part of our work.

## Support for parents

As the COVID-19 situation is progressing and the Government guidance continues to change, individuals may be feeling anxious. Mental Health support during times like these are paramount, which is why Care first have worked tirelessly to ensure services remain available 24/7 throughout the pandemic to provide emotional and practical support and ensure they have every aspect of your overall wellbeing covered. The link to Care First is below. Our username and password are within the body of the email that this newsletter is attached to.

<https://carefirst-lifestyle.co.uk>

You will also find additional resources for supporting your child at home on the Remote Learning sections of our websites.