



Courthill Newsletter

July 2025

Headteacher's Message

Mrs Carter, Headteacher

As we come to the end of another academic year at Courthill, I want to begin by saying a huge thank you to all of our wonderful children. Every single day, they bring joy, laughter and a sense of purpose to all of us who have the privilege of working with them. They are a true credit to their families, and we feel incredibly lucky and grateful to play a part in their learning journey.

A special mention must go to our Year Two children, who have shown remarkable resilience over the past three years. As they prepare to move on to the next stage of their education, many have expressed sadness about leaving Courthill. We've had some truly touching conversations about these emotions, and we've also celebrated the exciting opportunities that lie ahead. We are so proud of them and know they will continue to shine.

To all of our parents and families, thank you for your unwavering support throughout the year. Your encouragement and involvement make a real difference. We firmly believe that the children's successes are a reflection of our strong and very special Courthill community.

I am thankful for the entire team at Courthill. Over the past few weeks, we have welcomed many visitors and parents into school, and time and again, they have commented on the unique atmosphere that is created here. I am constantly inspired by the dedication, teamwork, and kindness shown by every member of staff. Thank you for everything you do.

A huge thank you also to our volunteers: our school governors work tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure the school continues to thrive; our reading volunteers; and of course, our incredible PTA volunteers. Under the guidance of PTA Chair, Sally Simpson over the past five years, the PTA has raised over £100,000 — an extraordinary achievement. These funds have supported visits to the Lighthouse and subsidised school trips. The funds have also been used to build our outdoor classroom, resurface the playground and provide play equipment across all year groups (the list could go on!). To the committee members, especially those who are leaving us this summer, thank you for your generosity, energy, and commitment. Please do keep in touch.

We also say goodbye to some of our team at the end of this term. Miss Shone will be leaving us to go travelling in September—we wish her all the best on her adventures and thank her for her invaluable contribution this year. Mrs King, one of our much-loved teaching assistants, is also moving on to a new role in a hospital school. Her creativity, skill, and kindness have touched so many children's lives, and she will be greatly missed.

We also have wedding bells ringing this summer! Congratulations to Miss Mills, who will return as Mrs. Ringshaw, and to Miss Logan, who will become Mrs. Logan. We had a delightful mini wedding celebration in school this week, which brought lots of smiles and giggles from the children.

Looking ahead, we have several maintenance projects planned over the summer, including a brand-new classroom floor for the Crocodiles classroom. A big thank you to our site manager, Mr Allen, who will be overseeing these works, and to our operations manager, Claire Stockdale, for her role in managing the logistics.

Finally, I want to thank each and every one of you for your commitment and support over the past year. It has been a truly memorable year, full of learning, laughter, and growth—all done in ‘The Courthill Way’. Our Enrichment Week was a perfect example of this, filled with magical moments, excited chatter, and the sight of children (and adults) making memories that we hope will last a lifetime.

Wishing you all a restful, joyful summer break. To those leaving us, we wish you and your families the very best. And to those returning, re-joining or starting with us for the first time in September, we look forward to seeing you at the start of the autumn term.

Governors’ Letter

Astra Monahan, Co-opted Governor, on behalf of the Governing Body

Wow! I am writing this high on the wave of a truly exceptional celebration assembly at school which has made me reflect on how very blessed we are to be associated with Courthill.

From the grown-ups who come in to school to listen to the children read, to the enthusiasm and energy the PTA bring to each fundraising and community-building event, one thing is clear: our school thrives because school staff and families alike feel involved and get involved.

Amongst a fun-filled sports day, the spectacular summer fair and the Year Reception welcome evening, I, like all governors this term, have been fortunate enough to reflect on our capabilities and commitments as a governing body over the last year. Thanks to our the experience, understanding and professionalism of our Chair of Governors, Sean Frampton, fellow governors have had a chance to evaluate their own strengths and weaknesses in one-to-one meetings with him, in preparation for the year ahead.

Whilst we bid a fond farewell to our departing Year Two families, I would like to extend our gratitude to each of the teachers who have tirelessly worked to engage our children with their learning; to every teaching assistant who has covered PPA, prepared resources and supported dysregulated children; to our MDSAs for providing a safe space for our children to practise their social skills during lunchtimes; to Mr Allen, our site manager, who has proven a much-valued and dedicated member of the team; and to each of our office staff who have, smiling, communicated the right things to the right people at the right time.

Once the dust settles on a busy few weeks of costume-finding, book-returning and gift-giving, I wish you all a restful and enjoyable summer break with your families.

Year Updates

Year Reception

It’s been an incredible half term. Year Reception loved our ‘Oh help, Oh no!’ topic, which featured lots of wonderful books as inspiration. We began with a very worried letter from a witch who had dropped her belongings all over the school. The children were thrilled to use a map to find the missing items and quickly discovered our first story was ‘Room on the Broom’. They then enjoyed diving into more of their favourite Julia Donaldson stories, including ‘Monkey Puzzle’, ‘A Squash and a Squeeze’ and ‘Charlie Cook’s Favourite Book.’

Another highlight this half term was Year Receptions’ first experience of Courthill’s Enrichment Week. Every day brought new experiences. It was utterly wonderful to see the children excitedly exploring a

range of roles - designers, scientists, mathematicians and artists. Some children even got to be performers, showcasing their unique talents. It was a joy to see so many happy and excited faces as they embraced new experiences and celebrated our Courthill values. The biggest hit of the week? Water play! The children especially loved soaking the teachers!

It is hard to believe that the children who first joined us in Year Reception have completed their first year with us and are now ready to move into Year 1. To help with this, during this half term, we have focused on transition in preparation. The children have grown in independence, confidence, and problem-solving, showing incredible resilience. We are extremely proud of everything they have achieved and know they will continue to thrive in Year 1.

We hope you all have a wonderful summer holiday and thank you for your continued support throughout the year!

Year One

What a wonderful half term we have had! It has been full of so many memorable moments as this academic year comes to a close. As part of our 'Wheels, Wings and Other Things' topic, the children learnt about The Wright Brothers. There were thoughtful discussions about their invention of the first powered flight and how it changed the way we travel today. We enjoyed looking back at the earliest forms of transport and comparing them to the modes of travel we have today.

The children thoroughly enjoyed our visit to Beaulieu Motor Museum. The day was full of awe and wonder as the children saw a variety of cars – and felt the wind in their hair when riding in a wartime jeep! This truly was a highlight of the year!

Year One is a time when early reading and phonics really takes off. The children approached their phonics screens with such confidence and we have been blown away with how well they have done. Additionally, the children's progress in reading has really supported their love of reading, as they can get more immersed in the text. Thank you for the support you have been offering at home with this.

We are so incredibly proud of all of our Year One children. The children continue to display our values of courage, curiosity, responsibility and kindness in all that they do and we know they will continue to thrive in Year Two. It was been an absolute privilege to be part of your children's learning journey. We wish you all a super summer holiday.

Year Two

As we reach the end of the summer term and the end of the academic year, it's hard to believe that this also marks the end Year Two's time at Courthill. This term has been filled with unforgettable moments, joyful celebrations and a real sense of pride in all that our children have achieved during their time with us.

The children let their imaginations soar as they created their very own mythical creatures. Using collage techniques, they designed and crafted their fantastical animals, each one featuring a special power. Alongside this, they wrote detailed reports to describe their creatures, showcasing their creativity and thoughtfulness. To support their upcoming transitions, we also explored a range of texts focused on change and moving forward.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who joined us for the Leavers' Ceremony. It was a moving and memorable occasion, filled with beautiful singing and plenty of proud moments. It was also an opportunity to celebrate every child for their unique contribution while at Courthill.

As the Year 2 children prepare to take their next steps, we want to say a huge thank you for all your continued support throughout the year. We are incredibly proud of each and every one of the children and

wish them all the very best as they begin their new adventures. Please remember to stay in touch – you will always be a part of the Courthill family! Wishing you all a restful and sunshine filled summer break.

PTA update

Sally Simpson, on behalf of the PTA

A Memorable Term

As the summer term concludes, it's hard not to reflect on all that has happened over the past weeks. The pace has been exhilarating, and while the children (and possibly the teachers) are eagerly anticipating a well-earned break, the excitement and joy from recent events are still fresh in our minds.

The Summer Fair

The highlight of the term was undoubtedly the Summer Fair. Blessed mostly with sunshine, everyone enjoyed classic attractions like beat the goalie, sponge the teacher, the bouncy castle, face painting, and a variety of tombolas and games. Parents were able to socialise and relax at the bar while the children played. Not even an unexpected hail shower on Friday the 13th could dampen spirits! Together, the Summer Fair and raffle raised a remarkable total of £7,290.

Cakey Fridays

This term also featured a couple of Cakey Fridays. Thanks to your support, each event raised over £200. These funds go directly to the teachers of each year group, helping to provide enriching experiences like theatre workshops and special end-of-term activities.

Pre-loved Uniform Sale

After the Summer Fair, we organised a pre-loved uniform sale for the incoming September starters. It's amazing to think that just three years ago, many of us were in that same position, and now we're preparing to move on.

Leavers' Disco

Just this week, the leavers' disco provided a fantastic send-off for our Year 2 children. The children had a blast dressing up for photos in the Photo Booth and were delighted by a visit from the ice cream van.

New Initiatives

This term saw the introduction of tea towels, which were very well received. A special thank you goes to Gemma, who dedicated many hours to assembling the children's artwork for the towels. Jen also deserves recognition for ensuring the leavers' hoodies arrived on time, much to the delight of the Year 2 students—many of whom wore theirs home despite the 25-degree heat!

Committee Changes and Thanks

With some committee members moving on, it's important to acknowledge the tremendous efforts of Fiona, Jen, Mary, and Gemma, who have worked tirelessly throughout the year to create incredible experiences for our children. The PTA will continue to thrive under the new committee:

- Chair: Thea Downey – Zoe and Oscar's mum.
- Treasurer: Ruth Bignell – Matilda's mum.
- Secretary: Jordan Canter – Isaac's mum.
- Nicola Blackman – Zachary's mum.
- Sarah Pitt – Monty's mum.
- Faye Roberts – Penny's mum.
- Louise Cook – Isla's mum.

Farewell and Gratitude

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed to the lovely farewell gift presented to me at the leavers' ceremony last week. Serving on the PTA has been a joy—being involved at school and witnessing the magic first-hand is something I'll always treasure. The children's enthusiasm during movie nights, Cakey Fridays, summer fairs, and visits from Santa made every effort worthwhile. As Emily leaves this July, our family concludes a wonderful six-year journey at Courthill. Though we're incredibly sad to say goodbye, we look forward to returning in the future to support the school's fantastic events.

Other Updates

PE Days next term

Below are PE days for September 2025. PE kit should be worn for outdoor PE days. PE kit is not required for indoor PE (although girls may want to bring in shorts to wear under skirts/dresses). Please note that next year, PE days will not change each half term – we are sure this will be welcomed by parents!

Class	Outdoor PE	Indoor PE
YF Dragonflies and Ladybirds	Tuesday	Tuesday
YF Bees and Butterflies	Wednesday	Wednesday
Y1 Crocodiles and Frogs	Tuesday	Wednesday
Y1 Geckos and Turtles	Tuesday	Thursday
Y2 Owls and Foxes	Wednesday	Monday
Y2 Badgers and Hedgehogs	Wednesday	Tuesday

Online Safety: finding balance over the holidays

While screen time is a natural part of life for many children and young people today, at Courthill we encourage that it should be used as part of a balanced lifestyle. The summer holidays offer a great chance to promote time offline—whether that's through outdoor play, creative activities, or spending time with others. Finding this balance can help support children's well-being, sleep and overall development.

Well-being Focus: connection over summer

Research shows that connecting with others— friends, family or the wider community— can have a powerful impact on our mental health and well-being. The summer holidays can be a great opportunity to nurture those connections, through shared activities, conversations, or simply by spending quality time together. Even small moments of connection can help us feel more supported, grounded and recharged.

Community Updates

Support for families

- **Early Help & Targeted Intervention Service.** Early Help Access Point Public 01202 126 668 EHAccessPoint@bcpcouncil.gov.uk
- **BCP Food Map:** [Food Map](#) The Access to Food map shows all the different types of community food support available in our area, and how you can access them.
- Our website lists other organisations that support families: [click here to find out more](#).

Activities and events:

- **BCP Council Family Information** and **BCP Council Family Hubs** have Facebook pages featuring events. This includes: [holiday clubs](#). There is also [HAF information for parents and carers](#) for children claiming benefit-related free school meals. If the parents/carers need a code or evidence of claiming free school meals, please contact haf@bcpcouncil.gov.uk
- **The Parks Foundation** run FREE events at parks across BCP area (including Alexandra Park, Boscombe Chine Gardens, Branksome Recreation Ground, Moor Avenue, Mudeford Woods,

Muscliff Park, Pelhams Park, Redhill Park, Seafield Gardens, Slades Farm, Turlin Moor, Waterman's Park, Winton Recreation Ground, Stour Valley Nature Reserve, Shelley ark, Fisherman's Walk, Hengistbury Head). Click here for details of events. The individual cafes also have their own Facebook pages.

- **BCP Family Hubs:** See timetables for individual Hubs as the offer varies. Activities and drop-ins for all ages including teens. [Family hub timetables \(bcpcouncil.gov.uk\)](http://bcpcouncil.gov.uk)
- **BCP Libraries** have several initiatives happening over summer holidays including the [Summer Reading Challenge | BCP](#). **For more what's on in Libraries, use this link:** [Activities for children and young people at your local library | BCP](#)

Dorset Mental Health Support Team

There is a very useful information about mental health well-being over summer in in this document: [click here to read](#).

Important dates

Wed 3 rd Sept	INSET DAY – school closed to pupils
Thu 4 th Sept	INSET DAY – school closed to pupils
Fri 5 th Sept	School returns for Y1 and Y2
Fri 5 th Sept	Home visits for YR
W/c Mon 8 th Sept	After school clubs start (see club grid for details)
Mon 8 th OR Tue 9 th Sept	Home visits for YR
Wed 10 th OR Thu 11 th Sept	YR First Settle Sessions (no lunch)
Fri 12 th OR Mon 15 th Sept	YR Second Settle Sessions (stay for lunch)
Tue 16 th Sept	YR in school full-time (and can use Lighthouse Club from this date).
Mon 27 th – Fri 31 st October	HALF TERM – school closed to pupils