



# Courthill Newsletter

July 2026

## Headteacher's Message

**Mrs Carter, Headteacher**

I can't quite believe we have reached the end of another wonderful school year! First and foremost, thank you to all the incredible children at Courthill. Every day, they bring light, laughter and sunshine into our school. It is both a pleasure and a privilege to spend time with them, and we never take for granted the joy they bring to our community. They truly are a credit to their families.

A special mention must go to our Year 2 children. Over the past three years, we have watched them grow not only in their learning, but also in their confidence. Although we will miss them greatly, we know they are ready for the next stage of their journey and will go on to achieve wonderful things in their new schools. Still, I really will miss them very much indeed.

I would also like to thank our fabulous team at Courthill. Every single member of staff comes through our doors each day determined to do their absolute best for the children. Their care, commitment and passion are evident in everything they do. I feel incredibly fortunate to work alongside such talented, creative and dedicated people. Their enthusiasm and sense of fun extended into our long-awaited Enrichment Week, during which the children enjoyed a vast array of experiences, including making bath bombs, recreating the work of famous artists, finding out more about our world on Globetrotters Day and cooling off after *A Splash of Summer* with our famous Courthill water play!

Thanks also to our Governors who work tirelessly behind-the-scenes, providing valuable support and challenge to our school leadership team while also rolling up their sleeves and helping at school events. Their commitment to the school community is greatly appreciated.

Another team of volunteers who work creatively and constantly are our PTA team, admirably led by Thea Downey. They are always looking for ways to raise money for the school and enhance the children's experiences. The amount of planning and preparation behind each event cannot be underestimated – thank you to all of them, and all volunteers who come into school and make such a difference.

Sadly, at this time of year, we have to say farewell to some valued members of our team. We say goodbye to **Mrs Allen** who, with 18 years' service, is a long-standing and much-loved teaching assistant. It is difficult to put into words the impact she has had on so many children during her time with us. Her warmth, care and ability to bring a little magic into each day will be greatly missed. Mrs Allen is embarking on a new career within the NHS, where she will continue to serve and support others. We are incredibly grateful for all she has done and wish her every success in this exciting new chapter.

Also, after 12 years at Courthill, **Mrs Kazimirow** leaves us to join another school closer to home. Having begun her teaching career here, she has made an immeasurable contribution to our school and to the many children and families she has supported over the years. While we are deeply saddened to see her go, we know she will be a tremendous asset to her new school. We thank her sincerely for everything she has given to Courthill and wish her every happiness and success for the future.

We also bid farewell to **Mrs Green**, who joined us on a temporary basis to support Owls class during Mrs Burt's maternity leave. Although her time with us has been shorter, she has played an important role in supporting the children through a period of change, which she has done with professionalism, care and dedication. We thank her for everything she has contributed and wish her all the very best in her new role at another local primary school.

Finally, thank you to you: our parents and families. The partnership between home and school is at the heart of everything we do. Our year filled with learning, growth, laughter and memorable moments is only possible with the support of our entire school community. Your support, patience, honesty and feedback helps to make Courthill the special place it is.

It really has been a bumper year for activities and exceptional outcomes for the children. This includes us recently being awarded a Distinction in the Eco Schools Award – huge well done and thanks to Mrs Bradley who has led on this with her Eco team of children from across the school. I think we are all ready for a well-earned summer break! I hope you enjoy spending time with your families, making precious memories with your wonderful children, and taking the opportunity to rest and recharge. We look forward to welcoming you all back in September for another exciting year at Courthill.

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

The summer term has been bursting with scooters and skateboards, the incredible summer fair, photos, performances, discos and more. Whilst the sun has been shining, for some of us, the sun is also setting on our children's time here at Courthill.

I remember as a first-time parent walking home from our first-ever visit to this school, gripping my husband's hand much like I did when we looked around our first house together, thinking "Please let this be the one!". So, it is no exaggeration that Courthill has become a way of life for us, along with many families, and a place that feels like home.

I know many Year 2 parents will join me in thanking the teachers and teaching assistants for consistently creating learning opportunities that every child can access and enjoy; thanking the office for their daily attention to detail to keep the cogs turning; thanking the lunchtime staff for delaying their own meal so they can supervise our children eating and playing each day; and thanking our site manager for caring for our lovely old school buildings and grounds and making them a safe place to spend time.

Our Chair of Governors, Sean Frampton, attended the last Golden Assembly of the year lead by Mrs Carter, and saw how the children nominated by their class teachers stood tall in front of the assembly, proudly receiving applause and their award stickers.

As this was during Enrichment Week, all classes then left the hall for globe-trotting, which Sean joined them for. Each year group learned about India, Nigeria, Mexico and Poland with teachers delivering interesting details about the nation's flag, important architecture, some of the customs and food. As the morning progressed, the children used the skills they had learnt in Art to draw a self-portrait for their picture in their Courthill passport. As they visited each country in a different classroom, the children listened to the information given to them by teachers, and were enthusiastic about discovering new areas of the world.

Sean said the children behaved well and demonstrated the Courthill values they follow and live by. They showed 'Kindness' when someone new visited their class; 'Curiosity' discovering something new about the world we live in; 'Courage' when trying different foods; and 'Responsibility' when looking after their important Courthill passport for their trips 'around the world'. We are so lucky that fantastic staff yet again develop a curriculum to allow our children to develop into the best little humans they can be, making them Believe, Achieve, and Shine.

As Governors, over the last academic year, we are proud of being able to support and challenge the Senior Leadership Team to deliver the very best for your children at a very difficult financial time and ensuring that the Courthill community continues to thrive.

Meanwhile, another very special member of our community, minor celebrity Tony Miles, will be hanging up his lollipop as he retires as our school crossing patroller on Richmond Road after 20 years on the job! For those of you for whom he has become part of your day, thank you for your donations, totalling nearly £300 and lots of thoughtful wishes to send him on his way. Last week, Tony was invited to a special singing assembly in his honour where he listened to the children sing and share their well wishes. After a special visit from MP Neil Duncan-Jordan, to the School Council the previous week, the children heard our Madam Mayor, Tracy Newman, speak words of gratitude for Tony's service over the years.

With all the very best, whatever state the sunshine is in over the summer holidays (rising, setting or otherwise), for a happy and healthy summer break.

## **Year Updates**

### **Year Reception**

We have had a fantastic final half term exploring our *At the Seaside* topic. The children were immediately captivated by our exciting book based on *The Night Pirates*. One morning, Reception discovered that pirates had 'stolen' our school because they had heard it was the best in all the land and sea! The pirates wanted to take it away and build a school on their very own island. The children loved investigating the mystery and shared lots of imaginative ideas about what might have happened.

Throughout the topic, the children enjoyed learning about the seaside and discovering what makes the coast such a special place. They explored maps, talked about their own seaside experiences, and learned how to stay safe in the sun and by the sea. The children also enjoyed reflecting on their year in Reception and discussing the exciting changes ahead as they prepare for Year 1.

In English, we explored a range of pirate and seaside stories, developing our vocabulary and confidence in speaking. The children worked hard to apply their phonics knowledge when writing simple sentences, taking great pride in their growing independence as writers and readers. In Maths, we continued to strengthen our understanding of number through practical activities, exploring addition, subtraction and problem-solving in meaningful contexts.

We are incredibly proud of all that the children have achieved during their Reception year. They have grown into confident, enthusiastic learners who are ready for the exciting challenges of Year 1. We would like to thank all our parents and carers for their support throughout the year. We wish you all a happy, relaxing and safe summer break. Well done Reception!

### **Year One**

What a wonderful half term we have had! As part of our *Wheels, Wings and Other Things* topic, the children learned about the Wright brothers. Thoughtful discussions took place 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 more luxurious modes of travel we have today.

The children absolutely loved our visit to Beaulieu Motor Museum. The day was full of awe and wonder as they observed a wide variety of cars up close and felt the wind in their hair whilst riding in a wartime jeep! This was a real highlight of the year, and we hope the many happy memories will be looked back on for years to come.

Year One is a time when early reading and phonics really take off. The children approached their recent phonics screening checks with such confidence. We have been blown away by how well they have done.

The progress they made in their reading has supported their growing love of books, allowing them to become increasingly immersed in the texts they read.

We are incredibly proud of all 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 as they move into their new Year Two classes. It has been an absolute privilege to be part of your children's learning journey. We wish you all a wonderful summer holiday and look forward to hearing about the children's adventures when they return in September.

## **Year Two**

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 at Courthill.

This half term, the children have been reflecting on their time at Courthill and preparing for the next steps in their journeys. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who joined us for the Leavers' Ceremony. It was a moving and memorable occasion, with beautiful singing, proud smiles, and plenty of special moments. Whether receiving awards for being an *Awesome Author* or for exemplifying *Kindness*, every child was celebrated for the unique light they bring to our school community. We could not have been prouder of the children during the ceremony. Their singing was truly incredible and brought a tear to many eyes!

Also this half term, we were fortunate to welcome the Sports Leaders from Baden-Powell & St Peter's Junior School. The Year 2 children were brilliantly behaved and fully engaged in a range of exciting activities led by the leaders. They represented Courthill wonderfully and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

The children have continued to amaze us with their resilience and perseverance. This half term they completed the optional SATs, demonstrating just how much they have learned throughout their time at Courthill.

Throughout the term, we have also focused on our feelings around transition. While this is what we often call a 'happy-sad' time at Courthill, we know that our Year 2 children are more than ready for their next adventure. We are confident they will continue to Believe, Achieve and Shine as they begin their journeys in their junior schools. Thank you for all your support throughout the year. It has been a privilege to work with your children and celebrate their many successes. We wish you all a wonderful summer break and every happiness for the future.

## **PTA update**

### **Thea Downey, on behalf of the PTA**

As another school year draws to a close, it's hard not to reflect on what a fantastic term it has been. From soaring temperatures to exciting end-of-year celebrations, there has been so much to celebrate. The hot weather certainly brought its challenges, but we wanted to acknowledge what an incredible job the school did to keep the children safe and comfortable throughout. Staff adapted brilliantly, ensuring learning continued while making sensible changes to routines so everyone could enjoy the sunshine safely.

Enrichment Week was another real highlight. What a wonderful opportunity for the children to enjoy such a variety of activities during the final weeks of term. It created lasting memories, strengthened friendships and gave our Year 2 children a special way to finish their time at Courthill before moving on to their new schools.

### **The Summer Fair**

Without doubt, the highlight of the term was our Summer Fair. Blessed with glorious sunshine, families enjoyed all the traditional favourites including Beat the Goalie, Sponge the Teacher, the bouncy castle, face

painting, a fantastic selection of games and tombolas, delicious refreshments and much more. It was wonderful to see everyone coming together to enjoy such a special afternoon.

Together, the Summer Fair and raffle raised an incredible **£7,751**—our highest total yet! Every penny raised will go directly back into supporting the children through enriching experiences and improvements around the school.

A huge thank you to all of the local businesses and families who kindly sponsored the event, donated prizes and volunteered their time to make the day such a success. We truly couldn't do it without your generosity, enthusiasm and support, and we are incredibly grateful to every single person who helped make the day possible.

### Pre-loved Uniform Sale

Our pre-loved uniform sale at the new parents' information evening raised **£118**. With everything priced at just 50p an item, that's an incredible amount of uniform finding a new home!

Our stock is now running very low, so if your child has outgrown their uniform or is leaving Courthill, we'd be so grateful for any donations. We are currently accepting logo cardigans and jumpers, girls' summer dresses and grey uniform items. Please ensure any donated items are freshly washed and in good condition (no holes or heavily worn patches), ready for another Courthill family to enjoy.

### 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.

### Fundraising highlights

The picture below shows money raised this year and how some of it has been spent. In addition, we teamed up with school to help raise £1,600 for the Sponsored Bounce (thanks to all who sponsored).



### **Fundraising Priorities for Next Year**

Looking ahead, the committee has been discussing our fundraising priorities for the coming year. Following conversations with the school, we will be focusing our efforts on raising funds to provide additional shade in the school playground. Our hope is to have sufficient funds in place to install new shade solutions during the Spring Term. This will provide invaluable protection from the sun during periods of hot weather, helping children to enjoy the playground more comfortably and safely. It may even allow more outdoor play when the weather is less than perfect too!

### **Committee Changes and Thanks**

As always, we'd like to recognise the incredible commitment of our committee members, who generously give their time throughout the year to organise events and create memorable experiences for our children.

The PTA committee for 2026/7:

- **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)
- Gabbie Heritage (Alba's mum)
- Bex Evans (Annabel's mum)
- Anju Phoolchand (Amelia's mum)

I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank every member of the current committee for their hard work, dedication and enthusiasm throughout the year. A special thank you also goes to Ashley for all of his work managing the PTA website. It has become such a valuable resource, making it easy for families to purchase tickets and stay up-to-date with events.

As our Year 2 children leave Courthill, we also say goodbye to two wonderful committee members, Anna and Ruth. Thank you both for everything you've contributed over the years. Your support has been invaluable and you'll be greatly missed.

### **Looking Ahead**

If you've ever wondered what the PTA does or thought about getting involved, we'd love to welcome you along to our first committee meeting in late September. It's a relaxed and friendly opportunity to find out more, with no obligation to take on a role. Although it feels a long way off, by the end of next academic year we'll be saying goodbye to around two-thirds of our current committee as their children move on to their next schools. This means we'll be looking for a new Chair, Treasurer and Website Manager, alongside other volunteers to help continue the fantastic work of the PTA. Whether you can spare a little time or a lot, every contribution makes a difference, and we'd love to hear from you.

## **Other Updates**

### **Online Safety, Mrs Churchill**

During the summer holidays, families often enjoy a more relaxed routine and spend extra time together, making it a great opportunity to talk about staying safe online. Encourage regular conversations about what your child is doing online and who they are talking to, set clear screen time boundaries, and ensure games and apps are age-appropriate. Keeping devices in shared family spaces and reminding children to tell a trusted adult if anything online worries them can help build safe and positive digital habits.

For further support, please [click here for links of trusted sources](#) offering advice on online safety, cybercrime prevention and digital wellbeing. [Also click here for a useful guide to popular apps and games](#), explaining how they work, their age ratings and any potential risks to be aware of. Parents are encouraged to explore these resources to help make informed decisions about their child's online activity.



## Well-being focus

While exciting trips and holidays are lovely when possible during the Summer, children often remember the simple moments spent with the people they care about most. A picnic in the garden or local park, a family walk, baking together, visiting the library, creating arts and crafts, playing board games or enjoying a story together all help children feel connected, valued and supported. If possible, try to build in small moments each day to talk, laugh and spend time together without the distractions of screens. Fresh air, physical activity and maintaining a simple daily routine can also help support children's emotional well-being. Most importantly, remember that children thrive on quality time, and some of the best summer memories are made through simple, everyday experiences shared as a family.

## Community Updates

### Support for families

- **Early Help & Targeted Intervention Service.** Early Help Access Point Public 01202 126 668 [EHAcessPoint@bcpcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:EHAcessPoint@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](#).

**PLACES KIDS EAT FREE (OR FOR £1) SUMMER HOLIDAYS 2026**  
[moneysavingcentral.co.uk/kids-eat-free](https://moneysavingcentral.co.uk/kids-eat-free)

|                                                                                       |                                                                                  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>ANGUS STEAKHOUSE</b><br>Kids under 8 eat FREE daily, 12pm to 5pm                   | <b>MARCO PIERRE WHITE</b><br>Kids under 12 Eat FREE daily with an adult spend    |
| <b>ASDA</b><br>Kids eat for £1 daily, with no adult spend                             | <b>MORRISONS</b><br>Kids Eat FREE all day, every day with a £5 spend             |
| <b>ASK ITALIAN</b><br>2 Kids eat free every day until Sept 6th 2026                   | <b>PAUSA CAFE @ DUNELM</b><br>Kids eat FREE with every £4 spend all day          |
| <b>BELLA ITALIA</b><br>Children eat free Sunday - Thursday                            | <b>PIZZA HUT</b><br>Kids Eat Free Every Day after 3pm                            |
| <b>BEEFEATER &amp; BREWERS FAYRE</b><br>2 Kids Eat Free Breakfast with 1 paying adult | <b>PREMIER INN</b><br>2 kids eat for free with 1 adult breakfast                 |
| <b>BILLS</b><br>Kids Eat Free weekdays until September 1 <sup>st</sup> 2026           | <b>PRETO</b><br>Kids up to age 10 eat free with 1 paying adult                   |
| <b>BREWDOG</b><br>1 Kid eats free with 1 adult, 19th July - 31st August               | <b>PREZZO</b><br>Kids up to age 12 eat for £1 during half terms                  |
| <b>CAFE ROUGE</b><br>Kids Eat FREE 12-4pm every day of the week                       | <b>PUREZZA</b><br>Kids under 10 get free pizza with every adult meal             |
| <b>CHIQUITO</b><br>Kids eat free during all school holidays                           | <b>SA BRAINS PUBS</b><br>Kids eat for £1 on Wednesdays                           |
| <b>COCONUT TREE</b><br>Kids eat free Mon 13th July - Sun 6th Sept                     | <b>SIZZLING PUBS</b><br>Kids eat for £1, Every Monday to Friday, 3 - 7pm         |
| <b>DOBBIES GARDEN CENTRES</b><br>Kids eat for £1 with an adult meal purchase          | <b>TABLE TABLE</b><br>2 Kids Eat free breakfast daily with 1 paying adult        |
| <b>FARMHOUSE INNS</b><br>2 Kids eat FREE this summer holidays                         | <b>TESCO</b><br>Kids eat free every day this summer with a 65p spend             |
| <b>FLAMING GRILL PUBS</b><br>Kids eat for 88p this summer holidays                    | <b>TGI FRIDAYS</b><br>Kids Eat Free until 6 <sup>th</sup> September (Via App)    |
| <b>FRANKIE &amp; BENNY'S</b><br>Kids eat FREE during school holidays                  | <b>THE REAL GREEK</b><br>Kids under 12 eat FREE Sundays with £10 spend           |
| <b>FRANCO MANCIA</b><br>Kids eat FREE school holidays Mon-Thurs                       | <b>TRAVELODGE</b><br>2 kids eat for £1 with 1 adult breakfast                    |
| <b>FUTURE INNS</b><br>Under 5s eat for free with any adult meal                       | <b>TOBY CARVERY</b><br>Kids eat for £1 every day until Sept 1 <sup>st</sup> 2026 |
| <b>GORDON RAMSEY RESTAURANTS</b><br>Kids under 10 eat FREE all day, every day         | <b>TURTLE BAY</b><br>Kids eat free with every £15 adult spend via app            |
| <b>HARVESTER</b><br>Kids eat for £1 every day until Sept 1 <sup>st</sup> 2026         | <b>VILLAGE HOTELS</b><br>Kids eat free 20th July - 4th Sept via the village app  |
| <b>HUNGRY HORSE</b><br>Kids eat for 88p this summer holidays                          | <b>WHITBREAD INNS</b><br>2 kids eat for FREE with 1 adult breakfast              |
| <b>IKEA</b><br>Kids get a meal from 95p daily from 11am                               | <b>YO! SUSHI</b><br>Kids eat free all day (weekdays) in school holidays          |
| <b>LAS IGUANAS</b><br>Kids under 12 eat FREE via the App                              | <b>ZIZZI</b><br>Kids eat free via app during school holidays                     |

## **Important dates**

|                                                    |                                                                        |
|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup> July                          | Last day of Summer Term – school closes at 1pm                         |
| Tue 1 <sup>st</sup> Sept                           | INSET day (school closed to pupils)                                    |
| Wed 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sept                           | INSET day (school closed to pupils)                                    |
| Thu 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sept                           | School starts for Autumn 1 Term (for Y1 and Y2)                        |
| Thu 3 <sup>rd</sup> – Mon 7 <sup>th</sup> Sept     | Home visits for new YR children                                        |
| w/c Mon 7 <sup>th</sup> Sept                       | After school clubs re-start                                            |
| Tue 8 <sup>th</sup> and Wed 9 <sup>th</sup> Sept   | First settle session for new YR children (no lunch)                    |
| Thu 10 <sup>th</sup> and Fri 11 <sup>th</sup> Sept | Second settle session for new YR children (stay for lunch)             |
| Mon 14 <sup>th</sup> Sept                          | New YR children attend full-time – can start attending Lighthouse Club |
| Mon 21 <sup>st</sup> Sept                          | Welcome to Y2 meeting (9am) – details to follow                        |
| Wed 23 <sup>rd</sup> Sept                          | Welcome to Y1 meeting (9am) – details to follow                        |
| Mon 28 <sup>th</sup> Sept                          | Welcome to YR meeting (9am) – details to follow                        |
| Tue 20 <sup>th</sup> and Thu 22 <sup>nd</sup> Oct  | Parents' Evenings – details to follow                                  |
| Mon 26 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 23 <sup>rd</sup> Oct    | HALF TERM (school closed)                                              |
| Mon 2 <sup>nd</sup> Nov                            | School starts for Autumn 2 Term (all children)                         |