



06 August 2008

Dear Parents,

As we approach the end of a very busy school year, I would like to thank you for the support of your children and the school. At the start of July, I presented a review to the Governing Body entitled 'A Year of Success'. This ten-page report is available for you to read on the school website www.courtdewyck.co.uk.

I would also like to share the following information with you prior to 4th September:

Before School:

One member of staff will be on the playground to supervise children from 8.40 – 8.50am. This is to ensure the safety of those children whose parents need to leave before 8.55am. A whistle will sound for pupils to line up at 8.50am. All pupils should be in school ready to start by 8.55am, thereby maximising the amount of learning time for your children. **Please note:** Pupils shall not use the sports playground before school and balls, bikes and scooters should not be used. Pupils shall not be admitted into the school building before 8.50am.

Please be reminded that children not in school before 9.10am will be marked as late. This unauthorised absence will be recorded against your child's name and regular occurrences will be picked up by the Educational Welfare Officers.

Additionally, school finishes at 3.15pm (except for clubs). Staff are not on duty to care for your child after this time. It is very emotionally unsettling for your child if they are not sure when or if they are being collected.

Holiday during term time:

We lost over 250 learning sessions to holidays taken during term time this year. As of 1st September 2008, our continued policy will be that holidays during term time can only be authorised in exceptional circumstances. Cases will be considered on an individual basis and applications for holidays during term time should still be made through Mrs Holliman. For a copy of the Attendance Policy, please ask at reception.

School Uniform:

School uniform plays a valuable role in contributing to the ethos of a school and setting an appropriate tone. DfES strongly encourages schools to have a uniform as it can instil pride; support positive behaviour and discipline; encourage identity with, and support for, school ethos; ensure pupils of all races and backgrounds feel welcome; protect children from social pressures to dress in a particular way; and nurture cohesion between different groups of pupils. Above all, we believe that school uniform supports effective teaching and learning.

As of September, we will be focusing on ensuring pupils are wearing the correct uniform – particularly shoes following a decline during the summer months. In particular, pupils are expected to wear **black shoes** to school. Trainers may be brought in to wear during playtimes and PE sessions but must be changed before the start of sessions.

If your child cannot wear school uniform or shoes on any particular day, please send a note explaining the reasons why.

Did you know you may be eligible for financial support to help pay for your child's school uniform? Contact Ally Cheeseman, Parent Support Advisor for more details.

PE Kit:

For similar reasons to those explained above, could I politely remind parents that our school PE kit consists of a plain light blue or white T-shirt and plain blue or black shorts and daps or trainers. PE kit should be kept in school in a small bag. Uniform and PE kit does get lost and misplaced. Please ensure all belongings are clearly named.

Play and Lunchtimes:

Foundation Stage and Key Stage One will continue to have their lunchtime between 12.00 and 1.00pm. Key Stage Two will have their lunchtime between 12.30 and 1.15pm. This means that there are fewer children in the dining hall or on the playground at any one time therefore making both environments more pleasant for the children.

Key Stage One will also have a scheduled 15-minute break in the afternoon with Key Stage Two teachers providing discretionary 'Brain Breaks' for their children.

Open door

We strive to ensure that all children are happy and successful at school. If this is not the case, and we have failed to spot it, please inform us. Teachers and I try to make ourselves as available to parents as time allows and I check and respond to my emails daily. We can only help to solve issues satisfactorily if we are made aware of them early. You can also sign up to our 'ParentMail' service by providing Mrs Holliman with your email address.

School Dinners

Improvements in the quality of school food have been significant over the last year. Many staff and governors choose to eat school dinners on a regular basis. School dinners will cost just £1.90 from September – an increase of 5p. North Somerset continue to subsidise the total amount by about 17p.

It takes Mrs Carter over 5 hours per week to sort dinner monies. Please help her to reduce this time by sending all dinner money in sealed named envelopes on Mondays.

Inset Days

I would like to give you advanced warning of some of our inset days for 2008/09

3 rd September 2008	Curriculum Planning and Learning Environments
21 st November 2008	Key Skills for Learning, Cluster Inset
5 th January 2009	Child Protection
25 th May 2009	TBC
24 th July 2009	In lieu of twilight sessions

Finally, I would like to thank all staff, governors, parents and children for their hard work and commitment during the last year. We continue to make significant improvements in all areas of the school and continue to work hard and make progress towards our vision.

May I wish you a happy, safe and relaxing summer break and I look forward to welcoming you back on Thursday 4th September.

Yours sincerely,

Nick Riddiough
Headteacher