

# Uplands Junior School

## Newsletter

### Happy New Year!

Welcome back to the new term-I trust you all had an enjoyable Christmas break with family and friends. On behalf of all the staff I wish to thank you for all of the cards, gifts and Christmas messages that came into school. The end of last term was busy as we tried to make the festive season as enjoyable as possible with covid restrictions. Thank you for all your support that allows so many exciting experiences to take place for your children.



Uplands Junior School

### Diary dates for the Spring term

**Friday 4th February:** Non uniform day to raise funds for school

**Monday 7th February:** French theatre workshop for Yr 4

**Tuesday 8th and Wednesday 9th February** Yr3 & Yr 4 parents Evening

**Tuesday 15th and Wednesday 16th February** Yr5 & Yr 6 parents Evening

**Friday 18th February:** INSET day-school closed to pupils

**Monday 28th February:** School re-opens. Science projects due in

**Advance notice: We have been informed that the school building is to be used as a Polling station on Thursday 5th May and so will be closed to staff and pupils. Remote learning will be offered to all.**

Please note that school finishes on Thursday 21st July for the Summer as Wton LA have given Friday 22nd July as a day in lieu of the extra Bank Holiday for the Jubilee

**Friday 18th February**  
**and Friday 8th April**

### INSET DAYS

School will be closed to all pupils. Staff will be working on Curriculum “knowledge” development in February and then the whole school staff will receive a full day of Autism training in April

**Thank you to Year 4 for their fabulous Christmas performances in re-telling the Christian story through words, music and song**

Spring  
Term 2022

Edition 1

School phone number: 01902 558870

School e-mail: [uplandsjuniorschool@wolverhampton.gov.uk](mailto:uplandsjuniorschool@wolverhampton.gov.uk)

For the class of pupils who go for a weekly swimming lesson we ask that full school uniform is worn rather than PE kits. This is for Safeguarding reasons where they can easily be identifiable at the baths. Other schools are also present and they are also in full uniform.

### **Procedure for raising concerns**

If you have an issue or arising concern that you wish to discuss with us please follow the procedure described below. **In the first instance** you will need to contact school via phone to **make a telephone appointment with your child's class teacher**. Many concerns will be resolved and dealt with at this stage but if not then a further appointment may need to be made with a member of the Senior Leadership Team (Mrs Webster-Smith, Mrs Walker, Mrs Shakesheave or Mrs Roberts). We ask that issues are raised politely and respectfully and we will always respond promptly to resolve them. Thank you so much.

Are you eligible for Free School Meals?

If you register for FSM then school receives a grant called the "Pupil Premium" grant which can be used to support you with the cost of trips, visits, workshops, residentials and music lessons. A strategy for how we spend our PP money can be found on our website.

### **Behaviour at Uplands**

Our school has a Behaviour policy which is reviewed annually and approved by the Governing Board. We seek to reinforce and reward positive behaviour but at times sanctions are required and children have to take some responsibility for their actions. At Uplands we operate a "stage" system-details of this can be found in our policy which is on our website. Staff always fully investigate incidents and make informed decisions if a stage is required depending on the severity of the incident and the context.

I (Mrs Webster-Smith) monitor all behaviour stages on a weekly basis and act accordingly. Parents are informed if their child receives a Stage 5 or if there are repeated incidents at lower stage levels. We can never discuss the sanctions given to a child other than your own. We ask that parents support our professional judgement in implementing our Behaviour policy as we are getting a high number of parents asking us to re-investigate incidents.

### **Whole school review**

In November we welcomed a team from the LA to carry out a whole school review at Uplands ahead of us possibly receiving an Ofsted inspection in the near future. The team consisted of advisers for English and Maths along with a senior adviser to schools. The review involved learning walks into lessons, discussions with pupils and staff, looking at pupil workbooks, staff planning and "deep dives" into Reading, Writing, Maths, Computing and Music. Please find below a summary of some of the main findings.

"The staff and pupils' safety and well being have been supported well during the Covid 19 pandemic. Since the last visit there have been positive improvements in the development of the curriculum, subject leadership as well as improvements in early reading and support for pupils with SEND. Effective subject leadership is facilitating an ambitious offer and staff have high aspirations for all pupils including those with SEND. There is equality of access and opportunity. The Headteacher along with senior colleagues has been instrumental in leading positive change and knows what needs to be done: the school is a happy and harmonious one"

Areas for further development include assessment for foundation subjects and continued development of the sequence of "knowledge" which we will be using some of our INSET time to work on.

# **Respect For All**

## **Why does Uplands choose to be part of the Rights Respecting School award?**

Over 1.6 million children in the UK go to a Rights Respecting School and Uplands has reached Silver level of the award and is working towards the Gold standard. Research has shown that as a result of participation in the Rights Respecting School award, children at schools who have progressed through the award

- ◆ Can exercise their rights
- ◆ Feel valued
- ◆ Can recognise the rights of others

The award supports whole school communities in the following areas:

- ◇ Children have a shared understanding about everyone's rights and a commitment to respect these
- ◇ There is a culture of Respect in a rights respecting school
- ◇ There is a sense of engagement with a shared sense of community and belonging
- ◇ There is a culture where pupil voices are heard and valued
- ◇ Global citizenship whereby children believe they can make positive changes to the world
- ◇ Children develop self-esteem and value themselves as well as others
- ◇ A school environment where children feel safe and cared for

The outcomes for the Award and many of the articles in the Convention have a direct relevance to the requirements set out for schools in the Ofsted Inspection framework. We hope to be assessed for Gold standard within this academic year and will send further details in due course.

## **Whats App groups**

Whats App groups for parents can be very useful and supportive. However it has recently come to our attention that there have been conversations regarding pupils at our school as well as derogatory remarks about school staff and decisions that I have taken. We would like to remind you that conversations should be polite and any offensive comments towards school, staff and other pupils will not be tolerated. This has been most upsetting for all concerned. Our motto of "respect for all" should extend to all stakeholders in school. We are always happy to help with any issues or concerns that you have and ask that you ring school and speak to the class teachers in the first instance.



## **Reading**

On our website you will now find a video produced by a small group of pupils in Year 3 which demonstrates how to pronounce phonic sounds correctly in order to support Reading development. There is also a guide for parents giving tips to help pupils read at home. We continue to promote the Love of Reading and this term will see the return of the Roving Book fair (more details to follow) as well as a possible Sponsored event with Usbourne books. In our entrance hall area we have created a new display space which most definitely gives the message that Reading is important to us. Pictures have been posted on our Facebook page. If you do not follow our page please consider doing so as we regularly post to celebrate what is happening in school.

# Trick Box

Trick Box is an emotional management and personal development programme for children in KS1 and 2.. Over their 4 years at Uplands children will learn 24 “tricks” in the 4 Trick Box areas of Confidence, Calm, Communication and Creativity and these will all be revisited and built upon each year. The tricks will help pupils to manage their emotions, develop mindful awareness and create confidence and resilience. Almost 200 pupils purchased their own box of tricks through the recent orders-we will offer this again in the future for any pupils who decide they would now like a set. This term we will be developing a “Trick Box Team” consisting of a group of pupils who will be advocates for the programme and act as supports for their peers both on the playground and in the classroom. In the Autumn term your children will have met the following tricks: **Mirror Mirror, Big Voice, Stand as if, Stand Tall, Magic circle (Year 3), as previous plus Super States (Year 4), as previous plus Super Stretch ( Year 5) and as previous plus Different Sum (Year 6).**

## Update on the development of our Sensory room:

The identified area has now been cleared and decorated and Miss Handscomb (our SENDCO) is working with Outreach service to compile a shopping list of items needed for the room. We very much look forward to sharing developments with you and how this will be used to support pupils.

Unicef’s Outright campaign for 2021 was centred around Mental Health. As part of this every child in school had the opportunity to create their own Mental Health journal or “buddy”. This is where they shared ways that they can support their own mental well-being and made it very personal to themselves. Some of the results were outstanding and incorporated things they have learnt about in school in PSHE, assembly time, trick box “tricks” as well as their own ideas. They have been told to keep these somewhere safe so that they can refer to them whenever they need to.

**As part of our December INSET day all staff received training on asthma ,epilepsy and anaphylaxis in order to support the current medical needs of children in our school.**

We will be sending out details of arrangements for parent/teacher consultations for the Spring term in due course (all dependant on the covid restrictions in place)

**“Your mental health is a priority. Your happiness is an essential. Your self-care is a necessity.”**

*Homeopathyrecovery.com*



# Respect For All