

Uplands Junior School

Newsletter

Welcome back to the second half of the Autumn term and the run up to Christmas. Thank you for all your support in the last half term. This is always a busy time in school and we are looking forward to “normal Christmas” activities after a couple of years of disruption.

Safeguarding:

All members of the Safeguarding team have carried out their 6 hours of refresher training that is mandatory every 2 years. In addition both myself and Mrs Walker have updated our Safer recruitment training. There is a whole Safeguarding section on our website should you need further information.

Free School Meals

If your child is or has been in receipt of Free School Meals we can access Pupil Premium funding for them. This funding can be used to subsidise clubs, trips, visits, music lessons and residential. A document called The Pupil Premium Strategy 2021-2024 can be found on our website giving details of how school spends the money. Please register your child if you are eligible for FSM even if you decide they will not access a hot lunch as you can benefit from the above.

From Monday 7th November any late items arriving in school such as instruments, lunch boxes, PE kits etc will be left on a table and children will be given the responsibility to collect. They will be told about this in assembly.

Playtime snacks

A reminder that pupils may bring a snack to eat during morning break time. On arrival at school children are to put their snacks in their individual drawers. Snacks need to be healthy such as fruit, vegetable sticks, cereal bars etc. There should be no chocolate, crisps or biscuits please. Drinks bottles for water (not pop or juice) are allowed in school and children can access these throughout the day.



Uplands Junior School

Our next INSET day is on Friday 16th December. Staff will be training on asthma, epilepsy, use of an epi pen and supporting trauma and attachment for children. Pupils finish for the Christmas holidays on December 15th at their normal times. School re-opens on Tuesday 3rd January 2023.

If you've not already done so please “like” and follow our Facebook page where we regularly post about school life and activities.

At present 67% of our parents have downloaded the free “Marvellous Me” app and as a school we shared over 1000 pieces of good news with our parent community in the first half term. Please join us if you've not yet done so.

Autumn Term
2022

Edition 3

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As previously explained there is a huge focus on improving attendance in schools this year post covid. We have always been proud of our figures and we want to get back to our pre-Covid %'s. A reminder that you need to ring in every day to report an absence please-this is preferable to an email. If we do not hear from you then a text will be sent, followed by a call and then a home visit from myself and Mrs Walker. This is to ensure that children and families are safe and forms part of every school's Safeguarding procedures. We are also reinstating all of our attendance rewards and incentives including extra playtime for the best attending class each week, termly raffles for those with 96%+ attendance and certificates in the summer term.

Class attendance from 1/09/22 to date whole school: 95.8%

3NJH: 97.9%

3SW: 97.2%

3GD: 97.4%

4AS: 96.1%

4OD: 93.2%

4IM: 95.9%

5JL: 95.4%

5JH: 93.7%

5FR: 97.3%

6NR: 96.5%

6FG: 96.0%

Reading at Uplands

Reading is central to our teaching at Uplands. We teach reading skills in all 4 year groups and these are known as our "reading gems". You will find information to support you with these at home on our website-Curriculum tab then Reading page.

When the children arrive from their KS1 settings we aim to build upon the teaching that has already taken place. For children who did not pass their Year 1 phonic test or the Year 2 retake we provide extra learning support, where they revise and practise the sounds. Year 3 staff also revisit the sounds for all pupils during their daily English lessons especially during the Autumn term. At Uplands we support the teaching of phonics with a single scheme of RWI phonics. This is also used by staff to support the teaching of reading, writing and spelling across school. Some children are also targeted for 1:1 RWI support on an individual plan or Fresh Start. Children can take RWI books home to practise their sounds and children select home readers with a phonic base to support their learning.

Mrs Shakesheave is our Reading champion-if you have any questions please feel free to contact her.

In September all school staff were fully trained in RWI Speed sounds to further strengthen our Reading teaching offer at Uplands.



Take one picture

This autumn we once again carried out our annual art project called 'Uplands Take One Picture.' All children completed one piece of artwork during the week beginning 31st October taking their inspiration from Paul Lewin's "The Offering" which celebrates the hummingbird as the national bird of Jamaica. Some fantastic work was produced and we are sure that the children were keen to share their work with you all too. The artist himself felt "honoured" that we selected his work as our focus-thank you to Ms Ward our Art champion for organising this. We will repeat this next year with a focus on a different culture.

If you are emailing us in an evening or on a weekend please can you schedule it to be sent during school working hours. This is the system that we use as a staff so that we are not getting email notifications during weekends. Thank you so much.

Respect For All

Trips and experiences across school during Autumn term 2022

We are pleased to offer a range of trips, visits and workshops across school to enhance learning. The following have or will take place this term:

Year 3: Egyptian workshop day and Cartouche workshop (History focus)

Year 4: Ingenuity day out (DT focus)

Year 5: Visiting planetarium (Science focus) World War 2 workshop (History focus)

Year 6: Black Country museum (History focus)

RE places of worship visits for Year 5 and Year 6

Friday 18th November is Children in Need day-the theme this year is SPOTacular where children can wear anything spotty. Buckets for donations will be on the gates as normal.

Diary dates

Wb Monday 14th November: Anti bullying week across school

Friday 18th November: SPOTacular Children in Need dress up day-buckets on the gates for donations-thank you

Monday 21st November: World cup dress up and penalty shoot out week

Thursday 24th November: Year 5 WW2 workshop in school

Monday 28th November: re-scheduled flu vaccinations for all year groups

Wednesday 7th December: Christmas lunch in school. **All** pupils may wear Christmas jumpers on this day if they wish

Wednesday 14th December: Christmas party afternoon across school. Pupils may come to school in their "party" clothes/Christmas jumpers etc. Children will need to bring in some snacks for their party (in addition to any packed lunch they bring)- these can be placed in a decorated lunch box which then is entered into a competition.

Thursday 15th December: Last day of term. Christmas movie afternoon in each class. Christmas jumpers may be worn. A snack may be brought in for movie afternoon. Break up at 3:15pm

Friday 16th December: INSET day-school closed to pupils

Christmas fundraising shop

Children may bring money to purchase "pocket money" items from our shop. Please send money in a purse or an envelope-silver change is preferable please

Tuesday 6th December: Year 3

Wednesday 7th December Year 4

Thursday 8th December Year 5

Friday 9th December Year 6

Year 4 Christmas assembly

Year 4 classes will each perform a Christmas assembly starting at 9.00am in the school hall on the following dates:

4AS - Tuesday 6th December

4IM - Wednesday 7th December

4OD - Thursday 8th December

Health Champions

We will continue to run our Health Champion campaign that we were a pilot school for last year. Children will work as leaders delivering key health messages from our city across school. Our Being Brilliant committee are going to take on this role as part of their work. There is a section on our website about the role of pupils as leaders at Uplands including the Being Brilliant committee, the rights ambassadors and the Trick Box team.

Being Brilliant committee 2022/23

Year 5: Charlie C, Josh D, Jovan D, Arun P, Gurveer J, Nevaeh S, Gia J and Hikmah N

Year 6: Bella H, Adrina S, Isabelle A, Arjan B, Aadreyi C, Lalita V and Zoey D

Rights Ambassadors 2022/23

3GD- Nihaal J, 3NJH – Amelia W and 3SW – Zarah R

4IM – Georgia W, 4AS – Iris M and 4OD – Nina J

5JL – Layla F, 5JH – Jaiya P and 5FR – Preetam J

6FG – Oliver B, 6SW – Arabella W and 6NR – Isabelle A

Artist of the month

We have an initiative called Artist of the month whereby children will have an opportunity to appreciate a range of works by a chosen artist. This may be part of "Relaxation" time at the start of each afternoon or during registration etc. All children will also have a doodle pad where they can draw and sketch in the style of the artist. I will inform you of the artist each month via our Facebook page. Thank you to Ms Ward our Art Champion

Trick Box

Trick Box is an emotional regulation scheme that we use at Uplands. Each half term the children are taught a series of “tricks” or strategies to help them self regulate their emotions. There are 4 categories of “Tricks”:

Confidence Calm Communication Creativity

From the first half term your child should be able to tell you about “Mirror Mirror”, “Big voice” and “Stand tall”. We are now taking order via Pay 360 for individual boxes of tricks that children may wish to purchase to keep at home. The cost is just £2.50 per box. There is further information about Trick Box on our website under the Curriculum tab and then Mental health and Well-Being. You will also find information here about the Art of Brilliance and how we teach about positive mental health at Uplands.

Rights Respecting Ambassadors

Our Rights ambassadors were once again invited to Bantock Park to plant crocus corms and wildflower seeds with Wolverhampton Rotary club and the Mayor of Wolverhampton. This was part of the Rotary’s international campaign to eliminate polio from the world (the purple crocus is the symbol of this campaign). The Mayor was very interested to hear about our work on Rights and to know that we are the only Wolverhampton school to have achieved the Silver Rights Respecting award.



Year 5 visit to the Mosque

As part of our cycle of visits to places of worship Year 5 went to the Madina Masjid. As always we received the warmest of welcomes. We were very proud of our pupils who engaged wonderfully with the learning, asking and answering super questions.

Year 6 visit to the Black Country Museum

As part of their Creative Curriculum Wolverhampton Industrial revolution topic, Year 6 visited the black Country museum. The children were able to spend the day with a guided tour learning what life was like in the Victorian era. All pupils took part in a “mine show” and a “metal forming” workshop. All the children behaved so well and thoroughly enjoyed learning outside of the classroom again.

Librarians for 2022/23

Children were asked to apply for the position of a librarian and the following Year 6 children were successful in securing a post.

Acira

Lalita

Laasya

Manreen

Lois

Japjit

William

Lewis

Charlie

Nikosi

Elsie

Aadreyi

Anaya

Thank you for all the donations at Harvest time to the Good Shepherd food bank who support Wolverhampton families.

Music at Uplands



At Uplands we are one of the highest performing schools for musical engagement and access to learning an instrument in the city. We achieve this through our “Whole class instrument teaching” in Year 4 whereby every child has the chance to learn both ukulele and guitar. School fully funds this scheme giving all pupils 36 weeks of paid lessons. In addition we have a small group offer for brass, woodwind, strings and cello.

We also teach music weekly using the Charanga scheme and our pupils have regular access to singing accompanied by Mr Kidson. You will find lots of information about our music curriculum on our website under the “Curriculum” tab and then select Music.

We are delighted that a local resident on Linden Lea has donated her piano to school following the loss of ours due to the asbestos incident. My thanks goes to the family for this most kind gesture and I will be sending a card and some flowers on behalf of the children as a “Thank you”