

Uplands Junior School

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Uplands Junior School

March 2021

Head Teacher: Mrs S Webster-Smith

Dear Parents/carers

I welcome you back to the Uplands' school community and I do hope that you and your families are well. Thank you for all of your support and kind words over the latest lockdown. We know that home schooling has been a challenge for everyone but we are most grateful for all your work and efforts to support your children with the learning provided. Our remote offer securely met the Local authority and Ofsted criteria.

Many of you have asked about the health and well-being of school staff and I thank you for this. We have had some illness amongst both our staff members and their families but thankfully all have now recovered from Covid and we hope that people continue to remain well. As detailed on our risk assessment staff are now undertaking lateral flow tests twice weekly using home test kits.

We do have some staff members who are currently on sickness absence leave (non Covid related) and we hope that they continue to recover and we look forward to welcoming them back as soon as they are well.

Current Government guidance does not allow for educational visits to take place. This means that at present it is looking increasingly unlikely that the Year 6 residential to Cleobury will be able to go ahead. I am in touch with the centre but we are getting close to the date that a final decision has to be made. In the meantime we are exploring other venues and options where we may be able to take each Yr6 class bubble for a day visit so that they still have an enjoyable experience together with their peers. I will keep you informed and updated regarding this.

All monies paid for after school football clubs that only ran for 1 week in Autumn term are held and can be carried over to Summer term when hopefully we will be able to re-start these clubs.

I do hope that many of you have taken up the offer of 2 free extra curricular clubs per class run by Mr Moore and the Soccer 2000 team. The aim of these is to provide some fun activities that allow pupils to re-socialise and feel together as a class again. Places can be booked via Sims pay system.

Our Breakfast and After School club facilities are now operating on their normal opening hours and all charges resume from Monday of this week (March 8th). Government guidance states that this facility must currently only be used by parents if they are working, attending a medical appointment or engaged in training for work. Thank you for following this guidance.

The Government have cancelled Year 6 SATS for this summer. Unlike GCSE's and A' Levels we have not been given a directive that we have to provide a teacher assessment grade. However we intend to carry out informal assessments in school using previous materials in order to inform our annual pupil reports and to give accurate information to Year 7 in our transition meetings.



SCHOOL MEMBER

Healthy School

The City council have identified that the Uplands site is to be used a polling station on Thursday 6th May. Back in November Electoral services undertook a review to try and find alternative venues as they recognise the inconvenience that closing a school site causes especially after the disruption of the last year. For Uplands they have said "Unfortunately there are no suitable or alternative polling stations in the relevant polling district so the Returning Officer will be requiring the use of your school as per their entitlement set out in the Representation of the People Act 1983" There are 28 schools being used out of over 100 polling venues across the city. Many alternative venues that could be used are currently Covid testing sites or vaccination centres. This day is being directed as a remote learning day and all staff will be providing "learning" -further details will follow. Following a risk assessment, the polling station will be based in our school hall and given the geography of our building we are unable to open or partially open because we will be unable to safeguard your children. I understand that this is not news that you or we wanted given the disruption to schools over the last year but the decision is out of my control.

We will be welcoming back Mrs Gaunt following her maternity leave after the birth of her little girl last Spring. She will be based in Year 3 providing additional teaching time and intervention 'catch up' opportunities. Mrs Wilson will also be remaining with us in Year 3 as part of a job share with Mrs Dattani until the end of the Summer term.

Some dates for your diary:

Wb March 29 th	Health week across school-focus on positive well being and mental health
Thursday 1 st April:	School breaks up for the Easter holidays
Monday 19 th April:	Summer term begins-school re-opens
Thursday 6 th May:	Polling day-school closed to all pupils (see above)
Friday 28 th May:	Final INSET day for this academic year. School closed to all pupils whilst staff receive training on Maths led by the LA. Pupils break up for half term on Thursday 27 th May
Friday 2 nd July:	Annual reports to be sent home
Wednesday 21 st July:	School breaks up for the summer holidays

INSET days for the next academic year 2021/2022 (planned collaboratively with Westacre school)
Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd September 2021, Friday 17th December 2021
Friday 18th February 2022, Friday 8th April 2022

I will as always inform you as to how we are using our training days which will link to our School improvement plan and our Covid recovery.

This has been and continues to be a most extraordinary time for all of us. By continuing to work together I am confident that we can re-store Uplands to the school that it was prior to lockdown. As the national situation develops and the Government issue updated guidance I will communicate immediately with you so you know of any changes. At all times the safety of everyone will be of paramount importance.

Thank you for your continued support

S. Webster-Smith

Mrs Webster-Smith
Headteacher