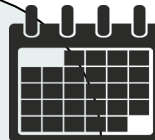


Uplands Junior School Newsletter

Spring Term 2022 Edition 3 March

Spring is almost upon us and longer lighter days are here. School life is slowly returning to some kind of normality and we look forward to more of this in Summer term. Please see our dates below for Sports day mornings per year group and Jubilee picnics. It was so lovely to welcome so many of you on to site for Parents evening last month. We will be running an Easter raffle on Friday 1st April-there are 2 Easter eggs per class to be won and a chocolate hamper each for lower and upper school with contents donated by staff. Tickets are 20p each or £1 per strip. Please send any monies to school on April 1st. It is with sadness that I inform you that Mrs Smith is leaving school on March 17th after over 3 years of working with us, we wish her well and thank her for all her work for the pupils of Uplands.

Diary dates for the Spring term



Friday 11th March: Roving book fair in school.

March 16/17th: DT focus days in school.

March 23rd/24th: Year 5 Polyphone workshop in school (funded by school).

wb March 28th: Enterprise shop for fundraising.

Friday 1st April: Easter raffle day (Tickets 20p each or £1 per strip).

Monday 4th April: Health week across school with a focus on healthy eating.

Thursday 7th April: Last day of term for pupils. Break up for Easter at normal times.

Friday 8th April: INSET day in school Level 2 autism for all staff. School closed to pupils.

Monday 25th April: School re-opens for Summer term

Advance notice: School is to be used as a **Polling station on**

Thursday 5th May and so will be closed to staff and pupils.

Advance dates for the Summer term:

Monday 16th May 9:30am - Year 6 Sports day morning.

Tuesday 17th May 9:30am - Year 3 Sports day morning.

Wednesday 18th May 9:30am - Year 5 Sports day morning.

Thursday 19th May 9:30am- Year 4 Sports day morning.

I am delighted to say that parents are welcome to attend Sports day this year.

Jubilee picnic dates:

Wednesday 25th May: 1:30pm Lower school Years 3 and 4.

Thursday 26th May: 1:30pm Upper school Years 5 and 6.

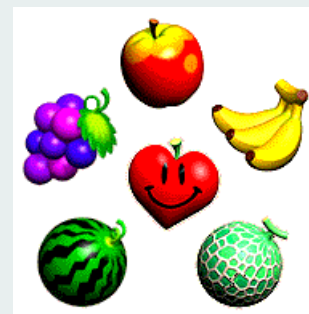


Uplands Junior School

Article 6

The right to live, survive and develop to your full potential.

Each month our Rights ambassadors will focus on a “Right of the month” which will be discussed as part of a class assembly. This month they are focusing on healthy foods and snacks in school. Each class is compiling a list of healthy playtime snacks that are brought in and “name in the jar” rewards are being given to pupils who have made healthy choices. Please can we request that no chocolate, crisps or biscuits are brought in as a playtime snack.



School phone number: 01902 558870

School e-mail: uplandsjuniorschool@wolverhampton.gov.uk

Catering update

Our catering contract with Chartwells comes to an end this Summer. Uplands (along with several other schools) is involved in a tendering process for the new contract from September. At the time of writing 9 companies have shown an interest and visited the site. We now wait to see who puts in a formal bid which will then lead to presentations. I will keep you informed of developments.

Uplands' sensory room

Thank you to Kate Rogers from Outreach who is supporting us in the development of a new sensory space. The room has now been decorated (thanks to Mr Grytchol) and new blinds fitted. Ms Handscomb our SENDCO and Mrs Rowley have begun to order the resources for the space and some have now arrived and been unpacked. Once the space is ready staff will receive training on how to use it to support SEND pupils across school.

We raised £420 from the non uniform day-thank you so much. This will go towards new wet playtime activities for classrooms. If anyone is clearing out and has any board games, jigsaws etc that are no longer wanted please consider donating them to school for wet lunchtimes. Thank you.

A visit from the Mayor

There was great excitement when the Mayor came to visit Uplands to attend a Rights ambassador meeting. The pupils delivered a presentation about the impact that being "rights-respecting" has at Uplands. They asked the Mayor about his role and how he helps to promote rights. He was amazed by the confidence and knowledge displayed by our pupils as they discussed issues such as climate change and mental health. The Mayor also admired some of our displays and the entries for the city-wide Fairtrade poster competition. This year we had almost 30 entries which I have submitted to the city-the standard was very high. Mr Mayor kindly stayed until the end of the day to meet as many pupils as possible and posed for photographs at the school gate.



We had 2 winners of the poster competition-Eshal in Yr6 and Tanmay in Yr5-they were invited to a prize giving reception at the Mayor's parlour. Well done.

Being Brilliant committee...a new role

Our Being Brilliant committee have a new role ...as Health Champions. We have been selected as the only Primary school in the city to trial this new venture and our pupils will act as a model and help to shape the service going forward for other schools. Alongside Sunita and Ryan from Wolverhampton Public health our committee have received their first stage in training.

The role will be to work alongside public health and the school nursing team to lead, champion and educate their peers on health priorities linked to our school. This will include promoting health priorities, organising and leading activities that provide skills and knowledge and designing new health programmes.

The first training module discussed the meaning of the terms health priorities, mental health and physical health. The pupils looked at what is needed to lead a healthy life and what might impact upon this.

Our trainers were so impressed with the level of maturity shown by our children and how they could clearly explain their ideas...often linking back to the Unicef "Rights of a child"

We are all excited to see how this project develops.



Respect For All

Subject focus.... Music

This academic year we are pleased that we have been able to welcome peripatetic Music teaching back into school. We have seen an increase in the number of children in Years 4 and 5 who have taken up the opportunity to learn to play a musical instrument, whether that be a woodwind, brass, or string instrument. Year 4 children continue to enjoy the whole class instrumental teaching provided by Wolverhampton Music School. This gives all children a wonderful opportunity to experience the joy of learning a musical instrument (the ukulele leading on to the guitar).

With a return to singing in school, we have been delighted that Mr Kidson - our pianist- has once again been able to accompany our Friday afternoon singing sessions; his knowledge, enthusiasm and talent has been a pleasure to hear once more in school. In addition to these regular Music sessions in school, we like to invite Music professionals into school each term to share their expertise. Children in all year groups enjoyed a drumming workshop provided by 'Hit the Dhol' as part of Diwali celebrations; the children in Year 4 experienced a singing workshop with Wolverhampton Music Service in the early part of the Spring Term and Year 5 are looking forward to our polyphones workshop in April.

In my role as Music Champion, I have been working to raise the profile of Music in our curriculum. The governors have approved investment for a new music trolley to organise and store our percussion instruments so that they are more accessible for classes to use in other subjects; we have also purchased a new set of glockenspiels for the children to use during their class-based Music lessons. With greater resources available, the children have further opportunities to develop their ability to play in time to an accompaniment; they have the chance to begin to read music notation; as well as the opportunity to improvise and experiment during musical composition and performance activities. The children in school are also beginning to use the language of music with greater confidence through more emphasis on quality opportunities to listen and appraise different styles of music from a variety of periods in time.

Music is a key part of each day at Uplands, through the music that children listen to during registration time or the music that children listen to during assembly. As a result, the children have an awareness that music is a powerful medium for conveying key messages or that music is chosen for different purposes. I look forward to further developing the curriculum and the opportunities available for each musician at Uplands.

Mrs Wilson Music Champion



Thank you

Our sponsored read event raised £2300 which is an amazing total. With the bonuses offered by Usborne we have over £3000 to spend on books for school. This will stock our new playground Reading shed and add additional books to the library and each classroom book corner.

Thank you so much for every pound that was raised.

We have created an Uplands Experience log for each year group that outlines all of the exciting opportunities our pupils will enjoy as they move through school. Each year has 18 experiences plus 6 whole school annual events that enable the development of knowledge and skills beyond English and Maths. Do take a look at them-they can be found on our website under the Curriculum overview and can be found on the left hand side. All children will be given a copy for their year group and this will be glued into their spiral bound diary.

On our last INSET training day on the 17th December, our support assistants received training on ‘Lego therapy.’ This was offered by Kate Rogers who is from ‘Outreach service.’

Outreach is an outside agency that works closely with Uplands to support some of our pupils who have additional needs. They offer us great advice, tools and resources which we use to help and support us.

Kate led this training to enable us to offer this intervention to pupils in the school who we feel may benefit.

What is Lego therapy?

Lego therapy is a structured approach to helping children develop the important life skills of social communication, language and problem solving skills. It is a simple and motivational tool to help children to interact and solve problems within a group.

Three children come together each with a specific role to work on a shared building project using Lego. The three roles are: engineer, supplier and builder.

Each member of the group has to interact with each other. This involves them listening and communicating, both verbally and non-verbally, to ensure that they construct a good final product.

Throughout the build there may be opportunities for the group to problem solve any difficulties they encounter.

The activity involves listening to instructions, giving instructions, using descriptive language, checking their own understanding, being patient with others, looking from another persons’ perspective and also being flexible.

Not only do the children improve their communication and interaction skills but they have great fun doing it!

There are already pupils who have started taking part in Lego therapy in school and we are now going to buy a Lego therapy set for each year group to use.



We are experiencing a growing number of children arriving late at school and then missing out on early morning Maths work, reading and assemblies.

Please note that pupils should be in school when the bell rings at 8:50am.

Please contact us if there are any issues that we can support you with.



Respect For All