

# Uplands Junior School Newsletter

## Merry Christmas



On behalf of all the team at Uplands I would like to wish you a very happy festive season. After another difficult year I do hope you enjoy quality time with your friends and family. We look forward to seeing you in 2022.

### Diary dates:

**Monday 6th December:** School postbox in entrance area for pupils to send cards to friends in school. Please add both names and class if possible on envelopes.

**Wb Monday 6th December:** Christmas enterprise shop selling pocket money toys (children can bring loose change in a purse or envelope).

Monday	Year 6
Tuesday	Year 5
Thursday	Year 4
Friday	Year 3

**Wednesday 8th December:** Christmas lunch available for all pupils. Please pay via our online payment system Pay 360.

**Wednesday 15th December:** Party afternoon across school (see separate letter for details).

**Thursday 16th December:** Christmas movie "Golden Time" Children break up on this date as **Friday 17th December is an INSET day. Staff will be in school working on curriculum development.**

**School re-opens on Tuesday 4th January 2022.**



Uplands Junior School

**Thank you for all the donations for Children in Need. We raised £373.49.**

### Advance notices:

We are looking to repeat Parent engagement sessions with Soccer 2000 in the late Spring/early Summer. This will give you an opportunity to engage in a PE lesson with your child. After so long of not being able to invite parents in to school this will be wonderful. Dates will follow in the new year.

We are also planning a Jubilee picnic for pupils and parents to be held at the end of May-one afternoon for lower school and one for upper school. We have booked a vintage group called "The Bluebird Belles" to sing on both afternoons. Details and dates to follow.

Autumn-  
Term 2021  
Edition 4

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## Hit the Dhol

Thank you so much to Hit the Dhol who led a drumming workshop for every class as part of our cultural celebration. I know from the pupil feedback how much many of them enjoyed this. The workshop linked to our first Take One Picture cultural event which we will repeat next year with a different focus.

Remaining INSET days for this academic year:

**Friday December 17th 2021**

**Friday February 18th 2022**

**Friday April 8th 2022**



## Subject Focus

### Modern Foreign Language (MFL): French

All students learn French throughout their time at Uplands. They learn the language, but also this year, at the request of the children, we will be learning more the culture of the France and French speaking countries.

Year 3 will be covering topics including ages, colours and days of the week. Year 5 will study birthdays, body and family. Year 5 topics include hobbies, house and home, clothes and fashion. Year 6 topics include school, food and describing people.

We are so pleased that now that covid restrictions are being eased, we are able to re-introduce Food tasting with year 6, which is always a fun experience, as well as welcome back Freshwater Theatre Company to work with Year 4. In all years, we ensure learning includes fun games and competitive activities, so I hope the children will enjoy their learning of languages this year, as well as make lots of progress and experience French culture!



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## Curriculum information for parents

I wished to remind you of where you can find information about what your child is being taught in school.

On our website homepage on the left hand side you will find a Curriculum tab. Under the "overview" section you will find our Intent and Aims, the termly Topics for each year group, details of trips, visits and workshops (when times are normal!), enrichment weeks and as attachments you will see all the termly Topic plans.

There is also a "subject" tab and an icon for all National Curriculum subjects. Here you will find the Intent for each subject, the school policy, the progression of skills for Key Stage 2 and vocabulary development across the years.

Also on the homepage you will find a tab called "Knowledge organisers" and here you will find the essential knowledge that will be taught and needed for each of the main topics across the key stage. We are developing this area so that all subjects will have knowledge organisers attached.



**Thank you for all contributions to the cost of trips and workshops. It is so lovely to see this part of school life re-starting. We have had successful visits for Year 6 to Black Country Museum, Year 4 to Enginuity and then History workshops for Year 3 on Egyptians and Year 5 on World War 2. In addition Year 5 and Year 6 have visited places of worship as part of their RE work.**



## Who are the Digital Ambassadors at Uplands?

“We are a group of dedicated Year 6 students that are role models to others. We are a positive ongoing support group in school to help other pupils, parents, teachers and Governors with understanding online safety.

We have been trained as Digital Ambassadors so that we can give advice to any pupil who has worries about using technology. It is important in our role to promote keeping safe online and share the positives with using technology.

You can ask us anything about online safety to discard any worries including online risks, sharing personal information, digital footprints and age appropriateness.

We have recently worked on a new document for school in collaboration with the Rights Respecting Ambassadors about our “Online digital Rights”-this will be introduced to everyone very soon.”

### **Digital Ambassadors for 2021-2022:**

**Avijoy, Aaryan, Amarveer, Dilan, Anna, Kian, Oscar and Cem**

#### Key messages for parents:

- Be aware of what your child is using online
- Children should use devices when parents are nearby
- Be aware of any apps your child is using and the age limits which apply (Facebook, Snapchat and Instagram are all 13)
- Be aware of pegi ratings on games
- Encourage your child to talk about anything which worried them online



## Mental Health champions

I am delighted to announce a new venture that we are trialing with Year 4 pupils. In January they will all train to be mental health champions which will involve them knowing how to support their own well-being as well as that of others. There will be a 1 hour virtual live launch to the project followed by a half day workshop for each class. In addition there will be access to 10 short videos and an accompanying workbook on ways to support their own well being. At the end each pupil will receive a certificate showing that they are a “Mental Health Champion”. If successful I aim to repeat this project each year with Year 4 pupils with a view to supporting the transition of Year 2 to Year 3.

## Being Brilliant committee

We have been invited by the city as the only Primary school to trial a new venture called Health Champions. Our Being Brilliant committee will work with the city health teams to raise awareness of local and current health needs in our school. More information will follow after their first meeting.

**Our garden area at the rear of school is almost complete. This space is to support positive mental health and well-being. In the Spring we will run a competition amongst pupils to name this space. We are really thrilled with how this space has been developed.**

# Respect For All

# Special Educational needs (SEND) at Uplands

Miss Handscomb is our SENDCO here at Uplands. She is based in Year 3 but has release time each week in order to carry out her role as coordinator. This does not mean that she is the only teacher for SEND pupils at Uplands. All teachers are teachers of SEND-Miss Handscomb coordinates our school response for SEND.

## **Training:**

In June all teaching staff received Level 1 Autism training led by Kate Rogers from Outreach. This will be repeated for support staff on the December INSET day along with Lego therapy and Zones of regulation training.

One of our September INSET days was led by our Educational psychologist and looked at different areas of need across school along with strategies to support in the classroom.

All staff will receive a full day of Autism Level 2 training on the INSET day on April 8th 2022.

**Coming soon..... A new sensory room for Uplands. We are going to be converting a small room in school to a sensory area to support pupils with SEND. Outreach are supporting and advising us with this venture. We will share photos once it is complete. All staff will receive training on how to use this space to support pupils.**

In June we invited the Local Authority in to school to carry out a review of our provision for pupils with SEND. The review involved discussions with senior leaders and key staff including the SENDCO, English lead, Maths lead, teachers, teaching assistants, groups of pupils as well as an examination of a sample of pupils' work. Learning walks took place around school led by myself and joined by Linda Brown (School Improvement Senior Advisor) and Anna Vrahimi (School Improvement Advisor for SEND).

3 key strengths were identified:

***SENDCO is passionate about pupils with SEND, is very accessible and takes time to know individual children. Staff are well supported.***

***Pupils with SEND have access to the full curriculum, allowing equality of opportunity, resulting in pupils with SEND feeling included and enjoying their learning at Uplands.***

***There is a determination to improve SEND provision and increasing pro-activity to do so, including involvement of the link Governor for SEND.***

Our key recommendations were:

***Further raise the status of SEND so that outcomes can improve more rapidly.***

***Develop the SENDCO role to one which is more strategic enabling increased focused activity to understand our SEND provision.***

***Review the effectiveness of SEND interventions in school in improving outcomes.***

We have recently had a whole school review and whilst the focus this time was not fully on SEND there are some quotes in the report about our practice that I wish to share:

“Effective subject leadership is facilitating an ambitious offer, and staff have high aspirations for all pupils including those with SEND-the school is a happy and harmonious one”

“All pupils have access to the same curriculum and where needed a range of scaffolds and additional support are provided to enable pupils to access the offer in full”