

Uplands Junior School

Newsletter



Summer Term Diary dates

Monday 15th July: New Year 3 parents evening 6pm

Wednesday 17th July: Years 4-6 musicians concert at St. Phillip's church 6:30pm start. Parents welcome

Thursday 18th July: Year 6 Leavers' assembly-9:15am. Year 6 disco during school time in afternoon. Yr4 drama club presentation after school led by Mrs Ward

Friday 19th July: Last day of term. Break up at 3:15pm. Chartwells "End of term party" lunch

All term dates and INSET dates for the new academic year are on our website. You should also have received a wallet sized card showing this information

Advance dates for the Autumn term

Monday 2nd September: INSET day-school closed to pupils

Tuesday 3rd September: School re-opens 8:50am

Friday 27th September: Macmillan coffee afternoon led by Year 6 pupils-everyone welcome

Monday 30th September: Poetry competition finals to be held at Castlecroft

Tuesday 22nd and Wednesday 23rd October: Open evening for the whole school-appointments will be needed

Thursday 24th October: Children break up for half term 3:15pm

Friday 25th October: INSET day-school closed to pupils-staff working on curriculum review

Monday 4th November: Return to school after half term 8:50am

The website noticeboard is updated weekly with what is happening in school.

Stay up to date with our latest news and events via our Facebook page

As the year draws to a close we will be saying Farewell to John our crossing patrol for Finchfield Road. He is taking up a new appointment at a school much closer to his home. We know how much he has enjoyed working as part of the Uplands team for the last 6 years and we wish him well as he moves to his new post.

**Summer
Term 2019**

I was recently contacted by a colleague of a former Headteacher of Uplands- Mr John Taylor- to say that he had passed away. There may be some members of our school community who remember Mr Taylor or even current parents who were pupils during his Headship. I passed on condolences on behalf of Uplands.

The Musical themed Art Gallery showcase was a spectacular event. Thank you to the children who produced the art work, the teachers and support staff who inspired them and taught them the skills and then displayed the work and the parents and families who were able to attend. Thanks also to Mrs Ward who coordinated the event and had the vision for the big top and to Mr Grytchol our caretaker who helped to make that vision a reality. To everyone who donated cakes and to the team of parents who ran the café I offer my grateful thanks. Over £350 was raised for the minibus appeal.

Thank you to Soccer 2000 and Mr Moore who recently led parent PE workshops. Feedback was very good and it was great to see over 80 parents engaging with the activities over the course of the week. We appreciate that many parents are unable to attend "engagement" events during the day and will seek to offer alternatives during the next school year.

School trips and visits

Please find below some helpful information re school trips that I have recently been asked about.

Questions and Answers

Q. Why do parents have to pay for trips and workshops?

School receives no direct funding for trips and workshops and relies totally on the voluntary contributions made by parents. If there are not enough contributions to cover the cost of a visit/workshop then the money either has to be paid from the school finance pot reserved for pupil resources or the trip may have to be cancelled. You will have seen in the press that school budgets are becoming even tighter and more difficult to balance.

Q. Does the cost that a parent pays cover the shortfall for any non-paying pupils?

No. On the letter that goes home there is always a breakdown included to show how the cost of the trip has been calculated. This is calculated from entrance fees and coach costs and divided by the number of pupils in a year group. A parent only ever pays for the cost of their own child and never towards that of another.

Q. My child receives free school meals. Does this entitle me to any discount?

Yes it does. If you register for FSM then school receives some funding that goes towards the cost of a visit and also contributes significantly to the cost of the Yr6 residential.

Q. My child would be eligible for FSM but wants to bring a packed lunch?

It is still worth you registering your child for FSM so that school can get the funding that will help with a trip and residential cost. We get a list of all the pupils whom we have received funding for.

We are grateful for all the contributions that come in towards visits and workshops.

Trips/workshops this academic year:

Year 3: Birmingham museum and gallery, Egyptian workshop, Dudley Zoo and Festival of sport

Year 4: Enginuity museum, Stone Age workshop, Fire station, Roman workshop, Stratford on Avon, Festival of Sport and St Philips church

Year 5: Space centre Leicester, DT Workshop, Safeside in Birmingham, Cardingmill Valley,

Year 6: Liverpool Beatles Museum and Cleobury residential at Pioneer centre



Respect For All

We have recently had a full review of our Governance at Uplands and I am pleased to say that we were rated as "Green." This means that all essential processes are in place as well as many other recommended practices. We are proud of the work of the Governing Board and delighted that some of our practices are to be shared across the city.

As part of The Art of Brilliance programme we held a Random acts of kindness day at the end of June. It was lovely to see children spreading kindness between each other -we had notes, letters, positive post-its, kind words and small sweet treats to name but a few. Staff also joined in. There was such a lovely feeling around school and we have decided to repeat this as an annual event.



The Art of Brilliance team came out for a "happiness" inspection to look at our work around positivity since November. After examining all of our evidence and talking to a group of pupils they have awarded us the "Outstandingly happy and positive school " award. There will be a new banner on our school fence in September!



School phone number: 01902 558870

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

Attendance % for the academic year

3NJH 97.5%

3KD 97.8%

3GD 95.9%

4AS 97.8%

4KW 96.9%

4NH 97.1%

5FG 96.8%

5NR 97.1%

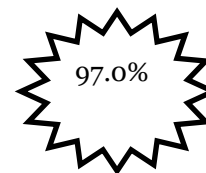
5OD 97.6%

6LR 95.7%

6BG 97.3%

6SW 97.1%

Whole school attendance
at 4.07.19



Please note that the May day Bank holiday for 2020 has changed from Monday 4th May to Friday 8th May. This differs to the information on our printed cards as the Government only recently announced this. The change is to coincide with the 75th anniversary of VE day.

Please can I remind you that cars should not be pulling into or parking in the "bell" area at the front of school. This has recently caused problems for staff trying to get on to the car park to come to work and caused congestion on the main road.



Thank you for returning the Parent Questionnaires to school we will be analysing your comments during the Summer break. Your thoughts and comments are valuable to the smooth running of our school and further driving improvements. We will report back to you with our findings in the September edition of the Newsletter



SoccerAid

We want to say a huge thank you to everyone who donated to our non-uniform day and bought "Name the bear" tickets in aid of UNICEF's Socceraid. We raised over £300 and because we sent it before a set date, the Government will double our contribution. The winning name of the Wolves bear was Dorito

Gardening club

The Tettenhall and district horticultural society visited school to judge our garden as part of the Wolverhampton School Garden competition. The gardening club answered questions and showed the judges around with great confidence and enthusiasm. Thank you to Dr Jackson who as one of our grandparents has supported the school gardening club for several years. We await the results from the judges.

Rounders

Congratulations to the Boy's Rounders Team who won all their matches in their league and were awarded league winners. Also to the Mixed Rounders Team who won 2 of their league matches and drew one and were awarded league winners. In addition, well done to the Girl's Rounders Team, who came 2nd in their league.

Unfortunately, due to the bad weather we have had this half term, the City Finals were unable to take place.

Gymnastics

This year, Mrs Swindells (Uplands Gymnastic Coach), will be retiring from Primary Gymnastics. She has been with Uplands for the past 5 years and has given copious amounts of time and support to all children who have attended her club. During her time at Uplands, She has supported the children to achieve 5 City Championships, Regional Gold medals and National Bronze medals. She has brought out pure skill, talent and determination within our pupils and will be missed.

We wish her a happy retirement.

Thank you to all your support this year for Sport and PE at Uplands Junior School.



On behalf of everyone working at Uplands I wish you a fabulous Summer break. This has been a very happy and positive academic year and I look forward to working with you all again in September.

The new academic year at Uplands

At the end of each academic year we review what has worked well and set our priorities for the new School Improvement plan. Below is a brief outline of what development is coming in the new school year:

- We will review our curriculum in light of the new Ofsted framework-INSET days will be used for this
- We will continue working on new ideas for lunchtime to ensure that it is a calm, orderly and positive time for pupils. We will be introducing a 2 minute period of "reflection and relaxation" at the start of each afternoon session
- We have signed up for a new service level agreement for E-safety and we will be offering parent workshops to support you. We will continue to instil positive on line behaviours and ensure that our E-safety curriculum is robust
- The principles of The Art of Brilliance will be embedded within the curriculum and the wider life of the school
- We will further embed the Unicef Rights of a Child into our teaching and start working towards Gold standards
- We will develop high levels of support for the well-being of pupils and staff. School is going to embark on the Well being in the workplace award. School also hopes to achieve the Carnegie mental health award.
- We will develop an outside garden area that can be used for both teaching but also calm quiet reflection
- We will continue to offer a range of extra-curricular activities-some new clubs will be on offer
- A new musical "Polyphone" workshop for Year 5 with a parent showcase will take place
- Whole class instrument teaching funded by school to be introduced into Year 4 (further details to follow)
- A new emergency first aid workshop for Year 6 including CPR
- A young voices choir and concert for Upper school
- We will develop a revised topic on the history of Wolverhampton for Year 6

These are just some of the developments we will be working on at Uplands.