



Governor Newsletter

December 2016

In September we welcomed over 90 new pupils and their families to Uplands Junior School. We hope they have enjoyed their first term at Uplands. Governors, in conjunction with staff, continue to review the transfer of children from infant school to Uplands. This year, staff felt the children settled in to Uplands' school life particularly well. If you have any comments on how we can make this move as easy as possible then please pass your thoughts on to Mrs Shakesheave or to one of our parent governors.

After over 20 years in the post, Mr Price retired as our school caretaker in November. Having been off sick for some time, Mr Price did not want a fuss made of his leaving. Hopefully, some parents and pupils had an opportunity to say goodbye to him during his last week. We would like to thank him for all his work and the contribution he has made over the years. We wish him a healthy and happy retirement.

In October Mr Grytchol officially joined as our new school caretaker. He will not be living onsite which means we will be reviewing the use of the bungalow in the New Year. We also welcomed Miss FE Gilbert who joined year 5.

Mrs Juli Forrest, a year 3 parent has joined us as a new parent governor this term. She has experience working with other schools both in a professional capacity and as a governor. We look forward to working with her next year.

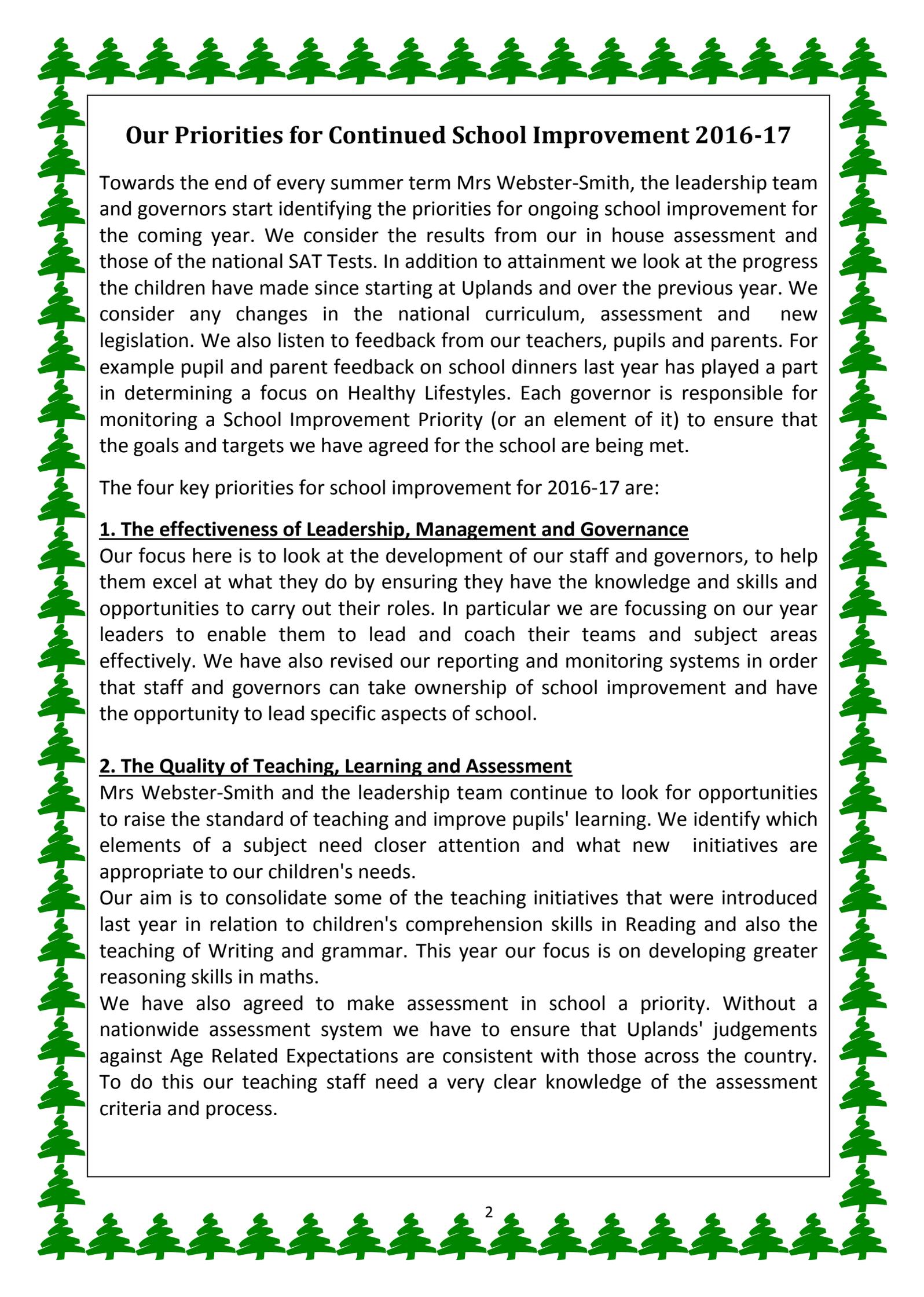
After a very busy term we wish all the children, staff and families a relaxing and happy Christmas break.

Alteration of School Term Dates for 2017-18

For those of you who are planning ahead please be aware that the term dates for the **next academic year 2017-18** have been changed by Wolverhampton City Council. We have been advised that the new dates are confirmed as follows:

- Monday 4th September 2017 until Wednesday 20th December 2017
- Tuesday 2nd January 2018 until Thursday 29th March 2018
- Monday 16th April 2018 until Friday 20th July 2018

A full list of the term dates for the current and next academic year is available via the school website or www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/termdates



Our Priorities for Continued School Improvement 2016-17

Towards the end of every summer term Mrs Webster-Smith, the leadership team and governors start identifying the priorities for ongoing school improvement for the coming year. We consider the results from our in house assessment and those of the national SAT Tests. In addition to attainment we look at the progress the children have made since starting at Uplands and over the previous year. We consider any changes in the national curriculum, assessment and new legislation. We also listen to feedback from our teachers, pupils and parents. For example pupil and parent feedback on school dinners last year has played a part in determining a focus on Healthy Lifestyles. Each governor is responsible for monitoring a School Improvement Priority (or an element of it) to ensure that the goals and targets we have agreed for the school are being met.

The four key priorities for school improvement for 2016-17 are:

1. The effectiveness of Leadership, Management and Governance

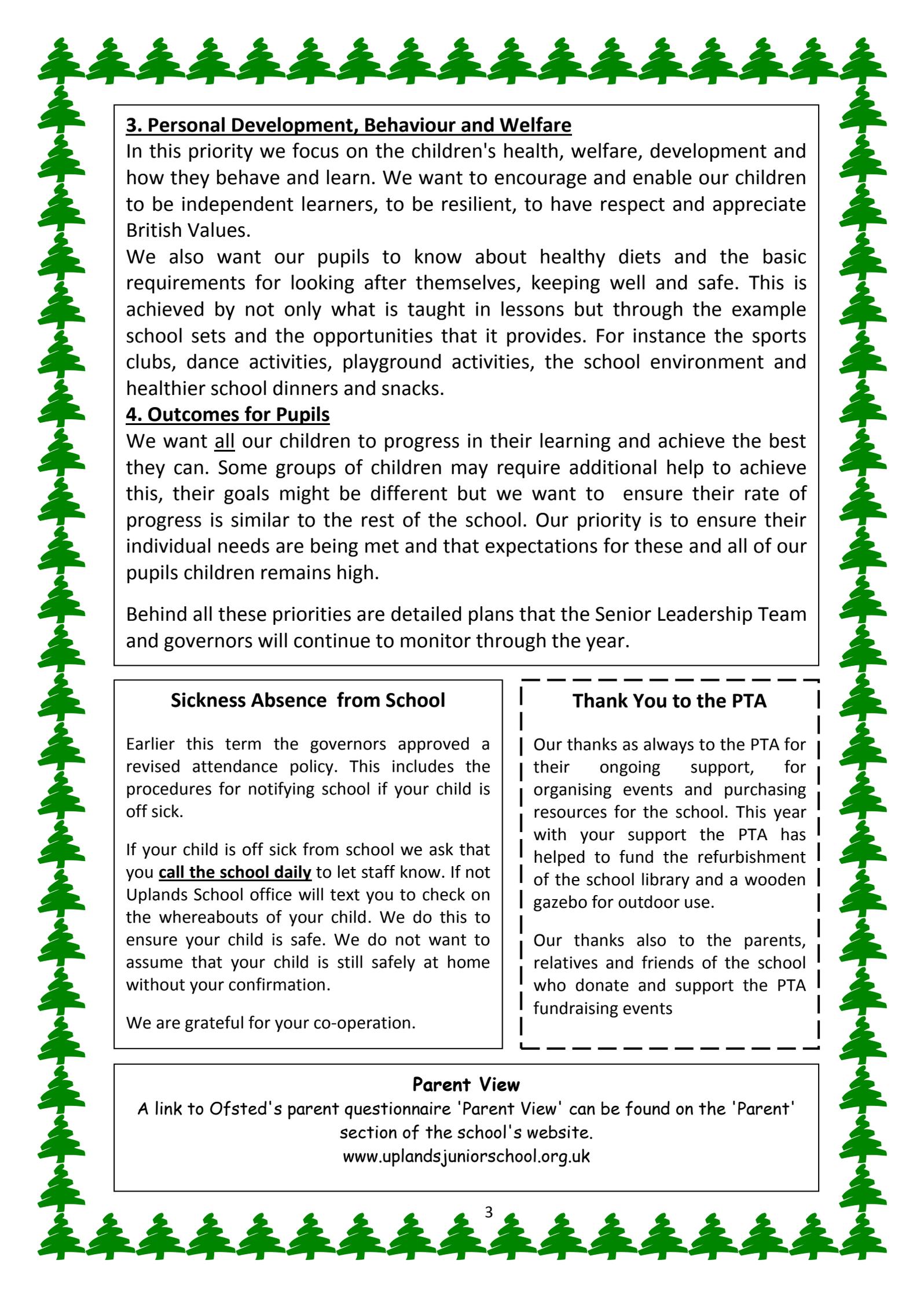
Our focus here is to look at the development of our staff and governors, to help them excel at what they do by ensuring they have the knowledge and skills and opportunities to carry out their roles. In particular we are focussing on our year leaders to enable them to lead and coach their teams and subject areas effectively. We have also revised our reporting and monitoring systems in order that staff and governors can take ownership of school improvement and have the opportunity to lead specific aspects of school.

2. The Quality of Teaching, Learning and Assessment

Mrs Webster-Smith and the leadership team continue to look for opportunities to raise the standard of teaching and improve pupils' learning. We identify which elements of a subject need closer attention and what new initiatives are appropriate to our children's needs.

Our aim is to consolidate some of the teaching initiatives that were introduced last year in relation to children's comprehension skills in Reading and also the teaching of Writing and grammar. This year our focus is on developing greater reasoning skills in maths.

We have also agreed to make assessment in school a priority. Without a nationwide assessment system we have to ensure that Uplands' judgements against Age Related Expectations are consistent with those across the country. To do this our teaching staff need a very clear knowledge of the assessment criteria and process.



3. Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare

In this priority we focus on the children's health, welfare, development and how they behave and learn. We want to encourage and enable our children to be independent learners, to be resilient, to have respect and appreciate British Values.

We also want our pupils to know about healthy diets and the basic requirements for looking after themselves, keeping well and safe. This is achieved by not only what is taught in lessons but through the example school sets and the opportunities that it provides. For instance the sports clubs, dance activities, playground activities, the school environment and healthier school dinners and snacks.

4. Outcomes for Pupils

We want all our children to progress in their learning and achieve the best they can. Some groups of children may require additional help to achieve this, their goals might be different but we want to ensure their rate of progress is similar to the rest of the school. Our priority is to ensure their individual needs are being met and that expectations for these and all of our pupils children remains high.

Behind all these priorities are detailed plans that the Senior Leadership Team and governors will continue to monitor through the year.

Sickness Absence from School

Earlier this term the governors approved a revised attendance policy. This includes the procedures for notifying school if your child is off sick.

If your child is off sick from school we ask that you **call the school daily** to let staff know. If not Uplands School office will text you to check on the whereabouts of your child. We do this to ensure your child is safe. We do not want to assume that your child is still safely at home without your confirmation.

We are grateful for your co-operation.

Thank You to the PTA

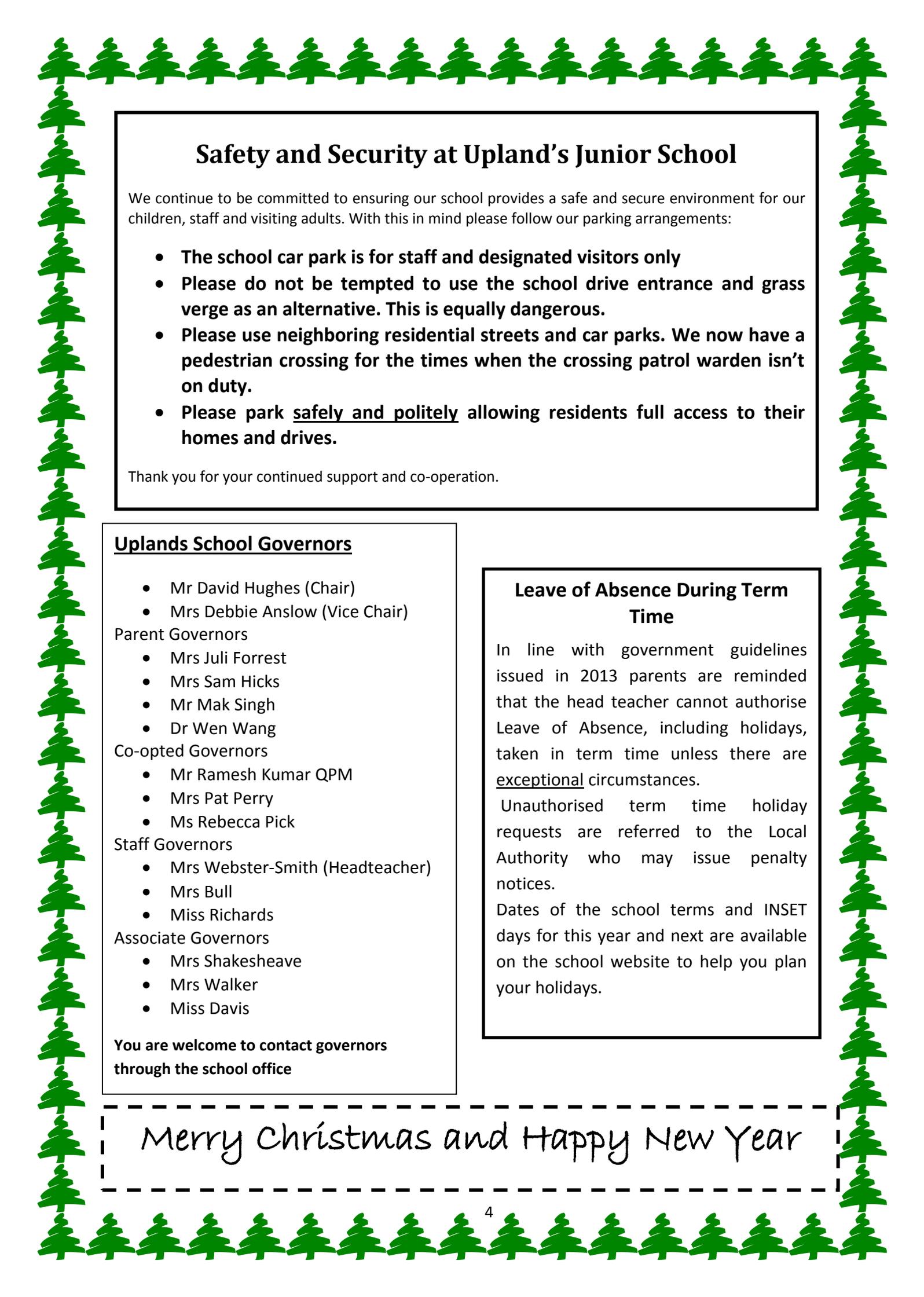
Our thanks as always to the PTA for their ongoing support, for organising events and purchasing resources for the school. This year with your support the PTA has helped to fund the refurbishment of the school library and a wooden gazebo for outdoor use.

Our thanks also to the parents, relatives and friends of the school who donate and support the PTA fundraising events

Parent View

A link to Ofsted's parent questionnaire 'Parent View' can be found on the 'Parent' section of the school's website.

www.uplandsjuniorschool.org.uk



Safety and Security at Upland's Junior School

We continue to be committed to ensuring our school provides a safe and secure environment for our children, staff and visiting adults. With this in mind please follow our parking arrangements:

- The school car park is for staff and designated visitors only
- Please do not be tempted to use the school drive entrance and grass verge as an alternative. This is equally dangerous.
- Please use neighboring residential streets and car parks. We now have a pedestrian crossing for the times when the crossing patrol warden isn't on duty.
- Please park safely and politely allowing residents full access to their homes and drives.

Thank you for your continued support and co-operation.

Uplands School Governors

- Mr David Hughes (Chair)
- Mrs Debbie Anslow (Vice Chair)

Parent Governors

- Mrs Juli Forrest
- Mrs Sam Hicks
- Mr Mak Singh
- Dr Wen Wang

Co-opted Governors

- Mr Ramesh Kumar QPM
- Mrs Pat Perry
- Ms Rebecca Pick

Staff Governors

- Mrs Webster-Smith (Headteacher)
- Mrs Bull
- Miss Richards

Associate Governors

- Mrs Shakesheave
- Mrs Walker
- Miss Davis

You are welcome to contact governors through the school office

Leave of Absence During Term Time

In line with government guidelines issued in 2013 parents are reminded that the head teacher cannot authorise Leave of Absence, including holidays, taken in term time unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Unauthorised term time holiday requests are referred to the Local Authority who may issue penalty notices.

Dates of the school terms and INSET days for this year and next are available on the school website to help you plan your holidays.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year