

Uplands Junior School

Newsletter

Diary dates for the Spring term

Wb Monday 10th February: Science week across school

Tuesday 11th February: Safer Internet day

Tuesday 11th and Wednesday 12th February: Parents' evenings (appointments will be needed) Please ring school if you do not have an allocated time.

Wednesday 12th February: Whole school individual photographs

Thursday 13th and Friday 14th February: Year 5 DT workshop with Rotary club (no charge for this event)

Friday 14th February: Break up for half term 3:15pm

The fencing for the new garden area will be fitted over the half term break

Monday 24th February: Return to school

Wednesday 26th and Thursday 27th February: Year 5 Polyphone musical workshop and presentation

Friday 28th February: Roving Book Fair in school

Friday 6th March: World Book day dress up
World book day themed lunch

Monday 9th March: Year 4 French workshop (school to fund)

Friday 13th March: INSET day-school closed to pupils

Wednesday 18th March: Year 5 trip to RAF Cosford

Friday 20th March: Year 4 Roman workshop in school and Year 3 trip to Birmingham Art gallery and museum

Friday 27th March: Last date for Year 6 parents to opt out of names going on Leavers' hoodies

Wb Monday 30th March: Health week across school

Wednesday 1st April: Class 3SW Easter assembly (3SW parents welcome to attend at 9am)

Thursday 2nd April: Class 5KD Vaisakhi assembly (5KD parents welcome to attend at 9am)

Friday 3rd April: End of term-school breaks up for Easter at 3:15pm



Uplands Junior School

Friday 13th March

INSET DAY

School will be closed to pupils. Staff will be working on Curriculum revisions for the Autumn term.

The last INSET day for this school year will be on Monday 20th July.

INSET dates for next year will be set in March/April

Ofsted parent view

This is an online questionnaire for you to give views about our school. You can fill it in at any time in the year. Ofsted will look at this when they next visit us.

Spring
Term 2020

Edition 2

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Thank you to everyone who is parking respectfully at the back gate. It has been noted that parents appear to be using one side of the road on which to park which is proving helpful. Thank you for not blocking residents' drives and parking on grass verges.



We are looking forward to welcoming you into school next week for Parents' evenings. These are being held on Tuesday 11th and Wednesday 12th February between 3:30-6:30pm. If you have not requested or received an appointment time and would like one please give the school office a call. Please try to see teachers during these times as it is difficult to accommodate on other dates/times due to the directed hours that teachers work.

I am delighted to inform you that Mrs Gaunt (Class 3GD) is expecting her third child in May. She will be going on maternity leave soon after the Easter break and her 2 days of teaching commitments will be covered by Mrs Wilson who also works in Year 5 on Thursdays and Fridays.

Sport news

PE Kit

REMINDER: all children must have a full PE kit in school at all times. This includes their house colour t-shirt, shorts and trainers. Please check this with your child over half-term. Please make sure their kit is clearly labelled and is washed during holidays. Miss Richards has been inundated with children without correct or full kit this term and the spare kit is now sparse and it has not been returned. Your child will not be able to take part in PE lessons without correct kit due to health and safety.

Football News

Autumn Term:

Tuesday 1st October: Uplands 2 - 0 Bhylls Acre (league game)
Thursday 3rd October: Uplands 2 - 0 Fallings Park (friendly game)
Monday 14th October: Grammar School 0 - 7 Uplands (friendly game)
Tuesday 12th November: Uplands 7 - 0 Castlecroft (league game)

Spring Term:

Thursday 30th January: Uplands 7 - 0 The Royal (league game)
Our next league game will be against Springdale on Monday 10th February (away).

West-Midlands Cup Tournament

On Saturday 1st February, the Uplands Football team represented the Wolverhampton Schools in the West Midlands Cup, in Birmingham. The boys played extremely well, winning 2 games and drawing in the others to advance into the semi-finals. This game was an evenly played match which ended up being taken to penalties. Unfortunately, Uplands lost on penalties. Well done to all the boys who represented the school and City with a fantastic attitude and etiquette. They showed great respect for all the other teams and officials. We are very proud of them. Thank you again to the parents for their continued support and Mr Moore for giving up his Saturday to coach and support our team.

Indoor Athletics Finals

During the autumn term, two teams were entered into the area heats of the Indoor athletics competition at Smestow Secondary School. Team 1 won gold and therefore progressed onto Wolverhampton finals. On Tuesday the 14th January, the Uplands Athletic team attended the Wolverhampton finals. A massive congratulations to the Uplands Indoor Athletics team who have just won a silver medal. They have now progressed through to represent Wolverhampton at the Black Country Games in June. Miss Richards and the rest of the school are extremely proud of their success and team work.

Extra-Curricular Clubs at Uplands

Reminder: New clubs held by Premier Sports are now available to book online. Please use the link from the website. **DO NOT** pay for these clubs on SIMs Pay.

Monday 3:15-4:30pm - Girls football for all girls
Tuesday 8:00-8:45am - Dodgeball for all year groups
Tuesday 3:15-4:30pm - Basketball for all year groups
Wednesday 3:15-4:30pm - Street Dance for all year groups

Science projects 2020

The quality of the Science projects this year is once again outstanding-well done to all pupils. Thank you to parents and families for your support with this homework activity. Science, along with Reading, Writing, Maths and Computing is a National Curriculum Core subject and hence why we highlight its' importance with a topic based homework and a dedicated Science week. A selection of photos have been uploaded to our Facebook page. It is wonderful to walk through school and see the range of topics covered and the enthusiasm shown by the pupils to share them. A full list of winners will be on the next Newsletter.



Mental Well-Being

We continue to highlight the importance of mental as well as physical well-being to children. The week beginning 3rd February was Childrens' Mental Health week and the theme for this year was "Find your brave". This became our assembly theme for the week. Place2Be produce a number of helpful resources for any families who wish to access them. We are delighted to welcome back Michelle from Relax Kids who is running a Year 3 lunchtime club.

It is almost 3 years since our last Ofsted inspection which was in March 2017. At this inspection we were judged to be a “Good” school. The window now begins to open for us to be re-inspected which could happen at any point between the end of March 2020 and the end of the academic year in July 2021. We will receive a 2 day inspection with just 1 days notice. The Ofsted Inspection framework has totally changed since September 2019 with a huge emphasis on the Curriculum as a whole and the Quality of Education in all subjects. We are proud of what we offer here at Uplands and want to showcase this when Ofsted visit us. At present we are reviewing and revising the Curriculum section of our website. New information is being uploaded which shows what your children learn in each subject over the 4 years they are with us. The whole area should be completed by Easter so do take a look if you’d like to see what your children are learning. We will also be providing you with curriculum information for the next academic year in your child’s summer report and a copy of our curriculum intent will feature in the front of the new pupil diaries from September 2020. I do hope some of you feel able to complete the Ofsted Parent view questionnaire or will write to the inspector when the time comes.

Please note that the May Day Bank Holiday has moved from Monday 4th May to Friday 8th May in order for the nation to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of VE day. This is a public holiday and will be the same for everyone.

We have had notification from Wolverhampton City Council that school will be CLOSED on Thursday 7th May for voting,

Young Voices

Well done to the pupils in Years 5 and 6 who went to the Resorts world Arena in Birmingham for the Young Voices event. After 12 weeks of rehearsals the children were ready to perform along with 8000 others in a massed choir. They were supported by professional singers and the whole event was a huge success. Thank you to parents for supporting us with this.



Musical showcase and celebrations

This week we have celebrated some of the musical achievements of our pupils. Firstly everyone in Year 4 performed in a ukulele showcase for parents on Wednesday. We have been trialling “Whole class instrument teaching” this academic year and this concert showcased what has been learnt so far.

Pupils in Year 5 and 6 plus Year 4 cellists who have small group instrument tuition had the opportunity to play for their parents on Friday afternoon.

Both concerts were very successful. We thank the Music school staff for the work they carry out with our pupils and parents for all their support

The Art of Brilliance

The Art of Being Brilliant is an approach that we follow in school to help children develop their emotional intelligence. It aims to raise the level of happiness, confidence and resilience of every child; embedding positivity and a sense of personal responsibility into school and home life.

Some research has been carried out that indicated that only about 2 % of the population respond positively to situations and bounce back from setbacks. The Art of Brilliance team call these 2%ers. The rest, the 98%, the Art of Brilliance Team call ‘mood hoovers,’ as they can suck up or drain the positive energy around them by moaning and groaning. The Art of Brilliance team is a way of embedding positive thinking and positive self talk from an early age. Its aims are for the children to realise:

1. That they can **choose to be positive** in situations.
2. That they can **take personal responsibility** for their thoughts, actions, behaviour and their learning (e.g. they motivate themselves rather than be motivated by teachers and parents).
3. That they can have a **positive impact** (or negative) on those around them.
4. That if they choose to, they **can bounce back** from setbacks and view mistakes as positive learning experiences. They can develop **resilience**.
5. That **random acts of kindness can** make themselves, the school and home happier places.
6. That everyone is good at something and we feel happy if we do what we are good at. We can all **‘play to our strengths’**.
7. That if they **set themselves goals** taking small steps will help them achieve them.

Year 5 enjoyed a full day workshop exploring resilience and playing to their strengths. Their feedback was extremely positive with pupils saying that the workshop has helped them cope with day to day setbacks.

We have a Being Brilliant committee of pupils in Upper school who work to promote the principles of The Art of Brilliance across Uplands. They will be meeting soon to introduce their next idea.

If you wish to learn more there is a section on our website.

Year 4 Fire station visits

Pupils in all 3 Year 4 classes have enjoyed visits to Merridale Fire Station this term. They have learnt about the work of fire-fighters, how to get out of a burning building, how to perform STOP, DROP and ROLL if clothing is on fire and how to keep the home safe from fire. As we would expect behaviour of all pupils was very good. Well done to everyone



Chartwells workshops

Our catering provider Chartwells offers free classroom based workshops called “Beyond the kitchen” as part of their offer

This term all classes will be attending a sustainability workshop called “Packed with plastic”

We look forward to finding out what we can do to reduce plastic waste.