

Uplands Junior School

Newsletter

Welcome back to school! We are so pleased to be fully open again after almost 6 months-we would never have thought that when we closed on March 20th!

Thank you for all your support over these first couple of weeks back whilst we ensure that systems and processes are working well and keeping everyone safe. We have received many positive comments which are very much appreciated. Many of us felt some anxiety on returning after such a long time but seeing the children return and looking so happy has eased these. Your children have been brilliant and shown such resilience –we will slowly rebuild and make Uplands the school it was prior to lockdown albeit with some differences. Thank you once again and I look forward to working with you over this next academic year.

Staff news

At the end of last term both Miss Williams (Yr4 teacher) and Mrs Groves (Year 4 Teaching assistant) left us for new posts and positions. We thank them for their contribution to Uplands and wish them well in their new jobs.

We welcome Miss F Rahim as a teacher in the Year 4 team along with Mrs Mallen as a Yr 4 TA and Miss Jobbins as a Yr5 TA-we hope you will be happy working as part of our team. A complete listing of all our staff can be found on our website under the “Prospectus” tab.

Our school has policies on Behaviour, Safeguarding and Anti-Bullying. If you wish to see these or receive a paper copy please ask at the school office. They are all available on our website

We have several pupils in school who have severe nut allergies. Please can we request that no products containing nuts be brought into school either as a snack or as part of a packed lunch. We thank for your cooperation in this matter.

Advance notice:

Year 6 SATS 2021 are currently scheduled to take place in week beginning 10th May-all pupils need to be present during the week so please avoid any holidays or medical appointments

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School breaks up for the half term holiday on Thursday 22nd October as Friday 23rd October is an INSET day . Staff will be training on Google classrooms. Children will return on Monday 2nd November

Year 4 multiplication checks will take place in 2021 as directed by the Government. This will be over a 3 week period starting June 7th



Autumn-
Term 2020

Edition 1

Catch up post Covid

The Government have promised all schools some funding to assist with “catch-up” programmes. As yet we have no further information but I have already put a few things into place to support your children. We have additional TA support in both Years 4 and 5 and I have purchased an emotional well being package called “Trick Box” to run across the whole school. In addition I have purchased licences for all Year 6 pupils for an online package called SATS companion. Yr6 pupils should have received details of their log-in and Upper school staff have now all received training. We hope this package will support them over the next 2 terms as they prepare for their SAT tests.

The Local Authority have compiled some catch up assessments which we will be using with all year groups and then offering support to those with identified gaps. I will keep you informed as I make further decisions. Governors have to be fully informed of how the catch up fund is being used across school and its impact.

Homework

This week you will see that your child is bringing home their first piece of homework in their purple homework book. Our system seeks to be engaging and encourages creativity. We have planned a timetable of activities over the year which encompasses all subjects of the curriculum. You should find the Autumn term schedule on the inside cover of your child’s homework book. Homework will go out and be returned on the same day in every year group. In addition to their purple book homework children will bring home spellings and reading books and all children have log-ins for Sum dog, Spelling Shed and Times Table Rock Stars to use as much as they wish. Homework is shared, celebrated and discussed in class amongst your child’s peers. The new Ofsted framework stresses the importance of the whole curriculum and not just a focus on Maths and English and our style of homework supports this.

Over the holidays your child was asked to learn a poem by heart in preparation for our school poetry celebration. We usually join with other local schools in a local competition but this year we are unable to do this and so will hold our own celebration within school.



If any of your child’s medical conditions or needs change during the year can you please ensure that you inform us so that we may update our records. Thank you

In the next few weeks we will be holding a fire evacuation drill and we will be discussing what to do in the event of an emergency as detailed in our Lockdown policy. The drill will be different to usual in order to remain Covid safe

Assembly arrangements

We obviously cannot gather for assemblies and our school hall is now a temporary dining room space. Children will join in assembly in their classroom using virtual assemblies from Picture News, weekly themed assemblies that run across school and a classroom Awards assembly. This year we will be presenting a weekly “Respect for All” certificate in line with our school ethos to a child in every class. We are also introducing a “Positive use of technology award” each week. In addition we are trialling using Microsoft Teams so that I can lead assembly from my office across the school....how things have changed!!

Respect For All

If you are eligible to claim Free School Meals please don't forget to register as school receives additional money to support pupils.

A reminder that we have both a Breakfast club 8:00-8:50 and an After School Club child care facility from 3:15-6:00 each day. If you are interested then please contact the school office. Both of them are Covid-safe and children are grouped in Year group bubbles as per Government guidance

We are receiving a large volume of emails. If you have a query regarding lunch arrangements, Google classrooms, SIMS pay, after school club etc please can I request that you telephone in as the office staff can assist you quickly. Thank you

Diary dates:

This section of the Newsletter is normally packed with dates by now...but not this year.

For obvious reasons many of the exciting events and opportunities we offer in school cannot take place this year.

Thursday 22nd October: Children break up for half term

Friday 23rd October: INSET day-school closed to pupils

Monday 2nd November: Children return to school

Tuesday 10th November: Year 6 Emergency First aid workshops (TBC-we will wait to see the situation nearer to the time and if needed we will postpone this event)

Tuesday 10th November: Flu nasal spray for all pupils-you will receive letters and consent will be needed

Friday 4th December: INSET day-school closed to pupils

Friday 18th December: End of term-break up for Christmas

We are in the process of deciding how best to give you information about your child's attainment this term which would normally be given at Open evening. Myself and Mr Edmunds (Westacres) will make a joint decision for both of our schools in the next few days. We know for certain that the usual face to face meetings will sadly not be happening.

JEWELLERY

The wearing of jewellery is discouraged for safety reasons. Ear-rings must be small studs and these are to be removed for PE lessons or covered with a plaster.

We have a school Facebook page with over 400 followers. We use this regularly to showcase what is happening in school and to celebrate all that is good about uploads. If you haven't done so already please "like" us and follow us. We are aware that not everyone uses Facebook and so it is not the only way we communicate key information. Our website is well used and updated with dates and information. We also use our texting service and produce a monthly Newsletter. Prior to lockdown we were very proud of the level of parental engagement and how frequently we invited parents/carers in to school for events. This obviously cannot happen for some time but we will try to give you lots of information about what is happening in school via the above mentioned communication methods.



As much as I do not like to do this we are requesting that parents do not come in to the school building unless for an emergency. Those collecting from After school childcare may come to the foyer and ring the bell and someone will come to assist you. All dismissals from extra curricular football clubs will be from outside. This is in response to the current pandemic and the need for strict social distancing. We will ensure as much clear communication comes out to you about what is happening in school

Google classrooms

The Government directed that all schools must have an online platform in place by the end of September in case (and hopefully not) of any local lockdowns or bubble closures. We chose Google classrooms and have set this up in conjunction with the E-services team. If you have not activated your child's account please see the information on our website on how to do this. Any issues please do call in to school.

The Curriculum section of our website is now fully up to date giving details and information about all that your child will learn in each subject during each year they are at Uplands. There are also Knowledge organisers for every Topic that give you the essential knowledge that children must learn.

During lockdown I submitted evidence for the "Well Being in the Workplace" award and this week I was delighted to learn that we have achieved this. Ofsted place high priority on how an establishment looks after the well being of both pupils and staff and so I am thrilled that we have achieved this.



Global Goals and Rights Respecting Schools

Pupils across the school have begun to explore the Global Goals for Sustainable Development. Including these in our curriculum will help pupils be more aware of the problems and injustices of the world. We will be looking at how we can all become more active global citizens. Pupils have already impressed us during discussions, showing awareness and concern for many issues affecting the planet and how these have an impact of the rights of children all over the world. Our starting point has been to make Global Goals promises and we are looking forward to hearing about how children get on with these over the coming weeks.

Jigsaw PSHE scheme

This week, children have taken part in their first Jigsaw PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic education) lessons. They have already met our year group Jigsaw friends: Jino (year 3), Jaz (year 4), Jez (year 5) and Jem (year 6). They have been introduced to Calm Me time and practiced using the Jigsaw chime and breathing techniques to help us feel calm, relaxed and ready to learn. "Being Me in My World" is the first Jigsaw unit where children will learn about rights and think about how we work together as a community in our class and school.