

# Governor Newsletter

## Dear Parents, Carers, Staff and Friends of Uplands

At the end of a hot and dry summer term and another busy academic year, I would like to take the opportunity to thank all the staff, parents, carers, professionals, and the wider community for their continued support and commitment to Uplands Junior School. We are incredibly fortunate to have a dedicated team here at Uplands, along with a supportive community. Together, we are able to offer a variety of learning experiences and opportunities to our pupils, both inside and outside the classroom. Thank you all.

On behalf of Year 6, a big 'thank you' to all the staff and parents who have helped to make their last few weeks at Uplands so memorable with trips, events and celebrations. We hope they take away some lasting memories and friendships.

On behalf of Uplands Governors, I wish you all a healthy and relaxing summer.

Kindest regards,

Debbie Anslow

Chair of Governors

## Staff Changes

We have a number of staff changes taking place at the end of this term and new appointments starting in September.

**Mrs Sarah Lane** leaves Uplands and teaching to embark on a completely new venture after 22 years at Uplands. In recent years Mrs Lane has taught Religious Education across school and has championed Children's Rights. She has been integral to Uplands achieving the Gold Rights Respecting Award.

**Mrs Mel Wellsted** retires after 10 years at Uplands and even longer with the Local Authority. Mrs Wellsted has worked as a Teaching Assistant across school but many of the pupils and families will also know Mrs Wellsted as the our supervisor for the Toast and After School Club. Mrs Sarah Diamond will take on the role from September.

**Mr David Squire** leaves Wolverhampton with his family to set up home in the south of England. Mr Squire joined our teaching staff more recently and this year was a class teacher in year 4. In addition, we also say goodbye to **Mr and Mrs Bryan** and **Mrs Rahim** who, since retiring have regularly worked at Uplands to provide valuable small group teaching and classroom cover. Their support will be greatly missed.

Joining us in September are **Mrs Bains** in the After School Club, **Mrs McCullan** to teach RE across school and **Mrs Watts** who will job share in Year 4. We are pleased to welcome them all to Uplands Junior School.

**We would like to thank all the staff for their continued dedication and hard work.**

### **Provisional SATS Results 2025**

We are extremely pleased to received such positive SATs results again this year. The school's focus on Writing has been effective with a significant improvement in the percentage of pupils achieving 'at standard' compared to last year. There is a similar improvement in the percentage of pupils achieving 'Greater Depth' in Reading and Maths. Well done all.

#### **% OF PUPILS ACHIEVING 'AT STANDARD' OR ABOVE (Greater Depth in brackets)**

	<b>UPLANDS</b>	<b>W-TON AVERAGE</b>	<b>NATIONAL AVERAGE</b>
Reading	80% (44%)	76%	75% (33%)
Writing	80% (6%)	73.1%	72% (12%)
Maths	82% (45%)	73.6%	74% (26%)
Grammar, Punctuation & Spelling	83% (57%)	73.6%	73% (29%)
Combined (RWM)	72%	63.8%	62%

## **School Development**

### **Conversion to Academy Status – Joining Lykos Multi Academy Trust**

As part of our ongoing development of Uplands our plan is to join the Lykos Multi Academy Trust. As has been explained to parents and staff earlier this term, the Lykos MAT consists of 'Good' and 'Outstanding' Schools as graded by Ofsted. By joining together we believe we can be even better. Already Mrs Webster-Smith and Uplands leadership team have started to work with the other Lykos schools, learning from each other, sharing best practice and offering support. The stakeholder consultation finished on June 20<sup>th</sup>. No comments were received from parents and the CEO of the MAT, Mr Graham Tate and Head Teacher of Spring Vale Primary , Chris Blunt, met with our staff to address any questions and concerns they had. Lykos have conducted their due diligence of Uplands and a formal application will now be made to the Department of Education for Uplands to convert to academy status. There is a slow legal process and other formal stages to follow before Uplands can eventually join Lykos but we hope this will be completed in the Spring Term.

*Based on the progress made in the target areas set for this year, the latest SAT results and new education challenges and initiatives, the board and leadership team have agreed the key areas of further development for 2025-26. Some of the main areas of focus for the next academic year are:*

### **Pupil & Staff Wellbeing**

Uplands achieved the Sandwell Well-being Charter Mark in April 2025 following an extremely positive final report from the Education Psychology Team. In the coming year Uplands will continue to review and implement the recommendations from the charter to further develop the well-being of all pupils and staff. This will include the development of an outside sensory space next to the Garden House to further support Social, Emotional and Mental Health. The Garden House and its outdoor area is already successfully used daily as a quieter reflective space at lunch time and by those who benefit from time away from a busy playground.

### **Pupil Attendance and Punctuality**

We are pleased to see that attendance data has continued to improve at Uplands:

- Whole school attendance Sept 2022- July 2023 92.9%
- Whole school attendance Sept 2023 – 28<sup>th</sup> Jun 2024 95.3%
- **Whole school attendance Sept 2024 -July 2025 96%**

The Local Authority and Government continue to focus on improving attendance and punctuality in order to raise achievement, pupil wellbeing and development. At Uplands, lateness can result in missed opportunities for valuable small group instruction, some of which occurs promptly at the start of the school day to support preparation for whole class sessions. The school office, leadership team and Educational Welfare Officer will continue to work with pupils and families who struggle with punctuality and attendance as part of the national drive.

### **Personal Development and Behaviour**

In the Autumn Term a new Behaviour Policy was introduced alongside revised behaviour principals from the Governing Board. The policy reflects a move towards a restorative approach to behaviour management rather than a focus on sanctions and discipline. Restorative approaches help pupils to learn how their behaviour affects other pupils and staff. The approach aims to help pupils take responsibility and build the skills to make better choices. Taking on feedback from staff, pupils and parents, revisions to the restorative approach at Uplands and further staff training have taken place throughout the year. The policy and practice will be kept under review over the next academic year.

### **Quality of Education & Curriculum Development**

Over the past academic year knowledge and skills progression maps for all foundation subjects have been put in place. These detail essential knowledge that builds up over four years at Uplands. In addition medium-term plans have been developed for every subject and each year group. These show how this knowledge will be taught over time. The progressions for Reading, Writing and Maths have been revised and implemented. These curriculum enhancements have resulted in some excellent internal and external assessment data for the year. The assessment system for Foundation subjects has also been revised.

Over the next year and overseen by subject champions, curriculum development will focus on consistent use of the knowledge organisers. Planning standards, subject-specific non-negotiables, and scaffolds for core and foundation subjects will support full access for SEND pupils and help to ensure school-wide consistency.

### **Governor Changes**

We have had a few changes to the Governing Board this year. We welcomed Mr Sam Laroya and Mr Jon Webb, both parents, to our board earlier in the academic year and Mr Joe Loynes from the teaching staff. Mrs Serina Balu and Mr Nigel Cox stepped down from their posts and Mrs Sarah Diamond's term of office came to an end. We thank them all for their time and contribution to the board.

### **Parent View**

A link to Ofsted's parent questionnaire 'Parent View' can be found on 'Parent' section of the school's website.  
[www.uplandsjuniorschool.org.uk](http://www.uplandsjuniorschool.org.uk)

### **Uplands School Governors**

- Mrs Debbie Anslow (Chair)

#### Parent Governors

- Mrs Meena Chuhan
- Ms Gemma Mahiques
- Mrs Amandeep Sanghera
- Mr Jon Webb

#### Co-opted Governors

- Mr Sam Laroya
- Mr Ramesh Kumar QPM
- Mr Joe Loynes (Staff)

#### Local Authority Governor

- Councillor Wendy Dalton

#### Staff Governors

- Mrs Webster-Smith (Headteacher)

#### Associate Governors

- Mrs Walker

#### **Vacancies:**

Two Co-opted Governors (appointment pending)  
One staff governor.

**Thank you to all the governors who volunteer their time, experience and skills so freely to improve the education of Uplands' pupils.**

You are welcome to contact governors through the school office

**Wishing you all a safe and relaxing  
summer break.**