

Uplands Junior School

Newsletter

Welcome back to the second half of the Autumn term and the run up to Christmas. Thank you for all your support in the last half term. This is always a busy time in school and we are looking forward to the next few weeks up to the Christmas break.

Free School Meals

If your child is or has been in receipt of Free School Meals we can access Pupil Premium funding for them. This funding can be used to subsidise clubs, trips, visits, music lessons and residentials. A document called The Pupil Premium Strategy 2021-2024 can be found on our website giving details of how school spends the money. Please register your child if you are eligible for FSM even if you decide they will not access a hot lunch as you can benefit from the above.

Please note that any late items arriving in school such as instruments, lunch boxes, PE kits etc will be left on a table and children will be given the responsibility to collect. They have been told about this in assembly.

Playtime snacks

A reminder that pupils may bring a snack to eat during morning break time. On arrival at school children are to put their snacks in their individual drawers. Snacks need to be healthy such as fruit, vegetable sticks, cereal bars etc. There should be no chocolate, crisps or biscuits please. Drinks bottles for water (not pop or juice) are allowed in school and children can access these throughout the day.

Emails to school

It would be much appreciated if you are emailing school non-urgently in an evening or on the weekend to please schedule these to arrive during school working hours. I am getting a lot of alerts late in an evening and on the weekend when I am with my family. Safeguarding concerns are not included in this request and I will always prioritise Safeguarding. I am in school most mornings from 7am and so please can I request that you schedule the "send" for between 7am and 5pm on a school day-thank you so much for your support and understanding.



Uplands Junior School

If you've not already done so please "like" and follow our Facebook page where we regularly post about school life and activities.



A reminder that **Friday December 22nd** is our next INSET day when staff will be working on the target set by Ofsted. School closes for the Christmas holidays at 3:15pm on Thursday 21st December. **We re-open on Monday 8th January 2024 at 8:45am.**



School phone number: 01902 558870

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

As previously explained there is a huge focus on improving attendance in schools this year post covid. We have always been proud of our figures and we want to get back to our pre-Covid %'s. A reminder that you need to ring in every day to report an absence please-this is preferable to an email. If we do not hear from you then a text will be sent, followed by a call and then a home visit from myself and Mrs Walker. This is to ensure that children and families are safe and forms part of the Safeguarding procedures of every Wolverhampton school. We have a number of attendance rewards and incentives including extra playtime for the best attending class each week, termly raffles for those with 96%+ attendance and certificates in the summer term.

Class attendance from 1/09/23 to date

3SW:	97.1%
3HW:	96.2%
3AS:	98.4%
4GD:	96.7%
4OD:	97.6%
4IM:	96.7%
5HA:	94.8%
5FR:	95.4%
5RS:	95.3%
6NR:	95.9%
6FG:	97.1%

Reading at Uplands

Reading is central to our teaching at Uplands. We teach reading skills in all 4 year groups and these are known as our "reading gems". You will find information to support you with these at home on our website-Curriculum tab then Reading page.

When the children arrive from their KS1 settings we aim to build upon the teaching that has already taken place. For children who did not pass their Year 1 phonic test or the Year 2 retake we provide extra learning support, where they revise and practise the sounds. Year 3 staff also revisit the sounds for all pupils during their daily English lessons especially during the Autumn term. At Uplands we support the teaching of phonics with a single scheme of RWI phonics. This is also used by staff to support the teaching of reading, writing and spelling across school. Some children are also targeted for 1:1 RWI support on an individual plan or Fresh Start. Children can take RWI books home to practise their sounds and children select home readers with a phonic base to support their learning.

Mrs Shakesheave is our Reading champion-if you have any questions please feel free to contact her.



We request that any lunch pattern in place is consistent for at least half a term please. Pupils cannot just decide on the day to have a hot lunch as food needs to be ordered in advance and then prepared to match numbers booked. Thank you

Playground helpers 2023-2024

This is the next group of pupils who will be playground helpers after half term break-thank you for volunteering

Anai B, Vani G, Amelia W, Charlie J, Breanna B, Tobey A, Ria K, Jahnia A, Kiran J, Ava O, Olivia O and Haaris A.

Art ambassadors 2023-2024

Georgia P (3AS), Aaliyah RP (3HW), Florence B (3SW), Vani G (4GD), Savannah S (4IM), Ruby H (4OD), Emelia D (5FR), Umar Surti (5RS), Iris M (5HA), Joshua D (6FG), Bonnie B (6NR) and Ethan LS (6SW)

Thank you for all the donations from Wear it Yellow day that will be sent to Young Minds. We raised just over £300.

Respect For All

Trips and experiences across school during Autumn term 2023

We are pleased to offer a range of trips, visits and workshops across school to enhance learning. The following have or will take place this term:

Year 3: Egyptian workshop day and Cartouche workshop (History focus)

Year 4: Ingenuity day out (DT focus)

Year 5: Visiting planetarium (Science focus) World War 2 workshop (History focus)

Year 6: Black Country museum (History focus)

Thank you for all monies contributed towards these trips and visitors.

Friday 17th November is Children in Need day-the theme this year is SPOTacular where children can wear anything spotty. Buckets for donations will be on the gates as normal.

Diary dates

Wb Monday 6th November: Return from half term break. Y6 Bikeability

Tuesday 7th November: Y6 Computing workshop (funded by school)

Wednesday 8th November: Y3 Cartouche workshop

Thursday 9th November: Y5 class assemblies on theme of "Remembrance"
9am 5FR/ 10:30am 5HA/ 2pm 5RS

Friday 10th November: Cultural dress up for Diwali for those who wish to -Diwali lunch menu-pay via Gateway

Monday 13th November: Anti bullying focus week across school and Assessment week

Friday 17th November: Children in need dress up day-theme is Spotacular so anything spotty!

Monday 20th November: Cultural week across school linked to "Take one picture" art project-focus this year Europe-Romania

Tuesday 21st November: Y5 Parent engagement workshop 1:30-3pm

Thursday 23rd and Friday 24th November: Year 4 trip to Ingenuity-DT focus-half of year group on each day

Monday 27th November: 6-7:30 Online safety parent workshop
Year 3 Egyptian workshop

Tuesday 28th November: Online safety pupil workshops

Thursday 30th November: Year 5 WW2 workshop

Wb 4th December: Christmas fundraising shop in school (more details will follow)

Tuesday 5th December: Class 4IM Christmas story assembly 9am

Wednesday 6th December: Class 4OD Christmas story assembly 9am

Thursday 7th December: Class 4GD Christmas story assembly 9am

Wednesday 13th December: Christmas lunch day (Christmas jumpers can be worn with school trousers/skirts)

Wednesday 20th December: Christmas party afternoon across school (pm). A letter will follow with details. Children may dress in party clothes all day

Thursday 21st December: Christmas film afternoon (Christmas jumpers can be worn with school trousers/skirt and a snack brought in)

**Children break up for Christmas at 3:15pm on Thursday 21st December
School re-opens on Monday 8th January 2024 at 8:45am**

INSET days: School will be closed to pupils

Friday 22nd December

Friday 24th May 2024

Monday 22nd July 2024

Health Champions

We will continue to run our Health Champion campaign that we were a pilot school for. Children will work as leaders delivering key health messages from our city across school. Our Being Brilliant committee are going to take on this role as part of their work. There is a section on our website about the role of pupils as leaders at Uplands including the Being Brilliant committee.

Being Brilliant committee 2023/34

Year 5: Aaliya H, Elliot S, Elyssia C, Kiran J, Emilia P and Summer OC

Year 6: Charlie C, Joshua D, Jovan D, Arun P, Gurveer J, Nevaeh SW and Gia J

Rights Ambassadors 2023/24

Saara S 3SW

Rowan P 3HW

Erin H 3AS

Laila D 4IM

Amara B 4OD

Erin E 4GD

Laila M 5HA

Tristan M 5FR

Ruairi R 5RS

Emily W 6SW

Anav J 6NR

Ava R 6FG

Trick Box

Trick Box is an emotional regulation scheme that we use at Uplands. Each half term the children are taught a series of “tricks” or strategies to help them self regulate their emotions. There are 4 categories of “Tricks”:

Confidence Calm Communication Creativity

From the first half term your child should be able to tell you about “Mirror Mirror”, “Big voice” and “Stand tall”. We are now taking order via Gateway for individual boxes of tricks that children may wish to purchase to keep at home. The cost is just £2.50 per box. There is further information about Trick Box on our website under the Curriculum tab and then Mental health and Well-Being. You will also find information here about the Art of Brilliance and how we teach about positive mental health at Uplands.

Our Trick Box team are:- Keerat B, Finley M, Jaiya P, Erin P, Naveveh S-W, Daya M, Lacey-Mae T, Layla F, Jovan D, Edward C, Daisy O’C, Ava R.

Thank you for all the donations at Harvest time to the Good Shepherd food bank who support Wolverhampton families.

Music at Uplands

At Uplands we are one of the highest performing schools for musical engagement and access to learning an instrument in the city. We achieve this through our “Whole class instrument teaching” in Year 4 whereby every child has the chance to learn ukulele. School fully funds this scheme giving all pupils 36 weeks of paid lessons. In addition we have a small group offer for brass, woodwind, strings and cello provided by staff from the Wolverhampton music school.

We also teach music weekly using the Kapow scheme and our pupils have regular access to singing. You will find lots of information about our music curriculum on our website under the “Curriculum” tab and then select Music.

We also supplement our music curriculum with some extra curricular activities-our current offer is keyboard lessons for Years 3 and 4 and a recorder club for Years 3-5.

Mr Squire is our Music Champion



Year 5 visit to the Mosque

As part of our cycle of visits to places of worship Year 5 went to the Madina Masjid. As always we received the warmest of welcomes. We were very proud of our pupils who engaged wonderfully with the learning, asking and answering super questions.

Year 6 visit to the Black Country Museum

As part of their Creative Curriculum Wolverhampton Industrial revolution topic, Year 6 visited the black Country museum. The children were able to spend the day with a guided tour learning what life was like in the Victorian era. All pupils took part in a “mine show” and a “metal forming” workshop. All the children behaved so well and thoroughly enjoyed learning outside of the classroom again.

Librarians for 2023/24

Children were asked to apply for the position of a librarian and the following Year 6 children were successful in securing a post.

Layla F, Max C, Doneil P, Lacey-Mae T, Niraj G, Lola O’S and Atreesa J (6SW)

Hannah M, Charlie C, Emily W and Daisy O’C (6FG)

Hanaa A, Daya M and Jaiya P (6NR)

