



UPLANDS MANOR PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Friday 27th October 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

As we reach the end of the first half term of the year, I am writing to you with key information and dates for next half term. Please read the information carefully and share it with other parents so that everyone is informed about what is happening in school.

Please remember - most communication from school will be via email and the School Gateway app. Please ensure you have the app downloaded with push messages switched to 'on.' It is vital that you are using the app for school messages, and that we also have an up to date email address for you as well.

Punctuality

It is extremely important that your child is on time to school every day. The doors close promptly at 8.50am and any children brought to school after this time will need to be taken to the late door.

Please be on time to collect your child and wait patiently behind the line on the playground while the children are safely dismissed. If for any reason you are running late, please phone and inform school as early as possible so that staff are aware and your child can be reassured.

Any children who are more than 10 minutes late being collected will be taken to the after-school provision run by 4Community Trust where charges will be payable when you collect your child (£6 before 4pm, £12 after 4pm.) Staff have meetings and work to complete after school and cannot be expected to look after the children.

Sibling Collection

We introduced a sibling collection at 3.10pm earlier this term, and places were offered out based on parental requests and availability. This appears to be working well and has made the playground less busy for parents when waiting to collect their children. It also means that parents will not have to wait for more than 5 minutes in between collecting their children as we move into the colder and darker winter months.

Supervision of children before and after school

Please can you make sure that your child is supervised at all times when on the school grounds. This is before school when waiting for the doors to open, and also after school once your child has been collected. Children should not be playing football on the field or climbing into the activity trail area to play – this has caused a number of incidents recently. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Term Time Holiday and Leave of Absence Requests

Please be aware that Holidays in term time will not be authorised by school. Holidays must be booked during the school holiday periods. Penalty notices (fines) will be issued whenever possible if holidays are taken.

Also, leave of absence requests for non-urgent appointments and / or trips should not be being submitted, as they should be being booked after school, at the weekend or during school holidays. Requests include things such as routine dental check-ups, passport renewals and visiting relatives.

Thank you for your support in making sure that the children are in school as much as possible.

Please note: all leave of absence requests must be submitted to the attendance team using our official form, as early as possible so that you can be informed of the outcome of your request in good time.

School PE Kit – *please make sure all clothing coming into school is named*

All children must attend school in the correct uniform. This means:

Children must not wear football kits, designer t-shirts, colourful non-uniform jumper and clothes etc. They must wear plain black shorts and a plain white t-shirt or polo top, and their red school jumper or cardigan. Plain dark tracksuit trousers can be worn in colder weather.

Any children not wearing the correct PE kit to school will be issued with a green letter to make you aware and to ask you to ensure correct school uniform is worn.

We currently have a number of children coming into school in a range of jumpers and trousers – please support our uniform policy and high expectations for the children in all aspects of school life.

PE days for the first half term

A PE letter is attached to this newsletter, informing you of the PE days for each class next half term. Children should come into school wearing their PE kit on their PE days (as outlined above).

- Reception children should come into school in usual uniform and leave their PE kits in school as getting changed is part of their early years' curriculum.

Swimming lessons

Next half term, Year 5 will continue going to the Sandwell Aquatics Centre for swimming lessons. However, the classes swap every half term.

Next half term, 5S and 5H will be going swimming every Tuesday morning. A separate swimming letter is being sent to these classes with further information and details.

Autumn Term Parents' Evenings

You are now able to book an appointment with your child's teacher to discuss their learning and wellbeing in school. Letters have been sent home about this already – we are aiming for 100% of parents and carers to attend so please make every effort to do so.

Remember that appointments are only 10 minutes long. Please help us to keep to time so that all parents and carers can be seen at their agreed appointment time.

School 'Stay and Play' Open Morning for 2, 3 and 4 Year Olds

On Saturday 18th November, we are holding an open morning from 10am to 12pm for prospective families to come and visit our school. If you know anyone who has a child due to start Nursery or Reception next year, please make them aware and encourage them to visit our school.

We would also love to welcome any of our current Nursery and Reception children to come along if they would like to. We will have activities and food, and parents will have the chance to talk to school staff and look around the school if they would like to.

Parental 'Working Together' Events

This half term, we have run a number of parent workshops and events. These have included Maths, Reading and Phonics and a chance to meet your child's teacher and find out about what they will be learning this year.

Next half term, we are starting to run some 'Inspire' events that we would love for you to attend. These are opportunities to come into school and work alongside your child to complete a 'fun' activity. We are starting with Year 4 classes, and want to give you plenty of notice so that you can attend these events. More information will be sent out nearer the time.

Dates for the Inspire Workshops' are:

- Monday 20th November for 4FS from 9.00am – 10.00am
- Tuesday 21st November for 4S from 9.00am – 10.00am
- Thursday 23rd November for 4A from 9.00am – 10.00am
- Monday 27th November for 4H from 9.00am – 10.00am

Christmas Events

The following Christmas events will be being held towards the end of term:

- Thursday 7th December – Christmas dinner and Christmas jumper day
- Week beginning 11th December – Nursery Christmas 'stay and play' sessions
- Friday 15th December – 'Big Christmas Sing' events for Year 3/4 and Year 5/6
- Tuesday 19th December – KS1 (Years 1 and 2) Christmas performances
- Wednesday 20th December – Reception Nativity performances
- Friday 22nd December – Christmas party afternoon

School Prefects

I am delighted that we have appointed some Year 6 prefects this term. Prefects are children who act as role models to other children across school, and have responsibility for representing our school at events and with visitors.

Congratulations to the following children who were selected:

Pavnoor 6M	San 6HW
Meya 6M	Amanjot 6HW
Gabriella 6M	Anabela 6HW
Haseeb 6M	Zain 6HW
Ahkierah 6T	Bernard 6B
Farley 6T	Ayan 6B
Jayden 6T	Mollie 6B
Destiny 6T	Abimbola 6B

Home Learning

We consulted with parents a couple of years ago about our school's home learning policy. It was felt that basic skills (reading, maths, spellings) should be prioritised, and that longer tasks and projects would not be set. The one-page policy is attached for your information and reference.

Remembrance Day – items on sale

After half term, a number of items for Remembrance Day will be on sale. They will be taken round to classes for children to look at and buy, and will also be available on the playground before and after school all week.

Items include:

- Paper poppies (minimum 20p donation)
- Metal poppy badges (minimum £3 donation)
- Poppy rubber wrist bands (minimum 50p donation)
- Poppy slap bands (minimum £1 donation)

FSM vouchers over half term

Sandwell are providing free school meal vouchers again this half term (£15 per eligible child) to all children who receive benefit-related free school meals and those who have no recourse to public funds.

This is not the same as universal infant free school meals for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. Only children in these year groups who are eligible for free school meals will be included.

If you think you may be eligible, but are not currently receiving free school meals, please speak with the office who can assist you.

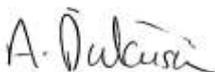
Website

Please look at the school website <https://uplandsmanor.sch.life/> which contains lots of information to support you and your child in their learning in school as well as dates of events and correspondence. We also have a Community Information page where we share information about local charities, groups, events and activities within our local community.

I look forward to welcoming all children from Nursery to Year 6 back to school on Monday 6th November.

Please note: children in the Lodge will return on Tuesday 7th November as there is a training day for the Lodge staff on Monday 6th November.

Yours faithfully



Mr A Dickinson
Head Teacher

Uplands Manor Calendar - dates for the second half term:

Please keep this page and refer to it so that you know what is happening in school.

November

- 6th – Lodge closed for staff training. All other year groups back in school
- 6th – Year 5 clubs start for the half term (weeks beginning 6th, 20th, 27th Nov, 4th & 11th Dec)
- 7th – Lodge return to school
- 8th – Year 1 hearing re-tests for children who need it
- 10th – 6T class assembly
- 14th – Parents' evening (including our book fayre)
- 15th – 3G class assembly
- 15th – Inter faith celebration day
- 16th – Reception & Year 1 Diwali dance workshop (visitors into school)
- 16th – Parents' evening (including our book fayre)
- 17th - Children in Need celebration day
- 18th – School 'stay and play' open morning for 2, 3 and 4 year olds
- 20th – 'Odd Socks' day for antibullying awareness
- 20th – 4FS Inspire Workshop
- 21st – 6B and 6HW visits to Thimblemill library
- 21st - 4S Inspire Workshop
- 22nd – 6M visit to Thimblemill library
- 23rd – 4A Inspire Workshop
- 23rd – 6T visit to Thimblemill library
- 23rd – Year 1 and Year 2 'bedtime story' event after school
- 24th – Year 4 fire safety workshop (fire brigade visit to school)
- 24th – RO Family Friday event
- 27th – 4H Inspire Workshop
- 28th – Year 1 and Year 2 music event
- 29th - Year 3 and Year 4 music event
- 30th - Year 3 and Year 4 'bedtime story' event after school

December

- 1st – International day for people with disabilities
- 1st – RM Family Friday
- 5th – Nasal flu immunisations (catch-up day)
- 7th – Christmas dinner and jumper day
- 7th - Year 5 and Year 6 'bedtime story' event after school
- 8th – Pantomime in school for Year 1 and Year 2
- 8th – RJC Family Friday
- Wk beg 11th December – Nursery Christmas 'stay and play' sessions
- 14th – The Lodge 'bedtime story' event after school
- 15th - 'Big Christmas Sing' events for Year 3/4 and Year 5/6
- 19th – KS1 Christmas performances
- 20th – Reception Christmas Nativity
- 22nd – Christmas parties in the afternoon
- 22nd – LAST DAY OF TERM: BREAK UP FOR THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY
- **CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS: Monday 25th December until Monday 8th January (children return to school on Tuesday 9th January)**
- **Children in the Lodge return to school on Monday 8th January**

There may need to be changes to some of the dates above; there may equally be some extra dates added. We will communicate these with you whenever this is needed.

School Online Calendar

Please note, our website has the school calendar published on it with correct information about dates and events. Please check it regularly: <https://uplandsmanor.sch.life/Page/Calendar>



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Dear Parents and Carers

October 2023

PE days for Autumn 2

The Lodge	Tues				
Reception	Children bring their PE kit (labelled) in a bag and leave it in school				
1G	Tues & Fri	1C	Tues & Wed	1W	Mon & Tues
2F	Mon & Wed	2C	Mon & Fri	2S	Mon & Fri
3G	Thurs & Fri	3S	Wed & Thu	3GS	Mon & Wed
4FS	Tues & Fri	4A	Wed & Fri	4S	Wed & Thurs
5E	Thurs & Fri	5S	Mon (PE) & Tues (swimming)	5H	Tues (swimming) & Thurs (PE)
6M	Mon & Wed	6HW	Thurs & Fri	6B	Tues & Thurs
				6T	Mon & Fri

PE Kits

Having children come into school wearing their PE kit has worked really well for the past couple of years and has reduced the amount of lost learning time while children change as well as the number of children forgetting to bring their PE kit to school.

However, it is important that children wear the correct uniform / PE kit on their PE days – they are not home clothes or dress-down days for the children.

The school's PE kit is as follows:

- ✓ Plain black shorts (not hot pants or cycling shorts)
- ✓ Plain black leggings (if being worn for religious reasons)
- ✓ White t-shirt or polo shirt (it is not acceptable to wear football tops or other fashionable t-shirts)
- ✓ Red school jumper or cardigan on top of their white polo shirt
- ✓ Black pumps or trainers

In colder weather, children may also wear dark coloured tracksuit bottoms / joggers

- ✓ *Please note, hoodies and other jumpers must not be worn and children will be asked to take these off in school as they are not school uniform.*

Yours faithfully

Mr A Dickinson
Head Teacher

Uplands Manor Primary School - Home Learning Policy

Rationale

As a school, we value home learning that promotes and develops reading as well as basic skills in Maths and English. By giving children extra support and practice, their automaticity and fluency will improve and support their learning in Maths, English and the wider curriculum.

Overview

Reading Expectations

Reading at home is vitally important and research shows that children who read regularly do better across the curriculum in school.

- Each child has a school reading book (appropriate for their reading ability) as well as a 'choice book' from our library to read or have read to them.
- We expect all children to read to someone at home for 10-15 minutes every day.
- Parents / carers should complete their child's reading diary every day after reading with them. Teachers will check reading diaries during reading sessions in school each week.

Basic Skills

Every half term, teachers will send a double-sided home learning sheet home. It will contain:

- Spellings (differentiated) to be practiced and learnt for every week of the half term
- Maths 'key instant recall facts' (KIRFS), including times tables
- Phonics (*for EYFS, Year 1 and children still learning to read across school.*)

Online Learning

As a school, we subscribe to APPs / websites for different subjects and year groups to support their learning. These include:

- ✓ Read Write Inc Phonics
- ✓ TT Rockstars (KS2) / Numbots (KS1)
- ✓ Espresso

Login details and website links are sent home with the children who can access online learning as much as they are able to.

Real-life learning

Children learn a huge amount from being actively involved in real-life situations. Whenever possible, please involve your child in:

- ✓ Handling real money in shops or online shopping
- ✓ Budgeting and / or banking activities
- ✓ Reading, preparing and cooking recipes or meals
- ✓ Keeping a diary, writing cards or letters
- ✓ Planning and organising trips
- ✓ Looking after pets – cleaning, feeding, exercising etc.

Life Skills

We also ask parents to encourage and support their child's independence, including in the following areas: washing themselves and managing their own hygiene and care; getting dressed; using a knife and fork to eat; learning to swim; learning to ride a bike etc.

'Working Together' events are held during the year to help parents find out how they can support their children with their learning (eg Phonics, Reading, Maths etc)