

Uphill Village Academy

Newsletter 13th October 2023

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Message from the Principal

Dear Parents & Carers,

As many of you will be aware we have had a visit from Ofsted this week. The graded inspection took place on Tuesday and Wednesday and scrutinised every area of our Academy. We will share the final inspection report when it is released, this is likely to be towards the end of November. Thank you to the many parents who gave such positive feedback to the inspectors.

We are looking forward to seeing as many parents as possible at Parents Evenings next Wednesday (face-to-face) and Thursday (video call except EYFS & Yr 1) If you haven't secured your appointment, please visit <https://uphill.schoolcloud.co.uk> to book.

Congratulations to some of our Year 5/6 children who took part in a cross country event this week. Even though the weather was very wet, they still did us proud. Four of our children have qualified for the county championships! Well done everyone.

We finish for the half term break on Wednesday (23rd) and hope you all have a well earned rest, we return on Monday 4th November.

Mrs Samantha Hodder,
Principal

Yr6 Bikeability

Our Year 6 Bikeability training begins next Monday 14th October!

If your child is taking part in the training, over the weekend please check your child's bike to ensure it is safe to use and roadworthy.

Please ensure your child brings their bike and helmet into school everyday.

The weather has turned colder, so children are expected to wear warm clothes for this training. They are outside for most of the day.

All children must have a warm, preferably waterproof coat. Gloves may also be required. Uniform must be worn but children can wear joggers and trainers for comfort. Children not wearing suitable clothing for the weather conditions may not be able to participate in the training.



Remembrance

In preparation for Remembrance Day, children will have the opportunity to purchase a Remembrance Day Poppy from Monday 4th November. If you wish your child to purchase a poppy, or other Remembrance memorabilia, please provide them with a small donation; a minimum of 50p is recommended.

We will be selling Remembrance slap bands on Thursday 7th and Friday 8th November at the end of the school day in the front playground for a minimum donation of £1.

Can we remind parents any slap bands purchased are not allowed to be brought into school.

We will be holding our Remembrance Service at 11am on Monday 11th November. We are proud to be supporting this worthy cause.

Harvest Festival

On Monday 14th October we will be holding our Harvest Festival Assembly.

The Reverend Mark Madeley has kindly agreed to host the Harvest Assembly and we are delighted that representatives of Weston Foodbank will finish the assembly with a talk to the children about their charity work and the importance of giving food to support the most vulnerable families in our community.

Donations of tinned or dry foodstuffs i.e. items such as rice, pasta, cereals will be gratefully received and all items donated to Weston Foodbank.

Items should be brought into school on Monday morning before 9:30am. Please give generously and thank you for your support.



Working in partnership with



The Importance of Attendance

We would like to extend a big thank you to all our families for supporting your children to attend school and engage so well with their learning. We know this reflects the value our parents place on their child's learning.

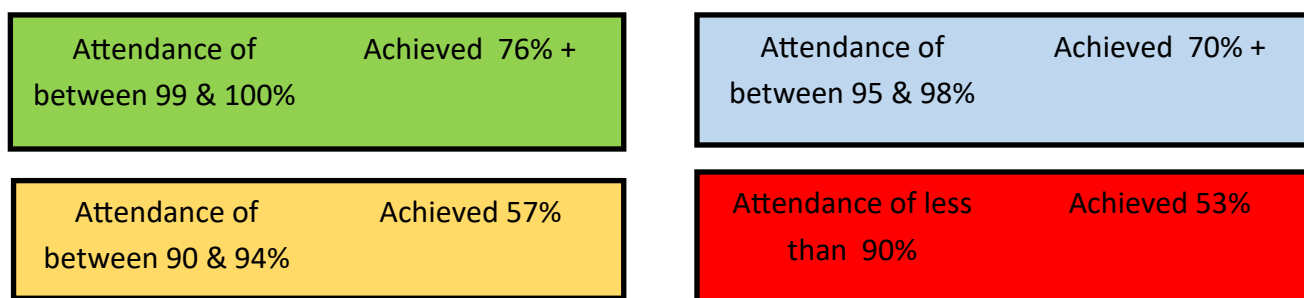
At Uphill Village Academy, we believe that children who attend school regularly are more likely to feel settled in school, maintain friendships, keep up with their learning and gain the greatest life-long benefit from their education. Attending school, on time, every day also helps to form good habits which can stay with them throughout their educational journey and on into the workplace.

However, too many children are missing time from school and this will be affecting their learning. The link between attendance and attainment is well known and irregular attendance impacts a child's academic results, mental health and resilience. Those who take an occasional day or more off school miss the building blocks of knowledge.

The relationship between attendance and educational outcomes can be seen in the simple diagram below:

Based on 2023 SAT's results

The percentage of children that achieved the national standard in combined (reading, writing & maths)



Please help us, help your child - education really does matter to help build life skills, resilience, and improve mental health as well as make life and learning fun.

As a parent, you are the key to great attendance. Please support us to support your child.

New Penalty Notice Information

The government has made some changes to the penalty notices for unauthorised absence rules, which came into effect from 19 August 2024, in time for the new school year.

From 19 August, if a child has at least 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in 10 school weeks, their parent/s may receive a penalty notice. However, the government's rules also allow for penalty notices to be issued for less unauthorised absence, in some circumstances, for example where parents appear to be avoiding the national threshold by taking several term time holidays below threshold, or for repeated absence for birthdays or other family events which the school has not authorised absence for.

Penalty notices are issued to each parent/carer with responsibility for the child and are issued for each child with unauthorised absence. For example, if two siblings have unauthorised absence, and there are two parents/carers with responsibility for the children, four penalty notices would be issued.

Please note: Penalty notices are issued to parents and carers as an alternative to prosecution and are intended to prevent the need for court action. A penalty notice may not be issued if prosecution is considered a more appropriate sanction for a pupil's unauthorised absence.

To assist parents/carers in booking holidays and arranging other events, please find the term dates and Inset days until July 2025 on our website www.uphillvillageacademy.clf.uk

The table on the next page provides more information about penalty notices and other legal action for unauthorised absence.

Attendance - The Legal Bit

Legal action for unauthorised absence	
Penalty notices	
<p>Penalty notices are issued to parents and carers as an alternative to prosecution and are intended to prevent the need for court action.</p> <p>If a pupil has frequent unauthorised absence, and/or an extended period of unauthorised absence, a prosecution may be considered, instead of a penalty notice.</p> <p>Penalty notices cannot be paid in instalments.</p>	
Sanction	Outcome
First penalty notice (in a 3-year rolling period)	The penalty is £80 (per parent/carer, per child) payable within 21 days, rising to £160 if paid between 22 and 28 days. (If the fine is not paid, the parent/carer may be prosecuted for the child's unauthorised absence.)
Second penalty notice (in a 3-year rolling period)	The second time a penalty notice is issued to the same parent/carer for the same child the amount will be £160 per parent/carer, per child (if paid within 28 days). There is no reduction in the amount if the penalty is paid early. (Again, if the fine is not paid, the parent/carer may be prosecuted.)
Prosecutions	
<p>Local authorities (LAs) are unable to issue more than two penalty notices to the same parent/carer for the same child, in a rolling 3-year period. Should a third offence of unauthorised absence for the same child be committed during the 3 years (including where a child has moved school and fines have been issued by other LAs), the LA may prosecute the parent/carer(s).</p> <p>As penalty notices are an alternative to prosecution, the LA may decide to proceed straight to prosecution instead of issuing any penalty notice.</p> <p>If prosecuting, it is for the LA to decide whether a section 444(1) or section 444(1A) prosecution is most appropriate.</p>	
Sanction	Outcome
Prosecution under section 444(1) of the Education Act 1996	If found guilty, parents/carers may be fined up to £1000 and ordered to pay court costs. The court may also impose a Parenting Order.
Prosecution under section 444(1A) of the Education Act 1996	If found guilty, parents/carers may be fined up to £2500 and ordered to pay court costs. Other court outcomes include community sentences, such as Curfew Orders, Unpaid Work (Community Payback) or a prison sentence of up to three months. The court may also impose a Parenting Order.
Education Supervision Orders (ESO)	
<p>The local authority must consider applying for an ESO (under section 36 of the Children Act 1989) before prosecuting under s444 Education Act 1996. An LA may apply for an ESO instead of, or as well as, proceeding with a prosecution. The order is placed on the child, and a supervisor from the LA is appointed by the court, to give directions to the child and their parent(s)/carer(s) with a view to securing that the child is properly educated. Parents and carers can be prosecuted if they persistently fail to comply with a direction; if found guilty they may be fined up to £1000.</p>	

Yr3/4 Swimming

Chandra class have almost completed their swimming lessons, with one more lesson to go!
Well done Chandra Class.

Voyager Class start their lessons on **Monday 11th November**. Due to the timings, children will be required to bring in a packed lunch to ensure we are ready to leave on time.

Children should wear appropriate swimwear, preferably swimming trunks for boys and a one-piece costume for girls. Jewellery must not be worn and long hair **must** be tied back or covered by a swim hat.

Children will also need a towel, goggles, a brush/comb and a bag to carry everything in. Please ensure everything is clearly marked with your child's name.

School Nursing

Please be advised the flu immunisations will take place on Thursday 14th November. You must ensure you have completed the consent form, even if you do not wish for your child to receive the vaccination, by Monday 11th November via the link below:

<https://imms.sirona-cic.org.uk/flu/2024/consent?v=3>

National Child Measurements are due to take place for our Year 6 pupils. All measurements are confidential.

If you do not wish for your child's height and weight to be taken then please return the opt out form within the original email to the email address below:

sirona.ns.schoolhealthreview@nhs.net

Dates for the Diary

Don't forget to check out the school website for all our events as well as lots more useful class information and an array of great photos of our children's learning;

<https://uphillvillageacademy.clf.uk/events/>

OCTOBER

Monday 14th Harvest Festival Assembly - Food donations welcome

RNLI Visit to Year 2 classes

Monday 14th- Friday 18th Year 6 Bikeability Training (selected children)

Friday 18th

Wednesday 16th Girls Football Event (selected children)

Parents Evening (face to face - all children)

Thursday 17th Parents Evening (face to face - EYFS & Year 1)

Parents Evening (video call - Yrs 2-6)

Thursday 24th **INSET Day - School closed to pupils**

Friday 25th **INSET Day - School closed to pupils**

END OF TERM 1

NOVEMBER

Monday 4th **START OF TERM 2**

Monday 11th Anti Bullying Week

Voyager Class Swimming (1)

Remembrance Service Assembly

Thursday 14th Flu Immunisations - all children