

Uphill Village Academy

Newsletter 13th October 2023

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Principal:

Mrs Samantha Hodder

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Message from the Principal

Dear Parents & Carers,

Wow - term one has nearly come to an end! Thank you to those parents who joined us for parents evenings this week. It was fantastic to see so many of you and we hope you found these meetings helpful and informative. It is always encouraging to know that our families are invested in their child's progress at school and parents evenings are a great way to find out how to help your child's learning at home.

Your feedback is greatly appreciated, please use the link below to tell us what you thought about your child's Parent Evening.

<https://forms.office.com/e/2AdqpaCjBk>

This week I would like to congratulate our Year 5 girls who attended the Girls Football Finals on Tuesday. They played really well and did Uphill proud - well done girls!

We finish for the half term break next Wednesday (18th) and I hope you all have a well earned rest, we return on Monday 30th October.

Mrs Samantha Hodder, Principal

Lates

We have had a number of children arriving late for school since our return. The gates (both front & side) open at 8.35am and close at **8.45am** promptly.

Please ensure your child is in school BEFORE 8.45am as registers are taken at this time. Children arriving after this time will be marked with an 'L' code (Late).

Children begin their learning as soon as they enter the classroom so any lateness directly impacts on their own and other children's learning.

Arrival after 9.15am will be marked as "late after registers close" (U code). This is an unauthorised absence and will impact on a child's overall attendance.

Benefit Related Free School Meals

If your income or circumstances have changed and you feel your child(ren) may be eligible for benefit related free school meals, please apply now to check eligibility. An application should be made for each individual child; as siblings will not automatically qualify.

Even if you have a younger child who qualifies for Universal Free School Meals (Yr R-2), it is important to check if you are eligible for benefit related Free school meals to enable you to receive financial support from the school to cover the cost of trips, milk, jumpers/cardigans and KS2 music lessons.

The DWP Household Support Fund regularly issue supermarket vouchers to free school meal families and the next vouchers will be issued based on the children entitled to FSM by 6th November. North Somerset Council also offer support during the school holidays through their HAF programme; further details can be found at

www.n-somerset.gov.uk/my-services/benefits-support/other-benefits-support/holiday-activities-food-haf-programme.co.uk

Online applications can be found on the North Somerset Council website. Use the link below to access further information and to apply online:

www.n-somerset.gov.uk/my-services/schools-learning/local-schools/free-school-meals.co.uk

If you need support to access this, please contact the school office. Please note, provision will start from the date of application and eligibility cannot be backdated.

IMPORTANT - If your child is already receiving free school meals **DO NOT REAPPLY** as you may lose your entitlement.



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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.

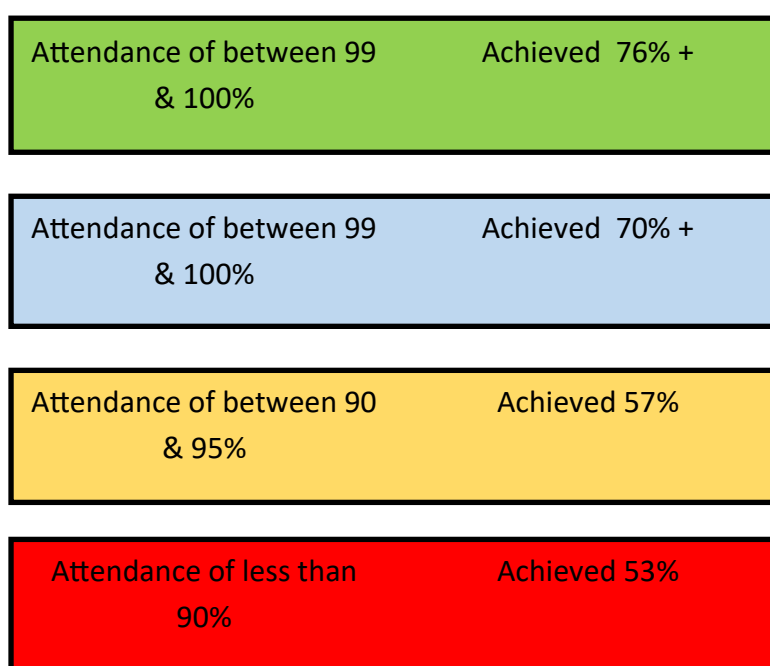
At Uphill Village Academy, we believe that children who attend school regularly are more likely to feel settled in school, maintain friendships, keep up with their learning and gain the greatest life-long benefit from their education. Attending school, on time, every day also helps to form good habits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

We believe in building self esteem by creating a sense of belonging. This is made possible if our children attend school every available day, on time.

Your support is the key, it makes the difference.

Healthy Lunchboxes

In line with our Healthy Schools Award we would encourage parents to pack healthy food items into your child's lunch boxes.

We would really love to see at least one piece of fresh fruit in every lunchbox please. Where possible please refrain from packets of crisps.

May we remind parents that children are NOT allowed fizzy drinks, sweets or chocolate bars in their lunchbox although a small chocolate coated biscuit is acceptable.

A good healthy lunch is important to help children concentrate for the afternoon's work and your help in this is appreciated.

Flu Vaccine and Measurements

Please be advised the flu immunisations will take place on Wednesday 18th October. You must ensure you have completed the consent form, even if you do not wish for your child to receive the vaccination, by Monday 16th October via the link below:

<https://imms.sirona-cic.org.uk/flu/2023/consent?v=1.23>

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 opt out** by Monday 16th October using the link below:

sirona.ns.schoolhealthreview@nhs.net

Further information about the National Child Measurement Programme can be found at: www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-weight/national-child-measurement-programme

Year 3/4 Swimming

Voyager class have now completed their swimming lessons. Well done Voyager Class.

Sputnik Class start their lessons on **Thursday 9th November**. Due to the timings, children will be required to bring in a packed lunch to ensure we are ready to leave on time. If your child qualifies for benefit based free school meals they will be entitled to have a packed lunch provided by the school. Please telephone 01934 626769 or email us on office@uva.clf.uk if you would require this option.

Children should wear appropriate swimwear, preferably swimming trunks for boys and a one-piece costume for girls. If boys prefer to wear swimming shorts, these must be of a length well above the knee and tied at the waist, however, these are not ideal as they fill up with air and impede movement in the water. 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.

Dates for the Diary

Don't forget to check out the school website for all our events

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

October

Thursday 19th *INSET Day - School closed to pupils*

Friday 20th *INSET Day - School closed to pupils*

END OF TERM 1

Monday 30th **START OF TERM 2**

November

Thursday 2nd Year 3/4 Anglo Saxon WOW Day

Friday 3rd Football Finals (selected pupils)

Wednesday 8th EYFS Phonics Event @ 8.55am

Thursday 9th Sputnik Class Swimming



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