

Uphill Village Academy

Newsletter 13th September 2024

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Principal:

Mrs Samantha Hodder

Tel: 01934 626 769

Message from the Principal

Dear Parents & Carers

What a delight it has been to welcome our children back for the new academic year. The whole school community have settled really well and its fantastic to hear the classrooms alive with the sound of busy children.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to our new EYFS children and their families. We have been incredibly impressed with the way they have settled into the new routines. I am looking forward to seeing them full time from next week.

There are lots of visitors, trips and walks planned for the forthcoming year for every year group. Next week we're looking forward to the Year 3/4 Tudor Day when 'Jed' a member of Henry VIII's court, will impart his knowledge of the Tudor period. The children will be part of various activities during this immersive session as our introduction to their topic, 'Who was the greatest monarch of the Tudor age?'

Remember to check the class pages on our website for weekly updates from each year group.

Have a great weekend & I look forward to seeing all of our children next week.

Mrs Sam Hodder, Principal

School Meal Update

A reminder for children who have moved from Year 2 to Year 3 will no longer qualify for Universal Infant Free School Meals and meals should be paid for via ParentPay.

In KS2 (Years 3,4,5,& 6) school meals must be paid for in advance. Parents should ensure there are sufficient funds in their ParentPay account BEFORE their child requests a lunch.

A new Autumn/Winter menu has been emailed to parents and a copy can also be found on our website.

We are working with our caterers, Aspens, to ensure our menu meets the needs of our families.

Attendance

We would like to say a big thank you to all our parents and carers for supporting your child(ren) to attend school and engage so well with their learning throughout the last academic year. We know that this reflects the value our families place on children learning in school every day. We are looking forward to working with all our existing and new families in this new academic year, to support best attendance and learning.

At Uphill Village Academy, we want and expect our children to attend school **every day**, unless they are really not well enough to. 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 benefit from their education. Attending school on time every day also helps them form good habits, which can stay with them throughout their educational journey and on into the workplace.

Shortly, we will be issuing detailed guidance on our attendance expectations. Remember, we are here to support our families and we hope we can all work together so every child reaches their true potential.

EYFS Coffee Morning

We are delighted to be able to invite our new EYFS parents to join Mrs Hodder, Principal, and Mrs Sims, EYFS Lead, for a coffee morning on Thursday 19th September.

All parents/carers of children within the EYFS cohort are welcome to join us, straight after drop off at 8.45am until 9.15am, in the school hall where coffee and a biscuit will be available. Please come along and meet with other parents and members of our PTFA.

Mrs Hodder & Mrs Sims will join parents at 9:00am to briefly talk about our Academy and the expectations and events for the coming year.

If you can't make the session, don't worry there will be another chance to ask any questions at your child's Parents Evening in October.



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CYCLE TO SCHOOL WEEK '24

Supported by  NatWest Rooster Money



23rd - 27th September 2024

We will be taking part in this event - alongside other schools in the area - to encourage active travel instead of car journeys. This is to promote safer travel to school, including the benefits to our health and environment. We encourage children and parents to use bikes or scooters, on their journeys to and from school, during this week and beyond! For more details

<https://www.bikeability.org.uk/cycletooschoolweek/>

Uniform

A big thank you to everyone for being so well presented with their uniform since we have returned to school.

There have still been a few issues we would like to remind parents of.

All school shoes must be black and polishable. Children should not be wearing trainers and if a child wears boots, these should be changed for shoes on arrival at school.

Socks should be black, white or grey, no colours.

Hair longer than shoulder length should be tied back at all times. Shoulder length hair should have a hair band to keep it off the face.

Keep up the good work!

Harvest Festival

On Monday 14th October, Rev Madeley will be holding an Assembly on Harvest Festival. Donations of non perishable food items can be made to give to Weston Foodbank.

Please only bring donations in on the morning of 14th.

Individual & Sibling Photographs

On Friday 20th September, Tulip Photography will visit the Academy to take photographs of our children for parents to purchase.

Please make sure your child has their school jumper/cardigan in school on this day.

Term Time Leave Requests & Absence

We are really pleased with the level of attendance since our return from the Summer break. We know that this reflects the value our families put on their child's education, it is vital that schools and families continue to work together to ensure they attend school regularly. Attending school every day throughout a term helps children maximise their learning in the classroom and enjoy the benefits of their educational experience. It really does make a difference.

We would therefore like to remind parents that the academy will NOT authorise any leave of absence in term time unless satisfied the reason for the absence is exceptional. The absence should be for the shortest time possible; if an absence is agreed, the Principal will decide how many days of absence will be authorised.

We ask parents to request permission for leave of absence in advance, and to only request absence if time off school is absolutely necessary. Any requests should be put in writing and wherever possible at least four weeks' notice should be provided. Forms and information are available from the academy website www.uphillvillageacademy.cfb.uk We may ask to meet with you to discuss your request.

Please do not just take your child out of school without requesting leave. This absence will be recorded in the registers differently to a request that has not been authorised and carries harsher penalties. Parents are reminded that unauthorised absence may result in a request for the issuing of a Fixed Penalty Notice or may be liable to prosecution.

Minor ailments should not be a reason for staying at home. If your child attends school when feeling slightly under the weather, do let a member of staff know and we will monitor them and contact you if we think they need to go home. If you aren't sure whether or not to send your child to school, please contact us in the school office and we will be happy to advise.

Please remember that we are here to help in any way we can. If you have any concerns about your child that you wish to discuss with us, please do get in touch. If we cannot help directly, we will work with you to help you find other support. We can support your child best when they are in school.

Year 6 Secondary School Open Days

The application process for transfer to Secondary school in September 2025 is open and closes on 31st October 2024 at 11:59pm. A letter from School Admissions has been emailed to Year 6 parents detailing how to apply for Secondary School. If you require a further copy of this please contact the school office team.

Broadoak Academy

Open Evening - Thursday 12th September 5pm - 7pm

Open morning tours are from Tuesday 17th - Friday 20th September at 9:00am-10:00am.

Hans Price Academy

Open Evening - Thursday 26th September 4.30pm - 7.30pm.

Drop In open mornings are from Friday 27th September until Friday 18th October between 8:45am & 10am

Winterstoke Hundred Academy

Open Evening - Thursday 19th September 4:00pm - 7:00pm.

Open morning tours are from Monday 23rd September - Friday 27th September at 9:00am– 10.00am

Churchill Academy

Open Evening - Wednesday 25th September at 5:00pm - 8:30pm

Open morning tours are on Tuesday 1st and Wednesday 2nd October between 9.00am & 12.00pm

Starting School September 2024

North Somerset School Admissions are taking applications for September 2024 admissions for children born between 1st September 2020 to 31 August 2021.

<https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/my-services/schools-learning/school-admissions/applying-school-place>

or contact North Somerset Council School Admissions on 01934 888888

Dates for the Diary

September

Monday 16th	Chandra Class Swimming (1)
Thursday 19th	EYFS Parent Coffee Morning at 8.45am in school hall
Friday 20th	Individual & Sibling Photographs
Friday 20th	Y3/4 Tudor topic session with 'Jed' a member of Henry VIII's court!
Saturday 21st & 22nd	The 17th Great Uphill Village Scarecrow Festival
Monday 23rd	Chandra Class Swimming (2)
Mon 23th to Fri 27th	Cycle to School Week
Monday 30th Sept	Chandra Class Swimming (3)

October

Monday 7th	Chandra Class Swimming (4)
Monday 14th	Harvest Festival Assembly - Food donations accepted
Wednesday 16th	Parents Evening (face to face)
Thursday 17th	Parents Evening (video call except for EYFS/Yr1 parents who are face to face)



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