

# Uphill Village Academy

Newsletter 15th January 2021

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## Message from the Principal

Dear Parents & Carers,

Welcome back to what is an unusual Spring term. It seems a long time since our Christmas break and we, like you, were very disappointed not to be back together again this term. I know this is not the way any of us wanted to start the New Year however we recognise the need to support the national effort to slow the increase in coronavirus cases, in order to prevent the NHS from being overwhelmed. At this time it is expected that all primary and secondary schools will be closed until at least 22<sup>nd</sup> February.

I cannot express how impressed I am with the way that your children have adapted so quickly and have engaged with their remote learning activities. We are really proud of all our children and continue to be astounded by the commitment to home education by our families. Children at home and in school are following the same curriculum and everyone has adjusted well to the new arrangements.

Please remember, we are here to support you and your family not only with their learning but with anything pastoral too. You can contact our pastoral and teaching teams on the emails below.

Please continue to contact the school office team if you or any of your household tests positive for Covid-19 and obviously, for those children attending school, if your child or anyone in the household has symptoms of Covid-19 they should remain at home and get a test.

Thank you for your continued support, understanding and patience and have an enjoyable weekend.

Mrs Samantha Hodder

Principal

Principal:

Mrs Samantha Hodder

Tel: 01934 626 769

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## Morning Check-ins

Each class teacher from Year 2 and above will be holding a daily check-in with their class via Microsoft Teams. These allow the class teachers to say good morning to the class and set the work and focus for the day so the children are fully prepared. We have found these to be an invaluable part of the school day and we hope the children benefit from them too. We expect all children to attend for the 15-20 minute session to help them understand the remote learning for the day

Year 2, 5 & 6 are held at 9am

Year 3 & 4 are held at 9.15am

Any issues please email the year group email address.

## Critical Worker Places

Our key priority remains to keep everyone safe.

We have had a large number of requests for children to attend school and we would ask parents to remember that this provision is for parents whose work is critical to the coronavirus and EU transition response **only** or for those children we have invited to attend.

We expect the majority of children to stay at home and learn remotely. All 'critical worker' places are given on a needs basis and should only be requested if your child(ren) cannot be safely cared for at home.

Your support in this matter is appreciated.

## Contact Us

We love to hear from you so please stay in touch. Ask questions or send us feedback at the following addresses:

<b>EYFS/Yr1</b>	<a href="mailto:eyfsandyear1@uva.clf.uk">eyfsandyear1@uva.clf.uk</a>
<b>Yr 2</b>	<a href="mailto:yeartwo@uva.clf.uk">yeartwo@uva.clf.uk</a>
<b>Yr 3/4</b>	<a href="mailto:year3and4@uva.clf.uk">year3and4@uva.clf.uk</a>
<b>Yr 5/6</b>	<a href="mailto:year5and6@uva.clf.uk">year5and6@uva.clf.uk</a>
<b>Admin</b>	<a href="mailto:office@uva.clf.uk">office@uva.clf.uk</a>
<b>Pastoral</b>	<a href="mailto:learningmentor@uva.clf.uk">learningmentor@uva.clf.uk</a>
<b>Safeguarding</b>	<a href="mailto:safeguarding@uva.clf.uk">safeguarding@uva.clf.uk</a>



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## Remote Learning Information

We have been really impressed with the engagement we have already seen and it is lovely to see the children's work coming in. Our Early Years and Year One teachers have been busy making videos to guide the children's learning and these will be posted daily on Tapestry to support you at home. Please continue to send in pictures and communicate with the team using this platform.

For Years two and above, we are using Microsoft Teams for teachers to hold daily check-in sessions with their classes. In addition to this, videos and powerpoints, with audio, have been provided on our website to support children in their daily learning tasks. These are accompanied by morning 'Support Rooms' - one hour drop-in sessions for both English and Maths. These are set up as meetings in Microsoft Teams and can be found in your child's calendar each day. A teacher and teaching partner will be available in the 'rooms' to answer any questions the children may have and to provide support in completing the day's work.

There is an expectation that ALL children will engage and complete the daily work set, sending them in via assignments on Teams or through the year group email. Please do get in touch using the year group emails if you need any support with your child's learning. If you're experiencing issues with IT i.e. lack of a device, internet or data issues, please contact our learning mentor team or school office team who will be happy to work with you to find a potential solution.

I will also be recording whole school assemblies every Monday and Friday, which will be available on the following link <https://uphill-primary-school.primarysite.media/playlist/assemblies>. In addition, I will be hosting 'Hot Chocolate Friday', both virtually and in school. This is part of our usual school practice and recognizes children who go above and beyond; not only with learning but in demonstrating our school values. Children in years 2-6 will be notified on a Monday by parent email and an invite will be sent via Microsoft Teams for them to attend a session the following Friday. EYFS & Year 1 children will be hand delivered a certificate and hot chocolate sachet.

We, like many of you, are learning every day and looking at ways in which we can improve our provision. Our teachers are currently trying to balance remote learning, provision in school and for many of them family commitments too, so please bear with us. That being said, we would welcome any feedback from you about our current provision.

## Benefit Related Free School Meals

During these difficult times, it is more important than ever to ensure you and your family are getting the help and support you may need.

For those children unable to attend school at the moment and who are entitled to benefit related free school meals, we will provide supermarket vouchers so that you will continue to receive free school meal support. We will contact eligible families directly.

If your income or circumstances have changed and you feel your child(ren) may be eligible for free school meals, it is essential you apply to check your eligibility. An application should be made for each child; it is the child that qualifies, not the family.

Even if your child(ren) are already eligible for Universal Infant Free School Meals, it is important you check your eligibility for Benefit related free school meals as it can also provide additional financial support from the school to help cover the costs of school trips, milk, school jumpers/cardigans and KS2 music lessons.

North Somerset Council provides an online application service for free school meals. Parents are able to apply online, at home or via us in school, and get an instant result. The system generates a letter that parents can print off and give to the school and eligibility will start from the date of the letter.

Use the link below to access this application form:

<https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/my-services/schools-learning/local-schools/free-school-meals>

North Somerset Council are reminding parents that any currently eligible children should not reapply for free school meals as this may lead to the loss of your entitlement. You should only reapply for a child in the summer holidays before they transition to secondary school. If an entitled child moves house, please email [fsm@n-somerset.gov.uk](mailto:fsm@n-somerset.gov.uk) advising them of the new address so they can update the records rather than making a new application.



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## Mindfulness at Home

A good tip to help us all feel more positive and aware of our positive feelings is to practice some form of wellbeing activity. This could include a walk, a bike ride or participating in an online exercise class. See below for information on the relaunch of P.E. with Joe Wicks. Eating well, fresh air, taking time away from the school work to play a board game or play with some playdough or lego will really help with a child's (& your) mental wellbeing.

Struggling? - Don't suffer alone, contact our Learning Mentors via their email

## School Nursing Survey

North Somerset Council's Public Health team are currently completing a consultation exercise ahead of re-procuring our Public Health Nursing Services. We would like to hear the views of partners with regard to these services.

The link to the survey is below and they would welcome your feedback and thoughts.

<https://northsomerset.gov.researchfeedback.net/s.asp?>

## BBC Educational Resources

To complement our school's provision of remote learning the BBC are continuing to support parents and children during this lockdown by providing educational resources and learning, including online lessons as well as TV programmes on BBC Two and CBBC - as well as on iPlayer, with extra content online.

These are fantastic educational resources to help families during lockdown

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/primary> <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround>

There is a full morning of lessons on the CBBC channel every week day between 9.00-12.00pm for primary age children.



## Reading Reminder



Reading is one of the most important things we learn to do; it opens up a powerful world of improved language and vocabulary which can improve a child's life opportunities.

At Uphill Village Academy we are passionate about reading and are asking parents to help support us by spending just 10 minutes, three times a week reading with your child.

Please remember to fill in your child's reading

## P.E with Joe Wicks



Joe Wicks has relaunched his live P.E lessons for children. It is a great way to start the day and keep your children fit whilst stuck indoors.

You can join Joe's P.E lessons through his Youtube channel 'The Body Coach TV' live every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 9.00am. Alternatively you can schedule a fitness break to suit your day just search his Youtube channel.

## Learn with Podcasts

Podcasts can be a great way for children to learn. Check these ones out. (Press ctrl & click)

'Story Pirates' - <https://www.storypirates.com/podcast> 'Brains On'—<https://www.brainson.org/>

[But Why](#) [That's Incredible](#) [Wow in the World](#)

[Big Life Journal](#) [The Saturday Morning Cereal Bowl](#) [Pants on fire](#) [Noodle Loaf](#) [Aaron's World](#)



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