

Uphill Village Academy

Newsletter 15th October 2021

Follow us on Twitter for regular updates – [@uphillvillage](https://twitter.com/uphillvillage)



Principal:

Mrs Samantha Hodder

Tel: 01934 626 769

Email: office@uva.clf.uk

Website: www.uphillvillageacademy.clf.uk

Message from the Principal

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are nearing the end of our first term and, as always, it has been a very busy few weeks.

Our Year 5 children finally got to take part in their Mendip Outdoors day that was postponed in the summer due to Covid. They had a great day taking part in archery, tobogganing, air rifle shooting and disc golf.

Well done Year 5 you make us so proud. Everyone was very enthusiasm and excited to learn a new skill. Thank you to the team at Mendip Outdoors and our own staff involved in finally making this trip happen.

Our Year 1 children have been out walking through the village mapping routes to the village post boxes. This is in readiness for when our EYFS children join them for a walk in November to follow their maps and post their letters to a special person in Lapland!

Before we break up for the holidays on Wednesday, we are looking forward to the Year 3/4 children taking part in their Viking Beach Raid and of course we will be holding our Parents Evenings on Tuesday and Wednesday.

As the end of term approaches, I wanted to take the opportunity to say thank you for your continued support and vigilance regarding Covid-19 symptoms and your proactive communication with the school.

This has continued to keep Covid –19 cases in school as low as possible. We would recommend and request, in line with government guidance, a PCR test is carried out in the first instance if your child has symptoms. Lateral flow tests should only be used by an individual who does NOT have Covid-19 symptoms and is 11 years and over.

It is inevitable that we will have cases within school, as well as other circulating illnesses, but if we work together we can minimise the risk.

Current government guidance states schools are no longer expected to undertake contact tracing and close contacts are now identified by NHS Test & Trace. In the case of a local outbreak, identified by NHS Test & Trace, (more than 5 cases or 10% of children in a year group within 10 days) our local health protection team will contact us and may advise a temporary reintroduction of control measures.

Individuals who live in the same household or have been in close contact with a positive case and are under the age of 18 years are not required to self isolate but will be advised to take a PCR test. To help us keep cases low if your child has any Covid-19 symptoms we will ask you to keep them off school and take a PCR test as soon as possible.

Please be reassured we are continuing with our Covid-19 control measures of regular hand washing, increased cleaning regimes, and staggered break and lunch times to minimise any risks.

As we go into the half term holiday, please have a good rest and be ready to return to school for Term 2 as we prepare for Christmas.

Mrs Samantha Hodder, Principal

Harvest Festival

WOW!! We were overwhelmed with the generosity of donations for Weston Foodbank as part of our Harvest Festival celebrations.

Thank you to all the families who donated items of food. It will help many families in need within our community.

Parents Evening

If you haven't booked your child's Parents Evening for either Tuesday or Wednesday, please contact your child's class teacher or the school office team on 01934 626769 or email us at office@uva.clf.uk

There are still a few appointments available for all class teachers and we would encourage you to take the opportunity to have a chat about your child's progress following our return from the summer break.



Working in partnership with



Rolls-Royce

Term Time Leave Requests

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. We are aware that the last 18 months have been very challenging for families, for many different reasons. After so much disruption to children'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 just 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 are available from the academy website. 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.

Family emergencies also need careful consideration. It may not always be appropriate, or in the best interests of the child, to miss school for emergencies which are being dealt with by adult family members. Wherever possible please try to make alternative arrangements for your child so they can attend school.

On-line Safety - Parental Warning

The internet, digital TV, mobile phones and other technology are transforming how our children learn, play and communicate. However, parents should be aware that some of the content on Netflix, TikTok, YouTube and on computer games can be violent and contain some inappropriate content. It is not always easy to know what your children are viewing on interactive sites but there are many useful websites to help parents with this.

We have attached a guide to staying safe when using an Apple device. i-Phones and i-Pads don't have separate user accounts. Therefore, when your child uses your device they have full access to the same information you do; this is often unrestricted. This guide helps by setting up Apple Guided Access on your device to make it safe for your children to use.

Here are some websites offering parents helpful information on how to keep your child safe online:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>
<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers>
<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>

Lates

We have had a number of children arriving late at school since our return. The gates (both front & side) open at 8.30am 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 'late'

Exercise Books

On Monday, children will bring their exercise books home to show you the work they are producing in class. This will help parents prepare for Parents Evening. Books should be returned to school on Tuesday morning. Please do NOT keep any books.

New Menu

The A/W menu will be launched after the half term break. New menus will be out next week. Please note the option for a school made packed lunch has been removed from the menu. Children will need to choose from the hot meal options or bring a packed lunch from home.



Working in partnership with



PTFA News

Thanks to all those parents who supported the pre-loved Uniform Sale on Wednesday. The PTFA are now in need of any royal blue, logo jumpers to restock their shelves. Please leave donations with the school office.

Textile Recycling — Tuesday 9th November by 9.00am

Purge your unwanted clothing and raise money for the PTFA!

Please leave your bagged, unwanted clothing in the marked area on the grass verge on Ellesmere Road (by the large flower box)

Christmas Card Fundraiser 2021

Thanks to all those parents who have returned their child's Christmas card designs, the deadline for orders was today. The PTFA will contact you via email with a link for paying for your order online.

New Parents

Are you a new parent who has a business or some great contacts with a business who would be prepared to support the school? If you do, please get in touch. We need help with resources and raffle prizes if anyone can help.

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 18th No extra-curricular clubs this week
Tuesday 19th Parents Evening - in person only (Booking Required)
Wednesday 20th Year 3/4 Viking Beach Raid
Prospective Parent Tour (Intake for September 2022) @ 2.00pm
Parents Evening - video call only (Booking Required)

Thursday 21st INSET Day - School closed to pupils

Friday 22nd INSET Day - School closed to pupils

END OF TERM 1

INSET Days - Closed to Pupils

Tuesday 4th January 2022

Wednesday 16th March 2022

Friday 8th July 2022

November

Monday 1st START OF TERM 2

Wednesday 3rd 9.00am Year 1 Parent Phonics Workshop

Tuesday 9th 9.00am EYFS Parent Phonics Workshop & Coffee Morning

Voyager Class Swimming

Wednesday 10th EYFS & Year 1 Postbox Walk

Thursday 18th CLF Eco Conference @ Winterstoke Hundred Academy (selected pupils)

Tuesday 23rd Year 2 Walk Around the Village