

Uphill Village Academy

Newsletter 15th September 2023

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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.

This week our Year 6 children began leading our Council Crew sessions with children from across the school. They were brilliant as were our new year one's who took part for the first time.

Year 1 also went out on a walk around the village this afternoon in support of their geography enquiry; its great to be able to use our environment to enhance our learning. We have lots of trips and walks planned for the forthcoming year.

Remember to check the class pages on our website for weekly updates from each year group. You can also see what we have been up to by following us on twitter [@uphillvillage](https://twitter.com/uphillvillage).

Lets hope the weather stays fine so we can enjoy the Scarecrow Festival this weekend. Look out for our fabulous scarecrows.

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.

We apologise for the confusion over the A/W menu. A new menu was sent to all parents via email yesterday, it 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 expected attendance and we hope all our families will work with us to ensure every child attends school to maximise their learning 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 Wednesday 20th 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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Individual & Sibling Photographs

On Friday 22nd September, Tulip Photography will visit our 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.

Harvest Festival

On Monday 25th September, Rev Madeley will be holding an Assembly in preparation for Harvest Festival. Donations of non perishable food items can be made for us to give to Weston Foodbank. Please only bring these in on the morning of 25th.

Cycle to School Week



Blue Peter Badges for Reading

Did you know you can get a Blue Peter Badge for reading?

[Official Blue Peter Book Club](#) | [Join the BP Book Club](#) | [Book badge - CBBC - BBC](#)

Did you know that children can get a Blue Peter Badge for reading? Mrs Giblett, Chandra class teacher and English lead, would quite like one herself but sadly you have to be between 5-15 years old to be eligible! Have a look and give it a try.

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 Application & Open Days

The application process for transfer to Secondary school in September 2024 is open and closes on 31st October 2023 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 mornings are from Tuesday 19th - Friday 22nd September 9:00am-10:00am.

Hans Price Academy

Open Evening - Thursday 28th September at 4.30pm - 7.30pm.

Drop In Open mornings—8:45 to 10am Friday 29th September until Wed 18th October.

Winterstoke Hundred Academy

Open Evening on Thursday 21st September at 4:00pm - 7:00pm.

Open morning tours are from 25th September 2022 until 29th September. Tours start at 9:00am.

Churchill Academy

Open Evening on Wednesday 27th September at 5:00pm - 7:00pm.

Please contact Priory Community School, Worle Community School directly to arrange a viewing.

Starting School September 2024

North Somerset School Admissions are taking applications for September 2024 admissions for children born between 1st September 2019 and 31st August 2020.

<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

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/>

September

Saturday 16th & 17th The 16th Great Uphill Village Scarecrow Festival

Tuesday 19th Young Voices Club starts

Wednesday 20th EYFS Parent Coffee Morning at 8.45am in school hall

Thursday 21st Voyager Class Swimming

Friday 22nd Individual & Sibling Photographs

Monday 25th Extra-curricular Clubs start this week - selected clubs

Harvest Festival Assembly - Food donations accepted

Mon 25th to Fri 29th Cycle to School Week

Thursday 28th Voyager Class Swimming

October

Thursday 5th Voyager Class Swimming

Wednesday 11th RNLI to visit Year 2 classes

Parents Evening (face to face)



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