

Uphill Village Academy

Newsletter 16th January 2026



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Message from the Principal

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to term 3!

I hope all our families managed to spend some quality time with their loved ones over the Christmas break. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy and healthy New Year.

Terms 3 & 4 are always busy and we have lots of exciting trips and activities coming up, so make a note of the dates at the back of the newsletter.

Parents Evenings are due to take place on the 25th & 26th March and details of how to book will follow over the coming weeks.

I was so disappointed to learn that our Young Voices Concert had to be rescheduled due to the poor weather, but I'm pleased to let parents know that the new date is Friday 27th February. We'll be restarting rehearsals soon and getting concert ready! Full details will be emailed to parents next week.

This week, there is a section on our uniform expectations. We know our children take pride in feeling part of our school community and uniform is a way of showing we are one family, so your support in ensuring the correct uniform is worn every day is very much appreciated.

I wish you all a wonderful weekend
Mrs Samantha Hodder,
Principal

Principal: Mrs Samantha Hodder

Tel: 01934 626769

Email: office@uva.clf.uk

Website: www.uphillvillageacademy.clf.uk

Admissions Policy 2027-28 Consultation

The Academy is consulting on its draft Admissions Policy for 2027-2028. Further information and a copy of the draft policy can be found on our website:

<https://uphillvillageacademy.clf.uk/our-academy/admissions/>

You are invited to provide any comments for consideration on the proposed arrangements by 5pm on 31 January 2026.

Any comments or objections can be made to Jacqueline Friday, Admissions and Governance Administrator, for the Cabot Learning Federation.

The email address for correspondence is admissions@clf.uk or in writing to Jacqueline Friday, Federation House, King's Oak Academy, Brook Road, Bristol, BS15 4JT.

NHS Pharmacy First Service

Did you know that the NHS Pharmacy First Service enables children and adults to get convenient access to healthcare advice and treatment for seven common conditions, where appropriate, without the potential delay of having to wait for a GP appointment? Accessing the service may help children feel better and return to school as quickly as possible, as well as supporting parents/carers to also get better if they are unwell with one of the conditions covered under the service.

There is no need to make an appointment; parents or carers can pop into their local pharmacy with their child and ask for help under the service.

Support for the following conditions can be accessed under the service, free of charge (unless NHS prescription charges apply):

Earache (aged 1 to 17 years)

Impetigo (aged 1 year and over)

Infected insect bites and stings (aged 1 year and over)

Sore throats (aged 5 years and over)

Sinusitis (aged 12 years and over)

Uncomplicated urinary tract infections (UTIs) in women (aged 16 to 64 years)

Shingles (aged 18 years and over)

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/primary-care/pharmacy/pharmacy-services/pharmacy-first/>



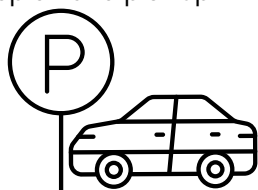
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Parking

A reminder to all our families to be respectful when parking at both drop off and pick up times. Please do not park outside the school gates on the yellow markings, it can make it extremely dangerous for the children when crossing the road. We do appreciate that parking in the village is difficult, but ask that you are mindful and considerate to our neighbours when parking.

To support us with this, you may have noticed a high presence of parking officers outside the school during drop off and pick up times.



Club Dates

Extra-curricular clubs have re-commenced this week. We remind parents that collection from these clubs is from the front playground at 4.15pm promptly. If your child does not require their space please let us know so we can offer it to another child.

Clubs running for Term 3 are:

Art Club (Year 4)

Art Club (Year 1)

Science Club (Year 2)

CLF Big Dance Club (Year 5/6)

Homework Club (Year 6 - Invitation Only)

Letters regarding booking Clubs in Term 4 will be sent to the relevant year groups soon.

Academy Communications

Following the launch of MyChildAtSchool (MCAS) at the start of this academic year, we have reviewed our communication systems and, with effect from Monday 19th January, MCAS will be used for all text and email communication to parents.

From Monday 19th January, we will no longer be using our current text system and, due to rising costs, we will be reducing the number of text messages we send to parents. Texts will continue to be an important method of communicating to parents but will be used for individual and urgent messages, rather than whole school reminders.

Our standard practice for communications to parents will be to send all letters and general reminders via email to the 1st and 2nd priority contacts with parental responsibility. A copy of any letters sent out will be available on our website. Urgent, time-critical texts will be sent to the 1st priority contact only.

MCAS Communications Explained:

All texts and emails will be sent via the MyChildAtSchool (MCAS) and we would like to explain to our parents a little bit more about how this works.

MCAS can be accessed via the online portal or an app. If parents download and set up the app, they have the option to have Push Notifications turned on or off - this can be managed through your phone's notification settings for apps.

Whether you have Push Notifications turned on or off will effect how you receive your school communications:

Push Notifications ON - all texts and emails will be delivered to your MCAS app and you will receive a Push Notification. You will be able to access all messages you have received in MCAS (by clicking on the in the top right-hand corner of the online portal or the 'Messages' tab on the app). You will NOT receive a standard text message or an email message in your email inbox.

Push Notifications OFF - texts and emails will be delivered as a standard text or email and will NOT be available within MCAS. Please note, if your email box is full or the email is not delivered for any reason, you will not be able to access the message.

We would encourage all parents/carers to download the MCAS app and turn on Push Notifications. All emails and Push Notifications are free to the academy, but we are charged individually for texts. The use of Push Notifications will ensure you receive an instant notification of a message and you can access historical messages within MCAS. It will also save money for the academy, which we can put to good use in supporting our children's education.

If you have any questions or issues, or require assistance with setting up your MCAS, please do not hesitate to contact the academy office.

School Uniform

Uphill Village Academy has a school uniform because, we believe, it helps to set the right learning attitudes in school. It is a leveller of individuals and is good value for money. Your child is required to wear the correct uniform at all times. It has been noted that a number of children, especially in the Year 5 & 6 cohort, are coming to school without the correct uniform on. We would like to remind you of our policy on school uniform which can also be found on our school website:

<https://uphillvillageacademy.clf.uk/our-academy/uniform/>

The expectations of the PE uniform for Years 5&6 can be found on our school website:

<https://uphillvillageacademy.clf.uk/letters/updated-year-5-6-pe-uniform/>

Rules for Wearing School Uniform

- School uniform should be worn with pride at all times. Uniform should be clean and well presented.
- It is essential that all clothes and belongings are clearly labelled with your child's name, this includes bags, PE kits, hats and shoes.
 - Jewellery is not permitted, except plain stud earrings and a wrist watch.
 - Nail varnish and make-up are not permitted. Hair must be tied back from the face at all times.
- Pupils are not allowed to wear trainers, except for PE, unless they are plain black and polishable with no logos. Shoes, including sandals, must strap securely to the feet.
- Whilst we allow children to wear black boots to school, they must be a suitable style. Chunky boots, boots with buckles, embellishments or coloured laces are not acceptable.
 - Children must have coats in school all year round, except in hot weather.
- Leggings are only to be worn with a skirt over them, they are not suitable as a replacement for trousers.
 - Sun hats are required during the summer months.
- Socks MUST be black, white or grey, NO coloured socks. Socks should not be visible over leggings or trousers.

Purchasing of Uniform

Our logo uniform items can be purchased both online & instore from our official uniform supplier, **NKSports** in Worle. Uniform is not available from the school directly. If you prefer to order online visit <https://www.nkgroupuk.com/>

All other items can be purchased cheaply from supermarkets and general retailers. Please remember, our PTFA runs a pre-loved uniform shop periodically during the year too. Please ensure your child complies with the uniform rules every day.

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 your eligibility. An application should be made for each individual child; as siblings will not automatically qualify.

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

North Somerset Council provides an online application service for free school meals which gives an instant response. Parents are able to apply online by following the link below. If you need any support to access this online service, please contact the school office and we can arrange for you to do this in school. Please note, if you are eligible, this will start from the date of your application and cannot be backdated. Please screenshot or print off your eligibility letter and forward this to the school.

Use the link below to access further information and to apply online:

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

IMPORTANT - if your child is already eligible for benefit related free school meals, do not reapply as this may lead to the loss of your entitlement.



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Reporting Absences

Can we remind ALL parents that if your child is absent from school you MUST telephone the absence line 01934 626769 option 2 and report the reasons for the absence EVERY day by 8.45am.

Messages should include the child's forename and surname and the full reasons for absence. More detail is required than 'under the weather' or 'unwell' please. If they have had a bout of sickness or diarrhoea, please state the day and time the last bout took place.

The office and pastoral team are wasting many hours chasing parents regarding their child's absence from school. This time could be more wisely used to benefit our children.

The academy will follow up any pupil absences where the parent/carer has not contacted us, or where we are unclear about the actual reason for absence.

Section 175 of The Education Act 2002 compels schools to safeguard children and promote their well-being.

Therefore, if children are not attending school, we must do something about this and take the appropriate steps to support the child and family. This means we will always follow up and ask questions to find out where a child is or why they are absent.

Please call every day of an absence & let us know!

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;
www.uphillvillageacademy.clf.uk/classpages

JANUARY

Monday 19th Year 1 Local Walk
Wednesday 21st BirdWatch Sessions in school
Friday 30th EYFS Local Walk

FEBRUARY

Thursday 12th Year 5/6 Presentation of Learning to Parents
Friday 13th **END OF TERM 3**
Monday 23rd **INSET DAY - School closed to pupils**
Tuesday 24th **START OF TERM 4**
Friday 27th Rescheduled Young Voices - Birmingham

MARCH

Monday 2nd - 6th Reading Week
Monday 2nd Chandra Class Swimming
Thursday 5th World Book Day
Friday 6th **INSET DAY - School closed to pupils**
Monday 9th - 13th CLF Big Week of Maths
Monday 9th Chandra Class Swimming
Monday 16th Chandra Class Swimming
Monday 23rd Chandra Class Swimming
Tuesday 24th Dance Festival Performance @ The Playhouse Theatre
Wednesday 25th & 26th Parents Evenings
Monday 30th Year 3/4 Parent Book Look at 2.45pm

UPCOMING BANK HOLIDAYS

Friday 3rd April
Monday 4th May

APRIL

Wednesday 1st EYFS/Year 1 Parent Book Look at 2.45pm
Thursday 2nd Easter Activities in school
Friday 3rd **LAST DAY OF TERM 4**
Monday 20th **GOOD FRIDAY BANK HOLIDAY - School closed**
START OF TERM 5

