

Uphill Village Academy

Newsletter 17th January 2025

Follow us on 'X' 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,

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.

Welcome back to term 3. We have lots of exciting trips and activities coming up so keep an eye on the dates at the back of the newsletter.

I was extremely privileged to take 33 children to the Young Voices concert at the NEC in Birmingham this week. This is a singing festival like no other; with over 5,000 school children singing together to an audience of 10,000 parents. With special guest singers & dancers it was a truly phenomenal event. Well done to the Young Voices choir, you sang your hearts out and we were very proud of you all.

The weather is definitely colder, so please remember coats must be in school for every child, every day. We do a lot of outdoor learning during the school day, so a coat is essential.

Wrap up warm and have a great weekend.

Mrs Samantha Hodder, Principal

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.

Please remember our Young Voices Club has now finished.

Clubs running for Term 3 and 4 are:

Junior Science Club (Year 2)

Art Club (Year 3&4)

Dance Club

Homework Club Yr6—Invitation only

Fun Maths Games with Mrs Lorimer will be held at lunchtime starting after February half term.

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 where appropriate, for seven common conditions without the potential delay of having to wait for a GP appointment? Accessing the service may mean that can help children feel better and back 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 Boots 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)



Working in partnership with



Good Attendance Improves Attainment

At Uphill Village Academy, 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 life-long benefit from their education. Attending school, on time, every day also helps to form good habits which can stay with them throughout their educational journey and on into the workplace.

However, too many children are missing time from school and this will be affecting their learning. The link between attendance and attainment is well known and irregular attendance impacts a child's academic results, mental health and resilience.

Those who take an occasional day or more off school miss the building blocks of knowledge.

The relationship between attendance and educational outcomes can be seen in this simple diagram:

Attendance of between 99 & 100%	Achieved 76% +
Attendance of between 99 & 100%	Achieved 70% +
Attendance of between 90 & 95%	Achieved 57%
Attendance of less than 90%	Achieved 53%

Based on 2023 SAT's results The percentage of children that achieved the national standard in combined (reading, writing & maths)

We believe in building self esteem by creating a sense of belonging. This is made possible if our children attend school every available day, on time.

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 team and learning mentors 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!

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/>

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.
- 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.

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 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.



Working in partnership with



Rolls-Royce

Breakfast and After School Club Reminders

Breakfast Club Drop Off

Please ensure your child arrives between 7:30am and 8:00am for Breakfast Club.

At 8am the club will play outside or in the hall and therefore it is not easy for the club supervisors to greet late comers or offer breakfast, as they may no longer be in the Community Room.

Please help us by arriving before 8:00am each morning.

After School Club Collection

As the weather turns colder, we would request children are collected promptly at their collection time (4:00pm, 5:00pm, 5.:30pm or 6:00pm Monday—Thursday and 4:00pm & 5:00pm Fridays).

We do not wish for your child to be waiting in the front playground for too long and a late collection results in a member of staff not been available to provide care for the children who remain in club.

Childcare Tax Free Payments

Those parents that are paying using tax free childcare vouchers should be aware that it can take at least a month for the funds to be credited to your ParentPay account. We are requesting that parents request payment from your tax free scheme at the time of booking your child's place in either/both clubs.

We are receiving funds to pay After School Club & Breakfast Club fees far too late after payment is due.

Your help in this matter is much appreciated.

British Royal Legion



Thank you so much to everyone who bought poppies during the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal in November.

We are pleased to have raised an incredible £442.30. Well done everyone!

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.

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

January

Monday 20th Sputnik Class Swimming (1)
Friday 24th BirdWatch Sessions
Monday 27th Sputnik Class Swimming (2)

February

Monday 3rd Sputnik Class Swimming (3)
Monday 10th Sputnik Class Swimming (4)
Friday 14th END OF TERM 3
Monday 24th INSET DAY
Tuesday 25th START OF TERM 4

Upcoming Bank Holidays

Monday 21st April
Monday 5th May



Working in partnership with

