

Uphill Village Academy

Newsletter 26th September 2025

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Principal: Mrs Samantha Hodder

Tel: 01934 626769

Email: office@uva.clf.uk

Website: www.uphillvillageacademy.clf.uk

Message from the Principal

Dear Parents & Carers

How great it is to be back, we are three weeks into the term and we have settled well into school routines. I hope you got a chance to visit the scarecrow festival around the village last weekend.

There has been lots of exciting events including photos for all children & their siblings, EYFS Coffee morning, Meet The Teacher events and of course taking part in the scarecrow festival.

Our PTFA are holding their Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Thursday 2nd October at 7.30pm at Uphill Victory Hall. We are very proud of our thriving PTFA; they have some excellent social events for our parents and raise thousands of pounds for the school each year, for which we are very grateful. The fundraising allows our children to access many opportunities that are above and beyond ordinary school budgets, such as educational visitors and specialist equipment. Please go along to support our PTFA, they are a wonderfully supportive community for parents and they always love to see new parents.

We will be holding our Parents Evenings soon and are looking forward to seeing all our parents. Full details will follow shortly. Please make sure you look out for these so you can book an appointment to see your child's class teacher and discuss how they have settled into this academic year.

Have a great weekend.

Mrs Sam Hodder, Principal

Lost Property

Please can you remind your child(ren) that their jumpers, lunch boxes & water bottles are their responsibility to look after and take care of.

If they remove their jumper during the school day then the safest place for them to keep it is in their book/school bag.

Most lost property found in school is unnamed, making it nearly impossible to return it to the owner.

We kindly request that parents label their child's jumper and coat. It is a good idea to invest in iron-on or sew-in labels, as marker pen or biro quickly fades when washed.

Please also use full names and not just initials.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Extra Curricular Clubs

Next week we will be sending letters home regarding our extra curricular clubs we have to offer. We have decided to inform parents slightly differently this year. Rather than sending out a list of available clubs to everyone, we will issue a letter about an available extra curricular club to the year group it applies to.

Bookings will need to be made via MCAS, so please make sure you have set up your MCAS account. All of our clubs are free of charge and operate weekly from 3.15pm - 4.15pm, except Young Voices which runs until 4.00pm.

Outdoor clubs are weather dependent.

Clubs opening in term 2 will be choir, dance club, homework club & puzzle club - please keep an eye on your emails.

Tulip Photography

On Friday 12th, we welcomed Tulip Photography into school to take our children's individual and sibling photographs.

We were delighted to see so many smartly dressed children with lovely smiling faces.

You should have received your child's QR card last week. If not & you require any assistance, please telephone the school office team or email us on office@uva.clf.uk

Parking

A reminder to all our families to be respectful when parking at both drop off and pick up times. We have had a number of complaints from local residents where parents' parking is causing them difficulty to enter or exit their driveway.

We do appreciate that parking in the village is difficult, but ask that you are mindful and considerate to our neighbours when parking.



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Over 5 School Milk

At morning break children in EYFS, Year 1 & 2 are offered a healthy snack. This is provided by the school and children should not bring in their own snack from home.

The healthy snack provided for children varies each day and includes apples, pears, satsumas, carrots, tomatoes and bananas.

Children under the age of 5 years are entitled to free school milk every day and will be offered this along with their healthy snack during morning break.

Once your child reaches their 5th birthday, they can still have milk at breaktime, but this needs to be paid for, in advance, by the parent/carer. If you wish for your child to continue to have milk after their 5th birthday, this needs to be ordered directly from School Milk Services. For further information visit [School Milk Services](#).

If your child qualifies for Benefit Related Free School Meals and is in EYFS or KS1, you can claim free school milk; please speak to the school office for further details.

Year 5/6 Snack at Breaktime

Year 5/6 lunchboxes are stored on trolleys in the school hall. As of today, we have decided that Year 5/6 children will not have access to their lunchboxes until lunchtime (12-1pm). This is to ensure children are not eating their lunch at breaktime.

If your child brings a healthy snack for mid-morning break, please ensure they keep this in their school bag, not their lunchbox, so they can access it at breaktime. As a reminder to parents, a healthy snack should be a piece of fruit or cereal bar only (no chocolate or crisps).

Thank you for your co-operation with this matter.



School Meals & Dietary Requirements

At Uphill Village Academy we strive for the highest possible standards of care for our children and we want to make sure our dietary needs are catered for and our children kept safe. Our school meals are provided by Aspens and they offer varied, healthy hot meal options to our children every day.

Please can we remind parents that our school is a nut-aware school and children must not bring any food products containing nuts into school. Please ensure you check the ingredients of items to ensure they do not contain nuts, i.e. Nutella spread, peanut butter etc.

We do have a number of children and staff with food allergies and we work hard to ensure their safety in school, so your assistance with this is much appreciated. We confirm that all other food items are permitted in school, however, we would encourage children to bring a healthy lunchbox with no chocolate bars or sweets.

Free School Meals

'Universal Infant Free School Meals' (UIFSM) is a government scheme which provides free school meals to **all** children in EYFS, Year 1, and Year 2. The funding we receive to provide these meals is based on the average number of meals we serve on two dates during the year. The first date is next week - **Thursday 2nd October**. We would like to encourage all of our younger children to try a school lunch on this day. It is our very popular 'roast day', so please give it a try. You will be helping to ensure we receive the correct funding to provide these meals every day.

Families who receive certain benefits may be eligible for Benefit Related free School Meals. We would encourage you to apply for your child(ren) as it not only entitles them to free school meals, but can also provide support towards the cost of school milk, trips, uniform and breakfast club. Our Learning Mentor, Mrs de Scossa, has further details on the benefits available for eligible pupils.

You can apply online at <https://www.n-somerset.gov.uk/my-services/schools-learning/local-schools/schoolmeals/freeschoolmeals/> and you will receive an instant response. You will need to apply separately for each child and please do not reapply if your child is already eligible, as you may lose your entitlement.



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Rolls-Royce

Wrap Around Care & MCAS

We are pleased to have completed the second booking period for Breakfast Club & After School Club in MCAS, which included all sessions for October. The large majority of parents have been able to book their child's place in either club on the days required. Unfortunately, the issue of over subscription continues in our ever popular clubs but this is not something we can easily resolve due to staffing and space constraints. However, MCAS does allow us to continually monitor spaces and meet demand as much as possible.

Parents have the ability to cancel and book spaces through MCAS at any point during the month, unless a cancellation falls within the 7 day notice period. On these occasions, you will need to contact the school office and we would ask parents to please release spaces if they are no longer required so that other parents can utilise them.

There is no waiting list facility for wrap around care but, if you are waiting for availability on a certain date, please continue to check MCAS regularly to see if a place has become available. Please remember, to make any bookings you will require sufficient funds in your account.

We continue to encourage parents to draw down childcare vouchers as early as possible to allow funds to clear our Finance system and be added to MCAS. It can take up to 10 days for funds to be available in MCAS, so you may wish to consider drawing larger amounts to cover a longer booking period. If you wish voucher credits to be split between Breakfast Club and After-School Club, please email office@uva.clf.uk to confirm how you would like us to split the funds.

Information regarding the next booking period of November & December will be issued to parents shortly.

My Child At School (MCAS)

Firstly, we would like to say thank you to all our parents for their support and patience whilst we have launched MCAS. There have been some difficulties, including operational issues with the app and issues with us setting up new payment processes, such as music tuition & trips.

We believe most issues have now been resolved but there may still be some problems for iPhone users when trying to open emails through MCAS. We have been informed that the problem should now be resolved through an app update. Please ensure you update your app and if you have any further problems, please contact us at office@uva.clf.uk.

Please remember, letters can also be accessed on our website www.uphillvillageacademy.co.uk

At the top of your MCAS menu you will see 'Data Collection Sheet'. This menu item allows you to check and update the details we hold about you and your child. Please note that you can only view your own details, not those for other contacts. We would encourage all contacts with parental responsibility to set up an MCAS account, so they can check and update their own details.

If you are a new parent and you have 'Admission Form' at the top of your menu, this means you have not yet provided us with enough information about you and your child.

It is really important that we hold accurate information about you and your child - please check and update these forms as soon as possible.

We are currently streamlining the parent consent section on MCAS and will be contacting parents shortly regarding photo consents to clarify the information we hold on your child(ren).

Year 6 parents can give permission for walking to & from school in the 'parental consent' section of MCAS. Please complete this by 5th October.

GDPR Information

Our children have the opportunity to use online learning programmes which have been carefully selected to support their learning and development. In some cases' your child will be given an individual log-in which will allow them to access a programme at home, primarily to complete homework tasks set by their teacher. In all cases we will only share the minimum amount of personal data required and we will not share more than their forename, surname and class.

Details of the specific programmes your child will use are available from their class teacher. Information on how the programme providers use and store personal information can be provided on request to the school office.

If you have any concerns, please contact the school office.



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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

SEPTEMBER

Monday 29th

Sputnik Class Swimming (3)

Tuesday 30th

2026 Intake - Prospective Parent Tour @ 9:30am

OCTOBER

Wednesday 1st

Sputnik & Chandra Weston Museum Visit

Thursday 2nd

Voyager Weston Museum Visit

2026 Intake - Prospective Parent Tour @ 9:30am

Monday 6th

Sputnik Class Swimming (4)

Tuesday 7th

2026 Intake - Prospective Parent Tour @ 9:30am

Wednesday 8th

2026 Intake - Prospective Parent Open Evening @ 5:30pm

Monday 13th

Voyager Class Swimming (1)

Year 5/6 - Cheddar Gorge & Caves Trip

Wednesday 15th

Year 2 RNLI Visitor

Parents Evening 3.30pm-7pm - Face to face appointments

Thursday 16th

Parents Evening 3.30pm-7pm - Face to Face & Video call appointments

Flu Immunisations - Years R-6

Thursday 23rd

INSET DAY (school closed to pupils)

Friday 24th

INSET DAY (school closed to pupils)

LAST DAY OF TERM 1

NOVEMBER

Monday 3rd

START OF TERM 2

EYFS Parent Phonics Session @ 8.55am

Thursday 6th

Year 5/6 Cyber Safety Talk

Cyber Safety Parent Session @ 2.20pm - 3.15pm

Monday 10th

Voyager Class Swimming (2)



Important Christmas Dates

Here are some key dates for Christmas to enable parents to plan for this busy time of year!



Monday 8th December - Year 2 Christmas Service @ St Nicholas Church @ 2pm

Wednesday 10th December - EYFS/Year1 Nativity @ 9:15am

Thursday 11th December - EYFS/Year1 Nativity @ 9:15am

Friday 12th December - Year 5/6 Book Look for Parents @ 2:30pm

Year 3/4 will be hosting a Parent Presentation to celebrate their learning through the term and a date will follow shortly.