

Uphill Village Academy

Newsletter 27th September 2024

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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 a Tudor visitor to Y3/4, photos for all classes, 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 18th October from 7.30pm at Weston Cricket Club on the Devonshire Road. 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 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. Booking opens on Tuesday at 6pm. Please make sure you book an appointment to see your child's class teacher to discuss how they have settled into this academic year.

Have a great weekend

Mrs Sam Hodder, Principal

Principal:

Mrs Samantha Hodder

Tel: 01934 626 769

Email: office@uva.clf.uk

Lost Property

Since the start of the academic year we have received a high volume of reported missing jumpers.

Please can you remind your child(ren) that their jumpers are their responsibility to look after and take care of. If their jumper is removed during the school day then the safest place for them to keep it is in their book bags.

Around 70% of lost property found in school is unnamed, making it near impossible to return.

We kindly request that parents invest in iron on or sew in labels, as marker pen quickly fades with washed.

Please use full names and not just initials.

Parents Evenings

A letter was sent to parents yesterday with details of our next Parents Evenings.

Based on parental feedback, we have kept the format of the Autumn Parents Evenings the same as last year. We will offer EYFS & Year 1 face-to-face appointments on both Wednesday 16th October (3.30pm-7.00pm) & Thursday 17th October (3.30pm - 6.30pm)

We will offer Years 2-6 face to face appointments on Wednesday 16th October from 3.30pm – 7.00pm and video call appointments on Thursday 17th October from 4.00pm – 7.00pm.

We will be using the School Cloud Parents Evening Booking System; if you have not used this system, please follow the instructions within the letter issued yesterday. Your log in for this system uses information held on our records, if this is not up to date you may struggle to log in. In readiness of the booking system opening on 1st October, we recommend that parents check they can log in successfully, particularly our new EYFS parents. If you are struggling to log in, please contact the school office.

We would encourage parents to take the opportunity to meet with their child's class teacher to discuss their progress.

Please follow the link to book your child's appointment;

<https://uphill.schoolcloud.co.uk>



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Rolls-Royce

Over 5 School Milk

At morning break children in EYFS, Year 1 & 2 are offered a carton of milk and a healthy snack, they should not bring their own snack in from home. Children in Key stage 2 (Years 3,4,5 & 6) are encouraged to bring in a healthy snack such as a piece of fruit for break time (no crisps or chocolate).

The healthy snack provided for children in EYFS & KS1 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. Your child will be offered this during snack time in school.

Once your child reaches their 5th birthday, they can still have milk during the school day, but it needs to be paid for, in advance, by the parent/carer. Those children who qualify for benefit based free school meals can claim free school milk; please speak to the school office for further details.

If you wish for your child to continue to have milk after their 5th birthday, School Milk Services will provide this.

Please refer to our website, using the link, to access the letter regarding ordering school milk from School Milk Services.

<https://uphillvillageacademy.clf.uk/letters/ordering-milk-for-over-5s-children/>

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. At Uphill Village Academy, our school meals are provided by Aspens and they offer a varied, healthy hot meal option 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.

Universal Infant Free School Meals

Universal infant free school meals (UIFSM) provides funding for all government funded schools to offer free school meals to pupils in reception, year 1, and year 2. Put simply, parents will not be charged for their child having a hot school meal at school each day.

Benefit Related Free School Meals

It is really important that if you think your child is eligible for free school meals, however briefly, you should claim. Our Learning Mentor, Mrs deScossa, has further details on the benefits available for eligible pupils.

North Somerset Council provides an online application service for free school meals. Full details, including a link to the application process, can be found at <https://uphillvillageacademy.clf.uk/our-academy/school-meals/>

Our School Eco Commitment

As part of our next Eco commitment, to be a greener and more environmentally friendly school, we will be focusing on making our school grounds greener and more inviting for wildlife.

Therefore, if you have any seed packets (flowering plants) and small pots that you no longer need or use, which you are willing to donate to the school, we would be very grateful. Please send these in with child(ren) to Mr Hancock (Sputnik Class Teacher & Eco Lead).



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Extra Curricular Clubs

A letter was emailed to parents this week regarding the availability of extra curricular After School Clubs.

This letter details all of the clubs that will be available throughout the year. Extra Curricula Clubs are only available to children in Years 2 and above currently. Although we are looking to offer clubs for Year 1 children later in the year.

We are about to open the booking system for clubs that will be held in terms 2 & 3 on **Monday 30th September at 6pm**. Apologies the opening time was omitted from the original letter.

All of our clubs are free of charge and operate weekly from 3.15pm - 4.15pm. Outdoor clubs are weather dependent.

Tulip Photography

Last Friday, 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 order slip on Wednesday, if not & you require any assistance, please telephone the school office team or email us on office@uva.clf.uk

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.

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.

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;

September

Monday 30th Sept Chandra Class Swimming (3)

October

Monday 7th Chandra Class Swimming (4)

Monday 14th Chandra Class Swimming ends (5)

Wednesday 16th All Years Parents Evening (face to face)

Thursday 17th EYFS/Year 1 Parents Evening (face to face)

Years 2-6 Parents Evening (video call)

Thursday 24th INSET Day - School closed to pupils

Friday 25th INSET Day - School closed to pupils

END OF TERM 1

Tuesday 31st Deadline for Secondary School Admissions (midnight)

November

Monday 4th START OF TERM 2