

Uphill Village Academy

Newsletter 29th January 2021

Follow us on Twitter for regular updates – [@uphillvillage](https://twitter.com/uphillvillage)



Message from the Principal

Dear Parents & Carers,

We are halfway through this term and beginning to settle into our new routines in this current lockdown. I'm sure many of you are aware the Prime Minister made a statement to Parliament yesterday regarding plans for re-opening schools at the earliest possible opportunity.

A possible return date of 8th March was mentioned but it was made very clear that this would only happen when case numbers of Covid-19 were low enough within the community and the vaccination programme remained on track. We await further guidance and will communicate with parents once we have a definitive return date. Until such time we continue to offer our high standards of remote learning alongside support for our families to the best of our ability.

Next week is national Mental Health Awareness Week. This is an annual event but I'm sure you will agree that is more important than ever this year. There will be lots of activities and links to learning for the whole school community to access, either via Teams for the children or on our website <https://uphillvillageacademy.clf.uk/blog/pastoral-and-wellbeing/>

The Oak National Academy will be holding a virtual assembly for Mental Health Awareness Week at 9am on 1st February and we would encourage children to watch. Parents can also find some really useful resources on the Oak National Academy website in regards to supporting your child's mental health during lockdown.

A huge thank you for all you continue to do to support the education of your children we know its not easy but you are doing a fabulous job. Please have a break and enjoy the weekend.

Mrs Samantha Hodder, Principal.

Principal:

Mrs Samantha Hodder

Tel: 01934 626 769

Email: office@uva.clf.uk

Website: www.uphillvillageacademy.clf.uk

Nut Free School

Uphill Village Academy is a nut free school.

Please ensure that children do not bring any nuts or nut products in their packed lunches or for snacks.

This includes;

Peanut butter sandwiches

Nutella spread sandwiches

Cereal bars containing nuts or traces of nuts

Packets of nuts

Products containing sesame seeds

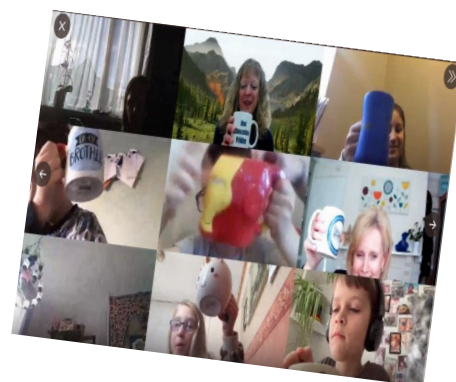
Food items containing nut products may need to be removed from a child so thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

Hot Chocolate Friday is back - Virtually!



Hot Chocolate Friday would normally be held in school. One child from each class who has demonstrated an excellent attitude to learning is invited to join Mrs Hodder & Mrs Hetherington to share a hot chocolate. We were delighted to once again celebrate Hot Chocolate Friday with children, even if it could only happen virtually!

Mrs Hodder thoroughly enjoyed talking to the children about what they had learned in the week & of course having a hot chocolate and a biscuit makes it even better!!



Working in partnership with



Rolls-Royce

Remote Learning Survey

Thank you to everyone who completed our Remote Learning Survey, we had a fabulous response.

I wanted to say thank you for the lovely feedback the staff teams received. The team at Uphill Village Academy are working hard to ensure their high standards of education are maintained throughout these difficult times and your kind words of thanks are greatly appreciated.

Overall the results from the survey were very positive but as always we can all learn and achieve more. The survey has given us some very helpful suggestions on how we could improve or do things differently and this has prompted us to alter some of the ways we do things:

EYFS & Year 1; We will continue to post the resources for the week's work, along with videos, on Tapestry in the memo section. The success of daily check-ins on Teams with other year groups has prompted us to roll this out to EYFS & Year 1 too. Daily check-ins allow teachers and children to see each other and explain what is expected for the day's work. We are currently working hard to set up these year groups on Teams and we will update parents as soon as this becomes available.

Years 2, 3 & 4; These year groups currently use Teams for daily check-ins and refer to the website for their work. However, we have had a few technical issues with the website and the feedback from parents is that they would prefer all the work in one place. With immediate effect the children's work will be available on Teams. All the resources for the work will be attached to the task assignment for each lesson.

Years 5 & 6 ; The feedback from parents and the pupils from these year groups was very positive and we believe we have got the right way of working. However, our year 5 & 6 teachers are working hard to provide more 'live' opportunities for learning and children will be informed of these in their daily check-in.

Struggling with the work? Please remember we offer additional support through our support rooms. These are available to all children - just click to join the meeting.

Check-ins & Keeping in Touch

The morning check-ins have been very successful. It allows class teachers to say good morning to the children and set the work and focus for the day; helping the children to fully prepare for the day. As an Academy we have found check-ins to be an invaluable part of the school day and we hope the children benefit from them too.

We expect all children to attend the daily check-in.

9.00am—Year 2, 5 & 6 9.15am —Year 3 & 4

If you experience any difficulties, have questions or have any feedback don't hesitate to get in touch at the following addresses:

EYFS/Yr1	eyfsandyear1@uva.clf.uk
Yr 2	yeartwo@uva.clf.uk
Yr 3/4	year3and4@uva.clf.uk
Yr 5/6	year5and6@uva.clf.uk
Admin	office@uva.clf.uk
Pastoral	learningmentor@uva.clf.uk
Safeguarding	safeguarding@uva.clf.uk

Staff Testing

The government has launched to 'Lateral Flow Home Testing Programme for Primary Schools' and, as an Academy, we will begin implementing twice weekly lateral flow tests for all our staff. This positive development will replace the weekly lateral flow testing for our staff that took place at Broadoak Academy.

We are taking part in this testing regime to help us identify any staff that may be asymptomatic and help curb the spread of the virus.

Foodbank Donations

If anyone wishes to make a food donation to Weston Foodbank but can't travel to their site, someone in the village collects donations and delivers them to the Foodbank. Donations can be left in the porch at 35 Thornbury Road, Uphill.

The following items are most needed; tinned potatoes, tinned fish, instant soup, instant hot chocolate, tinned vegetables, juice, squash, jam and honey. Donations are always gratefully received.



Working in partnership with



Home Learning - 10 Top Tips for Parents

At National Online Safety we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information they need to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one platform of many which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.



REMOTE EDUCATION 10 TOP TIPS FOR PARENTS

Remote education ensures continuous learning outside the classroom. For parents and carers, remote education isn't always straightforward and there can be a number of factors they need to consider, especially around ensuring their children feel comfortable and are familiar with the whole concept. That's why we've created this guide to help parents and carers support their child in getting the most out of their remote education experience.

1. TAKE AN ACTIVE INTEREST IN YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING

As a parent or carer, your school may have explained how remote education works already, but children may still need help. Take an active interest in their learning and help support them whenever they need a helping hand.



2. MONITOR YOUR CHILD'S COMMUNICATION AND ONLINE ACTIVITY

It's important to remind your child that despite being at home, the same level of behaviour and conduct exists as if they were at school. Encourage them to remain polite, remember their manners and not to post or send any negative comments just because they are behind a computer.



3. ESTABLISH A DAILY SCHEDULE AND ROUTINE

Working from home and trying to learn in a more casual setting that children might associate more with play and a degree of freedom might take a bit of getting used to. Try to stick to a daily routine and use the timetable/schedule that schools have sent home to help children keep on top of their daily learning.



4. ENCOURAGE SCREEN BREAKS AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AWAY FROM DEVICES

Remote learning will inevitably require more interaction with computers, laptops and tablets. Teachers will invariably advise on screen breaks; however, it doesn't hurt to keep a check on their time online or encourage them to get some fresh air/exercise.



5. ENSURE YOUR LEARNING DEVICE IS IN PUBLIC SPACE IN THE HOME

It's important to consider where your PC or laptop is placed if live video is being used. Try to keep the background neutral, with no personal information visible and move learning devices out of the bedroom as this could be deemed inappropriate.



6. IMPLEMENT SAFETY CONTROLS AND PRIVACY RESTRICTIONS ON APPS AND SOFTWARE

Dependant on how your school implements remote education, your child may be required to download certain software or apps. Whilst these are likely to be relatively safe to use, like any other new app or platform, parents should still implement safety controls as a precaution.



7. ENSURE YOUR CHILD ONLY USES OFFICIAL SCHOOL COMMUNICATION CHANNELS

It's important that all communication with teachers and school staff is directed through approved school channels, whether that be through the school's online portal or the relevant secure messaging site.



8. FAMILIARISE YOURSELF WITH RELEVANT SCHOOL POLICIES

Schools should have a policy on remote education that they can share with parents. Familiarise yourself with this and ensure you know what is expected of teachers and your child during lessons, both online and offline.



9. MAINTAIN FEEDBACK WITH TEACHERS

Engage in communication with teachers where possible, and try to feed back progress and development as well as any helpful suggestions around the learning process. Be transparent but remain professional and only use official channels to communicate.



10. MONITOR YOUR CHILD'S WELLBEING AND MENTAL HEALTH

Remote education will likely mean that your child won't get the same level of social interaction and might not see their friends for a while. Keep a check on their wellbeing and try to encourage them to get out as much as they can. Whilst learning from home might seem fun and exciting to start to with, missing out on seeing their friends every day might take its toll.



www.nationalonlinesafety.com Twitter - @natonlinesafety Facebook - /NationalOnlineSafety Instagram - @nationalonlinesafety

Sources: Remote education good practice, DfE guidance. | Safeguarding and remote education during coronavirus (COVID-19), DfE guidance. Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 04.11.2020



Working in partnership with

