

Uphill Village Academy

Newsletter 5th November 2021

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Message from the Principal

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to term 2 and I hope you all had a relaxing half term break. Firstly I would like to say thank you to all our families for their support at the end of last term as we faced increased Covid-19 cases due to the issues with the regional PCR testing centre.

We have seen a significant reduction in cases on our return this week and hopefully this will continue through the coming weeks. In the short term, we will be continuing with our increased Covid-19 measures including better ventilation and the introduction of CO2 monitors in each classroom, online meetings and assemblies and limited mixing of classes wherever possible.

We hope that in time we can relax these measures but will keep a close eye on regional numbers before making any decisions. We are busy planning for our Christmas celebrations, and are hopeful that all events can go ahead. Please see our 'Dates for the Diary' section for a flavour of what is to come.

We have had a fabulous start to term 2. This week our Year 3/4 children have had a special Viking visitor to enhance their Viking learning experience. Over the coming weeks, our EYFS & KS1 cohorts will be walking around the village, we have some inter school sporting competitions and we are busy getting ready to experience the fabulous Young Voices Concert in January.

Today is Bonfire Night and I hope everyone gets the chance to enjoy an organised display over the weekend. There are some safety tips from Avon & Somerset Fire Service in this weeks newsletter to help everyone stay safe.

I wish you all a lovely weekend

Mrs Samantha Hodder, Principal

Remembrance

In preparation for Remembrance Day, children will have the opportunity to purchase a Remembrance Day Poppy from Monday 8th November.

If you wish your child to purchase a poppy, please provide them with a small donation; a minimum of 50p is recommended.

We are really proud to be supporting this worthy cause.



Anti-bullying week

Anti-Bullying Week takes place from 15th to 19th November. The theme this year is 'One Kind Word'

To celebrate the start of this we will be supporting 'Odd Socks Day' on Monday 15th November.

Children should wear bright, patterned, colourful odd socks to show their support for Anti Bullying Week.

Our Climate Tree

The Cop-26 Conference held this week in Glasgow has focused everybody's mind on the climate emergency. As a school we have been working on the next part of our Eco-strategy, which is about pledging how we, as individuals, can do our bit to help save our planet.

We have a tree on display in our hall and each leaf is a child's pledge of their commitment.

'I will walk to school once a week' 'I will have a shower to use less water' 'I will eat less meat'

These are just some of the pledges our children are making; small things can make a big difference when we do it together.

Children in Need

Children in Need is held on Friday 19th November. To celebrate and raise funds for this worthy cause, children can wear spotty or yellow non school uniform.

Donations CANNOT be made in cash. Donations should be made via ParentPay using the link

<https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Foc/Default.aspx?>



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Important Food Reminder

Uphill Village Academy is a nut aware school. Please ensure that children do not have any nuts or nut products in their packed lunches or within any snacks they have at breaktimes.

This includes;

Peanut butter or Nutella spread within sandwiches

Cereal bars or biscuits containing nuts or sesame seeds. Allergic reactions to nuts can be very serious and for the safety of other children, items of food containing nut may need to be removed from a child. Everyone's co-operation in this matter is very much appreciated

Trophy Return

If your child was awarded a trophy at the last Celebration Assembly in July, please ensure it is returned to school by Friday 3rd December.

Free School Meals

If you are already in receipt of **Benefit Related Free School Meals** for your child (not to be confused with Universal Infant Free School Meals) please **DO NOT** reapply using the North Somerset application process, as you may lose your entitlement.

Christmas Events

We are currently planning our Christmas activities and wanted to share with parents some key events that we hope to be able to invite parents to this year.

Our EYFS/Year 1 team are busy rehearsing their Nativity and we would hope to invite two adults for each child to see their fabulous efforts. The performances will be split into 3, where the whole of EYFS & Year 1 will perform to the parents of each class; Rainbow Class on Tuesday 7th December, Sunshine Class on Wednesday 8th December and Saturn Class on Thursday 9th December. Further details will be sent to parents over the next week regarding the ordering of tickets.

Our Year 2 children will be holding their Christmas Service at St Nicholas Church on Tuesday 7th December, when they will treat us to some Christmas readings and songs. Again, further details will be sent to parents over the next week regarding the ordering tickets.

In conjunction with our PTFA we will be holding a small scale Christmas Bazaar on Friday 10th December from 2.30pm. We will kick off the Bazaar with some carols sung by our KS2 children and there will be a few stalls including a chocolate tombola, raffle and maybe a special guest! This will be weather dependant as it will be held in the rear playground.

Christmas Dinner will be on Wednesday 15th December. Children in EYFS & KS1 will be automatically ordered a Christmas dinner unless you opt out. Children in KS2 will need to pre order their meal. Full details will follow shortly.

Christmas Parties will be on various afternoons in the last week of term and thank you to our brilliant PTFA who will once again be providing party food boxes for the children to enjoy.

We are very excited to be able to celebrate the Christmas build up this year and hope all our families will be able to enjoy these events with us.

PTFA News

Textile Recycling - Tuesday 9th November by 9.00am

Please leave your bagged, unwanted clothing in the marked area on the grass verge on Ellesmere Road (by the large flower box) by 9.00am.

Christmas Chocolate Donations

We are so pleased we can begin planning for the Christmas Bazaar and although it will be a much smaller event we will be including our ever popular Chocolate Tombola! We are asking children to donate one or two chocolate bars for this. Please can they bring the chocolate bars into school w/c 6th December. There will be collection tubs in the front playground.



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Kooth

Did you know that 1 in 5 children and young people suffer from mental health illness in any given year. Kooth was developed to support young people and give them the right to thrive and to access high quality mental health care.

Kooth.com is commissioned by the NHS, Local Authorities, charities and businesses to provide anonymous and personalised mental health support for Children and Young People.

[Kooth.com](https://www.kooth.com) is available for all young people aged 10-18+ with free, safe and anonymous wellbeing support and advice. Accessible from any internet enabled device, Kooth is available every day.

The South West Team will be running a regional webinar on the 8th December 4.00pm for Parents and Carers who would like to know more about Kooth: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/198299648587>

Mental health awareness and support is crucial for keeping our children safe and healthy for their futures. Please remember we have support available within school through our learning mentors if you feel your child is struggling with a mental health need. Contact us on learningmentor@uva.clf.uk



Bonfire Night Safety



Sparklers

- Supervise children using sparklers and follow instructions on the packaging.
- Light sparklers one at a time.
- Wear gloves and keep sparklers at arm's length.
- You can put the end of a sparkler in a carrot, making it safer to hold.
- Put used sparklers in a bucket of water.



Fireworks

- Only buy fireworks marked with the British Safety Standard: 7114 or CE safety mark.
- Store safely in a closed box out of children's reach.
- Light fireworks at arm's length and stand well back.
- Never return to a lit firework: if it hasn't gone off, it could still explode.



Parking Concerns

We have had a number of complaints from our local residents regarding the parking of vehicles on the roads around the village at drop off and collection times.

We are asking all parents, that drive their child(ren) to and from school, to please be mindful of our neighbours.

There are particular issues on St Nicholas Road, opposite the school and Ellesmere Road, at the side of the school. Please do NOT park on the grass verges or on the corner of St Nicholas Road leading onto Old Church Road. Be mindful of not blocking driveways or making it difficult for cars to exit their own driveways because cars are parked without consideration.

The North Somerset Council Parking Enforcement Officers and Avon & Somerset Police are regularly visiting the village at drop off and collection times and will issue fixed penalty notices.

Everyone's co-operation in this matter is very much appreciated.

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;

<https://uphillvillageacademy.clf.uk/events/>

November

Tuesday 9th	Voyager Class Swimming PTFA Textile Recycling @ 9.00am
Wednesday 10th	EYFS & Year 1 Postbox Walk
Monday 15th	Anti - Bullying Week - Children should wear odd socks to school
Tuesday 16th	Prospective Parent Tour (Intake Sept 2022) @ 9.30am Voyager class Swimming
Wednesday 17th	Prospective Parent Tour (Intake Sept 2022) @ 9.30am
Thursday 18th	Flu Immunisation Clinic Years R - 6 (provisional date)
Friday 19th	Children In Need - Wear something yellow or spotty
Tuesday 23rd	Year 2 Walk Around the Village Voyager Class Swimming
Thursday 25th	Prospective Parent Tour (Intake Sept 2022) @ 9.30am
Monday 29th	Year 6 Bikeability Training - all week (selected pupils)
Tuesday 30th	Prospective Parent Tour (Intake Sept 2022) @ 9.30am Voyager Class Swimming

December

Thursday 2nd	Prospective Parent Tour (Intake Sept 2022) @ 9.30am
Tuesday 7th	Year 6 - Height & Weight Measurements EYFS/Year 1 Nativity @ 9.15am - Rainbow Parents viewing Voyager Class Swimming Year 2 Christmas Service @ St Nicholas Church 2.00pm
Wednesday 8th	EYFS/Year 1 Nativity @ 9.15am - Sunshine Parents viewing
Thursday 9th	EYFS/Year 1 Nativity @ 9.15am - Saturn Parents viewing
Friday 10th	Christmas Bazaar 2.30pm - 3.45pm Christmas Jumper Day for Save the Children
Monday 13th	EYFS/Year 1 Christmas party @ 1.30pm PTFA Secret Santa Week (details to follow)
Tuesday 14th	Year 2 Christmas Party @ 1.30pm
Wednesday 15th	Christmas Dinner
Thursday 16th	Year 3 & 4 Christmas Party @ 1.30pm
Friday 17th	Year 5 & 6 Christmas Party @ 1.30pm

END OF TERM 2

INSET Days - Closed to Pupils

Tuesday 4th January 2022

Wednesday 16th March 2022

Friday 8th July 2022

January

Tuesday 4th	INSET Day
Wednesday 5th	Start of Term 3



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