

Welcome Back!

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A very warm welcome back from all the staff at Uphill Village Academy! We're looking forward to another fantastic year filled with learning, laughter and exciting opportunities.

We are sending a short Newsletter this week with some important reminders but we will be sending our usual full Newsletter next week!

Individual & Sibling Photographs

Tulip Photography will be visiting us tomorrow, **Friday 11th September** to take our individual and sibling photographs.

Please ensure that all children come to school wearing their smart school uniform, with hair neat and tidy.

If we have not received your photography permission via MCAS, we will be unable to release the information you will need to be able to purchase your child's photographs. **We have contacted all families that this affects.**

PE Kits

All children should have their PE kit in school in a named bag, ready to change into on their designated PE days. The exception to this is Years 5 and 6, who are able to wear their PE kit to school on their designated PE day. These days were confirmed at the Meet the Teacher meetings.

If you were unable to attend this meeting, this information will be included in the Welcome to Year 5/6 Letter being sent out next week.
PE kit MUST adhere to uniform guidelines.

Swimming - Year 3/4

As shared with parents at the end of the last academic year, all Year 3 and Year 4 children will be taking part in swimming lessons this year.

Voyager Class will begin their swimming lessons next week on **Monday 14th September**.

Please note that all children will need to bring a packed lunch to school on this day, due to timings of the session. We still have some outstanding permissions. If you have not yet given permission, please give permission via MCAS by Friday afternoon.

As outlined in the previous letter, Hutton Moor have confirmed that all children are required to wear a swimming hat. You are welcome to purchase your own swimming hat, or you can purchase one through MCAS for £1.

Late Arrivals

Unfortunately, we have already seen quite a large number of children arriving late to school in our first week back.

Punctuality is a life skill and one we value highly at Uphill Village Academy. Late arrival causes distress to the child concerned and causes disruption to class work.

The school gates open at 8.35am and are closed at 8.45am, if your child arrives after this they will receive a late mark in the registers.

We understand sometimes unavoidable things happen in the mornings, in which case, please telephone the school office to make us aware as soon as you are able.

Please ensure your child arrives on time on each and every morning.

Free School Meals

From the start of the 2026/27 academic year, the Government has expanded FSM eligibility to all children from households in receipt of Universal Credit regardless of household earnings.

From September 2026, there are two categories of benefit related free school meals:

Expanded FSM – all children from households in receipt of Universal Credit regardless of income.

Targeted FSM – children from households in receipt of Universal Credit with annual earnings of £7,400 or less.

These children will attract pupil premium and other disadvantage funding for schools and will be eligible for additional entitlements, such as the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme, financial support towards school trips, KS2 music lessons, uniform and milk.

If, as a result of the expanded eligibility criteria, you would like to apply for FSMs you should do this via [UVA FSM Eligibility Checker](#)



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