



UPLANDS MANOR PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Friday 10th July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Year 6 children in school next week

Next week, Year 6 have their second transition day at school. This is on the same day as it was last week (e.g. if your child came in on Tuesday this week then they come into school on Tuesday next week).

- As it is their last day at Uplands Manor, we have arranged a **picnic for Year 6 on the days that they are in school – this is being paid for by school and the children will not need to bring in a packed lunch.**

Plans for September

We have finalised our return to school plan that enables us to welcome back all of our children in September.

I am currently writing **a document for parents to inform you about the measures that will be in place and the systems and procedures that you will need to follow. This will be sent to you at the start of next week.** Please read it carefully and make note of the key points that you will need to know in September.

A few parents have called me to ask about arrangements for September. Please wait for and read the guidance next week – I am confident that it will reassure you that we have considered all measures in line with current government guidance. Please understand that I cannot get into hundreds of individual conversations with parents at this stage.

Miss Chester is writing to all parents of children with EHCPs in school about staffing and transition arrangements for your children. If you have any queries, she can be contacted at senco@uplandsmanor.sandwell.sch.uk.

Items left in school

In march, school closed to most pupils quite suddenly and, as a result, lots of children left personal items in school such as PE kits, coats, stationary etc. **All items are being passed to the new class teachers to give out when we return in September.** We are not getting rid of anything or sending it to lost property at this stage.

Nursery Places for September

If you have a child of nursery age (3 or 4 years old) and you would like to enquire about a place in our school nursery, please contact Mrs Bennett at eyfs@uplandsmanor.sandwell.sch.uk.

- **Any 3-year-old children currently at Tiny Steps should be applying for a place at our school Nursery as they can only provide for 2-year-old places on our site.**

REMINDER: Gifts for staff

A few parents have been in touch to ask about the best way to thank staff and to give them end of year gifts. This is really kind and gifts are always very much appreciated. **Please can I ask that you hold onto any gifts and send them into school with your child in September** to avoid us having lots of extra adults and items coming into school as it puts everyone at an increased risk. Their new teacher can then pass gifts on to other staff. Thank you.

End of year reports

All reports were posted last Friday and the vast majority of parents have received them. Any delays are down to pressures on the postal service. If you have still not received your report by Monday, please get in touch with the school office and they can arrange for an electronic copy to be emailed to you.

Free reading resources

Please see the attached flyer about free reading resources from Booktrust to support you in reading with your child at home.

Farewells

Staff

I wrote to you earlier this term to update you on staffing at school. Now that we are approaching the last week of term, it is time for me to once again thank and offer my best wishes on behalf of the school community to two members of staff who are leaving us - Miss Mazar and Mrs Johnson.

Miss Mazar joined us in march on a short-term contract to teach in 1M following Mr Monk's departure. She has worked hard during a very unusual and challenging term and I would like to wish her the very best for the future.

Mrs Johnson is our Principal Lunchtime Supervisor and has dedicated 15years to serving our school community. She has done an amazing job and made a positive difference to the many children and staff that she has worked with over the years. She will be greatly missed and I would like to extend my thanks to her for all that she has done.

Year 6

It is also the time to say goodbye and good luck to our Year 6 children. This is not the way in which any school wants to part with any of our children, but unfortunately coronavirus has meant that this is a very different year for everyone.

Our Year 6 children have been a wonderful part of our school community. They are kind, thoughtful and hard working. They are polite and helpful and have great ambition. I am extremely proud to be their Head Teacher and, like the rest of the staff, am sad not to have been able to enjoy these past few months with them. I want to wish each and every one of them the very best of luck as they move to their secondary schools and start the next phase of their education. Please come back and tell us how you are getting on and make your next teachers just as proud as you have made us all at Uplands Manor.

Free school meal (FSM) vouchers – summer holiday

We emailed you last week to confirm that the government are issuing FSM vouchers over the summer holiday to eligible families. We are issuing the vouchers on the following dates throughout the summer:

- ❖ To reach your email by Friday 10/7/20 - £15 voucher per child to cover the week beginning 20/7/20. *This is early but we had to use this date due to the system.*
- ❖ To reach your email by Friday 24/7/20 - £30 voucher per child to cover the weeks beginning 27/7/20 and 03/8/20.
- ❖ To reach your email by Friday 7/8/20 - £30 voucher per child to cover the weeks beginning 10/8/20 and 17/8/20.
- ❖ To reach your email by Friday 14/8/20- £15 voucher per child to cover the week beginning 24/8/20.

If you are having issues or difficulties with accessing your vouchers, you can contact us at freeschoolmeals@uplandsmanor.sandwell.sch.uk. *Please note that this email account will only be monitored periodically during the holiday period.*

Going abroad – 14-day quarantine period

Due to coronavirus, there remains a 14-day quarantine period for all people who return from holidays abroad. Please click on the link below to find out which countries are exempt from this rule:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-travel-corridors#travel-corridors-countries-and-territories-exemption-list>

Please do not book a holiday abroad that will result in your child having to quarantine when children return to school in September.

Meet the teacher events in September

You will have received a letter with your child's report about potential dates to meet with your child's new teacher. Given the restrictions that are still in place (and will still be in September) we cannot have groups of parents coming into school and so **these meetings have been cancelled**. We are currently looking for alternative ways that this can be done (for example virtual meetings, pre-recorded messages by the staff) and will let you know what we have decided when we return in September. Thank you for your understanding.

Full school closure over the summer holiday

School has been open every day (including bank holidays) to the children of key workers since schools were forced to close back in March. **We will not be open to any children over the summer** but look forward to welcoming all children back to school in September.

Please note:

- ❖ **Children in Years 1 to 6 will return to school on Thursday 3rd September as planned.**
- ❖ **Reception and Nursery children will have their usual phased starts at school as per the letters sent home to parents.**

Yours faithfully



Mr A Dickinson
Head Teacher