



UPLANDS MANOR PRIMARY SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mr A. Dickinson

Addenbrooke Road, Smethwick, West Midlands, B67 6HT

Email: headteacher@uplandsmanor.sandwell.sch.uk

Website: uplandsmanor.sch.life

Telephone: 0121 558 1602

Thursday 8th February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

Here is the newsletter for next half term. Please read the contents carefully and share them with other parents so that everyone is up to date about what is happening in school and of key messages and reminders.

Please remember - most communication from school will be via email and the School Gateway app. Please ensure you have the app downloaded with push messages switched to 'on.' It is vital that you are using the app for school messages, and that we also have an up to date email address for you as well.

Punctuality

It is extremely important that your child is on time to school every day. The doors close promptly at 8.50am and any children brought to school after this time will need to be taken to the late door.

Too many children are arriving to school late and are missing the start of the day. Please leave home earlier and help make sure your child is brought to school during the drop-off window between 8.40am – 8.50am

Term Time Holiday and Leave of Absence Requests

Please be aware that Holidays and leaves of absence to travel abroad in term time will not be authorised by school. Holidays and visiting family must be booked during the school holiday periods. Penalty notices (fines) will be issued whenever possible if holidays are taken – over 50 were issued to parents at our school last year.

Before any travelling is booked, a leave of absence request form must be submitted to the attendance team using our official form. **Please expect all travel to be unauthorised unless in the most exceptional of circumstances, and for fixed penalty notices to be issued at £60 per parent per child.**

Attendance Concerns – procedures and potential fines

We try to work as closely as we can with families and communicate about any attendance concerns. We send out letters to keep you informed if your child's attendance is dropping towards a level of concern, and also invite parents and carers into school for meetings to discuss attendance and any support that may be required. **It is disappointing that many parents and carers do not attend these meetings with the attendance team.**

Where there are ongoing concerns about attendance, parents and carers are not engaging with school and children continue to have regular days off, a 'red line' letter will be issued informing parents that **continued absence may lead to a penalty notice being issued** – this has already happened with a number of families this year.

Please work with us to ensure your child is at school every day possible.

PE days for the start of the spring term and PE kit reminder

A PE letter has been sent by email to all families, informing you of the PE days for each class next half term. Children should come into school wearing their PE kit on their PE days (as outlined above).

- Reception children should come into school in usual uniform and leave their PE kits in school as getting changed is part of their early years' curriculum.

*Reminder: Children must not wear football kits, designer t-shirts, colourful non-uniform jumper and clothes etc. **They must wear plain black shorts and a plain white t-shirt or polo top, and their red school jumper or cardigan.** Plain dark tracksuit trousers can be worn in colder weather.*

Swimming lessons

Next half term, 5S and 5H will be going swimming again every Tuesday morning. A separate swimming letter has been sent to these classes with further information and details.

Community Events and Support

Information and flyers about events happening in our community can be found on our school's website. Please check this regularly to see what is happening and you can get involved in:

<https://uplandsmanor.sch.life/Page/Detail/community-information>

FSM vouchers over the Half Term Holiday

Sandwell are providing free school meal vouchers again over half term to all children who receive benefit-related free school meals and those who have no recourse to public funds. These are being sent out this week.

This is not the same as universal infant free school meals for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. Only children in these year groups who are eligible for free school meals will be included.

If you think you may be eligible, but are not currently receiving free school meals, please speak with the office who can assist you.

Birthdays

Reminder – on your child's birthday (or the nearest school day if it is at a weekend or in holiday time), they can come into school wearing non-uniform so that they feel special and everyone who sees them can wish them a happy birthday.

Please do not send in cake, sweets or other food. We have a number of allergies and dietary requirements in school and updated our 'food in school' policy a few years ago to ask you not to send food into school to share. Thank you for your support and understanding with this.

Secondary School Offer day

Please note that Year 6 parents will be contacted on Friday 1st March by Sandwell about secondary school offers for September 2024.

Poppy Appeal 2023

Thank you so much for your support for Remembrance Day in November – we managed to raise £599.41 through the sale of poppies, slap bands etc which goes to support the Royal British Legion charity.

SinglePoint – pre-loved uniform event

On Tuesday 13th February from 10am – 2pm, families can collect – for free – pre-loved uniform for our school (some with a logo, some without.) Please visit SinglePoint at their centre: Family Hub, 66-68 Birmingham Street, Oldbury, B69 4DZ

Parent Behaviour and Conduct

Thank you to the vast majority of parents who are respectful and conduct themselves in the right way towards each other and towards staff. Unfortunately, some parents are aggressive towards staff, shout and swear and are extremely disrespectful. We even had a member of staff being grabbed and hurt a couple of weeks ago. It also models disrespectful behaviour to staff in front of children which is extremely damaging and often leads to issues towards staff in school as well. I know I have your support in saying that this is not acceptable and will not be tolerated.

I understand that parents are rightfully protective of their children and can be emotional if something happens in school. However, we are here to help and also want the very best for every child in our care. Any unacceptable conduct towards staff will lead to site bans being issued to parents, preventing them from coming onto the school site at any time.

If you do have a concern, please follow the steps outlined below. For any formal complaints, please find our complaints policy on our school's website.

Reminder - what to do if you have a concern

We try really hard as a school to get things right for you and your children, however, there will be times when you would like to speak with someone at school about a concern that you may have. The escalation procedure for doing this is as follows:

- Speak with your child's teacher about your concern as they can usually resolve things for you
- If not resolved, please arrange to meet or speak with your child's year or phase leader
- If not resolved, please arrange to meet with Mrs Durnall, Mr Flavell, Mrs Chester or Miss James
- If still unresolved, please arrange a meeting with me as Head Teacher

Please be aware that we are a very large school with almost 900 children, and every concern cannot be escalated straight to me as Head Teacher as this is not practical.

First House Celebration Day

Our new house system has got off a great start this term. All children and staff have been allocated a house, and everyone has been excited and working hard to win house points for themselves and for their house. Every week, Mrs Chester updates our house leader boards in the hall to show which house has earned the most house points – and it is always close.

We had our first house celebration day on 2nd February, where everyone dressed up, took part in competitions and assemblies and where we presented our 'house captains' from Year 6 with their badges. We look forward to our next house celebration day in the near future!

I look forward to welcoming all children back to school on Monday 19th February.

Yours faithfully



Mr A Dickinson
Head Teacher

Uplands Manor Calendar - dates for spring 2nd half term:

Please keep this page and refer to it so that you know what is happening in school.

February

- **HALF TERM HOLIDAY: Monday 12th February until Friday 16th February**
- **Monday 19th – all children return to school**
- Monday 19th – Year 3 afterschool clubs start
- Monday 19th – 1G & 1C visit to Thimblemill library
- Wednesday 21st – 1W visit to Thimblemill library
- Wednesday 21st @ 9am – Year 4 Maths workshop for parents
- Tuesday 27th – 4S visit to Pizza Express
- Tuesday 27th – 3G visit to Thimblemill library
- Tuesday 27th – Parents' evening
- Wednesday 28th – 3GS visit to Thimblemill library
- Wednesday 28th – 3S class assembly @ 9am
- Thursday 29th – 3S visit to Thimblemill library
- Thursday 29th – Parents' evening

March

- Friday 1st – secondary school offer day
- Friday 1st – 3P visit to Thimblemill library
- Friday 1st – RM 'Family Friday' session for parents
- Wednesday 6th – Year 3 Reading workshop for parent
- Thursday 7th – World Book Day (details to be sent out separately)
- Friday 8th - RO 'Family Friday' session for parents
- Tuesday 12th – 4A visit to Pizza Express
- Wednesday 13th – 4A class assembly @ 9am
- Friday 15th – 5W class assembly @ 9am
- Friday 15th – Comic Relief
- Tuesday 19th – 4H visit to Pizza Express
- Tuesday 19th & Wednesday 20th – Nursery 'stay and play' session (details to be sent out separately)
- Wednesday 20th – Lodge 'stay and play' session (details to be sent out separately)
- Thursday 21st – Reception Easter Bonnet Parade @ 9am
- Friday 22nd – all children break up for Easter Holiday
- **Easter holiday from Monday 25th March to Friday 5th April**

All children return to school on Monday 8th April for the summer term

There may need to be changes to some of the dates above; there may equally be some extra dates added. We will communicate these with you whenever this is needed.

School Online Calendar

Please note, our website has the school calendar published on it with correct information about dates and events. Please check it regularly:

<https://uplandsmanor.sch.life/Page/Calendar>

TERM DATES ARE PUBLISHED ON OUR WEBSITE – PLEASE DO NOT BOOK TRIPS ABROAD OR HOLIDAYS DURING TERM TIME.