Dear Parents and Carers

On Tuesday 20th July we break up for the summer holiday. It has been a challenging year and I would like to thank you for your ongoing support and positive feedback. By working together, we have managed to do our very best for the children who have shown incredible resilience and determination. I am extremely proud of how well they have coped and how hard they have worked. They are a real credit to you and to our school.

This end of year letter contains some important information, including timings and procedures for when we return in September. Please read and make a note of the key information below.

**Timings of the School Day in September**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Group</th>
<th>Timings for drop-off and collection</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Manor Nursery</td>
<td>9.00am – 3.00pm</td>
<td>Nursery entrance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reception</td>
<td>8.45am – 3.10pm</td>
<td>Morning: RB + RJC via main playground RM via EYFS entrance Afternoon: all classes from the main playground</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>8.45am – 3.10pm</td>
<td>Main playground</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>8.45am – 3.10pm</td>
<td>Morning: 2J+ 2S via the Y2 ramp 2F + 2B via the side stairs Afternoon: 2J + 2S from the Y2 ramp 2B from the staffroom 2F from the stairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>8.50am – 3.15pm</td>
<td>Main playground</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>8.50am – 3.15pm</td>
<td>Main playground</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>8.50am – 3.20pm</td>
<td>Morning: Thompson Rd entrance Afternoon: Main playground</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>8.50am – 3.20pm</td>
<td>Morning: Thompson Rd entrance Afternoon: Main playground</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**September – COVID Procedures**
The government has updated guidance for schools in light of the removal of most COVID restrictions this month. In summary, guidance for schools is as follows:

- **Children will no longer be grouped into bubbles.** Only children returning positive cases will have to isolate (along with their household). All other contacts in school will be notified but will not have to isolate – they can continue to attend school but should take a precautionary PCR test.
- There will no longer be the option for sibling drop off and collection from school.
- We will continue to ensure that school is kept well ventilated and that staff and children regularly wash and sanitise their hands throughout the day.
- The school day will no longer be staggered and we will not have a one-way system in place.
- We will have an outbreak management plan in place in case we have a large number of cases in our school or are advised by Public Health to implement preventative measures due to a rise in cases.

We will continue to ask families to be careful and vigilant when on the school site to ensure that our community is as safe as possible – COVID hasn’t disappeared and we must all do our part to keep any risks of transmission to a minimum.
September - Expectations
It is important that we return in September having the highest expectations and standards of the children again. By having high standards, we create high expectations – given the amount of time out of school over the past year, this is more important than ever. Please make sure:

➢ Your child is **wearing the correct uniform every day** – our uniform policy is on our website at https://uplandsmanor.sch.life/Page/Detail/policies
➢ Your child is **on time** (being dropped off and collected) and that they are **in school every day**. Our school target is at least 96% attendance for all children
➢ Children have the **correct PE kit in school** on their PE days (children will no longer be wearing their PE kit on school on PE days)
➢ **Home learning tasks are completed** and, if children are off school isolating, remote learning is engaged with and completed
➢ **Children behave well and that school is supported** in addressing any concerns that may arise

Award Winners
Well done to all our ABC core value award winners across school this year. Awards have been given out for: Achievement, Belief, Creativity, Determination, Enthusiasm. We have also given out sports and citizenship awards.

We have also awarded three very special awards this year:
❖ The **Musician of the Year Award** to Sasha Tanner-D’Cruz
❖ The **Laura Rowley Award** for citizenship to Muhammed Muhammed-Batool
❖ The **Debbie Climpson Sports Award** to Diana Haroon

It is always hard for staff to choose winners as all of our children make us so proud, but it is always wonderful to celebrate how well children have one throughout the year.

School Accreditations
I am delighted to share with you that we have achieved two school awards over the past 12 months.

✓ **UNICEF’s Rights Respecting School Award** – we have achieved the bronze award and will be working towards the silver award next year. Thank you to Mrs Dhir who has been leading on this. You can find out more information here: https://www.unicef.org.uk/rights-respecting-schools/the-rrsa/what-is-a-rights-respecting-school/
✓ **Sandwell’s Wellbeing Chart Mark** – this is a prestigious award and is in recognition of our hard work and support for the wellbeing of our school community: staff, children and parents. Thank you to Miss Holsey who has been championing and leading on this. You can find out more information here: https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/info/200343/wellbeing_charter_mark/4225/about_the_sandwell_wellbeing_charter_mark

Free School Meals
Parents of children currently in Year 2 – please be aware that your child will not be entitled to universal infant free school meals when they are in Year 3. This means you will either need to send your child with a packed lunch or pay for school dinners using our app. **Children entitled to benefits-related free school meals will continue to receive these in September.**

Children entitled to benefit-related **free school meals (and those without recourse to public funds) are being provided with a £70 voucher by Sandwell LA for the summer holiday.** The voucher will be issued by school using Wonde – the system we used before. You should have received communication about this already.

Eid Mubarak
Many staff, children and families in our community will be celebrating Eid ul-Adha next week. I would like to wish everyone a happy and joyful celebration. **Children celebrating Eid will be authorised to have one day off school so long as school is notified in advance.** My understanding is that Eid will be celebrated from the evening of Monday 19th July and so requests are expected to be for Tuesday 20th July.

Good luck
➢ Miss Iqbal, one of our Year 3 teachers, is getting married this summer. When she returns to school in September, she will be Mrs Hussain. I would like to wish her the best of luck on her very special day.
Mrs Darling, one of our teaching assistants, is starting her maternity leave during the summer. We wish her well at this special time.

Mrs Nye, another of our teaching assistants, is also starting her maternity leave during the summer. Again, we wish her well at this special time.

**Staff leavers**

We have a number of staff leaving us at the end of this term. They have all been positive and integral members of our team at Uplands and I would like to thank them for their hard work, support and dedication to making our school the very best that it can be. I am sure you will join me in wishing them every success and happiness for the future.

- Mrs Bird, one of our teaching assistants, is retiring after more than 15 years of service to the school.
- Miss Steward, one of our Nursery teachers, is moving to be a Reception teacher in another local school
- Miss Bailey, one of our teaching Assistants, is leaving to continue with her studies
- Miss Smith (Teaching Assistant) is leaving us at the end of this term
- Mr Cooper, our IT Network Manager, is relocating to Wales this summer
- Miss Burdett has worked for us as an extra cleaner during COVID and her contract ends this summer
- Miss Clewer, one of our Lunchtime Supervisors in Nursery, is leaving
- Mrs Rose has worked as a regular supply teacher in Year 4 this year
- Miss Robinson has worked as a regular supply teacher in Year 2 this year
- Miss Baker has worked as a Maths Academic Mentor this year as part of our ‘catch-up programme
- Ms Malik has worked in our front office, covering a long term staff absence

**Year 6 Leavers**

Next week we say good bye to our Year 6 children. Many have grown up at our school and it is always sad when they leave us for secondary school. I hope that over the past 7 or 8 years the children have learnt the skills and knowledge they need to be able to go and make successes of their lives – importantly, I hope they remember the lessons they have learnt about valuing and respecting others and how to act as responsible, thoughtful and kind members of society. The sky is the limit and I know this wonderful group of children will go on to achieve amazing things.

As a new chapter starts in their lives, the whole Uplands Manor community wishes them every success and happiness in the future. Thank you all for the joy you have brought to us all – we care deeply about each and every one of you and you will always be welcome back as part of the Uplands family. Good luck!

**Thank you**

Thank you parents and carers for trusting us to care for and educate your children this year. Your support and hard work are invaluable – do not underestimate the importance of parental support and partnership work with school. It is very much valued and appreciated.

I must also thank my team of staff – teachers, teaching assistants, office staff, site staff, lunchtime staff etc. Each and every one plays a vital role in providing the very best that we can for your children. This has been an extremely challenging year and they have risen to the challenge so well. I feel proud of each and every one of my team.

I would also like to thank our school’s governors who volunteer their own precious time to support and challenge the school. Their role is often a thankless one as it is unseen but their dedication and commitment is invaluable.

Finally, I wish all of you a very happy and enjoyable summer break. **Our last day of term is Tuesday 20th July. I very much look forward to welcoming all of our children back to school on Monday 6th September.**

Yours faithfully

Mr A Dickinson
Head Teacher