



# UPLANDS MANOR PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March 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.*

## **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.**

## **PE days for the start of the summer 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.*

**Standards have slipped in relation to PE kit in school, and staff have been asked to challenge this and issue green letters where incorrect PE kit is being worn. Please support us with improving this and having high expectations of our children at all times.**

## **Uniform Expectations**

Please ensure your child is wearing the correct school uniform every day. Children should not be wearing white, coloured or designer trainers, tracksuit bottoms, or jewellery such as dangling earrings, chains or necklaces or bracelets,

Our uniform policy can be found on the policies page of our school website:

<https://uplandsmanor.sch.life/Page/Detail/policies>

### **FSM vouchers over the Easter 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, but are now at a reduced rate of £15 in total per child, not per 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.

### **Reminder - 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.

### **RHSE (Relationships, Health and Sex Education) next term**

In June, we will be covering the 'Changing Me' units as part of our PSHE (including RHSE) curriculum. So that parents and carers are aware of what content will be covered in key stage 2, meetings have been planned for you to attend and hear about our provision, view any resources and ask questions. Meeting dates are:

- Year 3 – 15<sup>th</sup> April at 9am
- Year 4 – 22<sup>nd</sup> April at 9am
- Year 5 – 10<sup>th</sup> April at 9am
- Year 6 – 24<sup>th</sup> April at 9am

Meetings will be being led by Mr Flavell in our school hall. Parents are to wait on the main playground at the start of the day, and will be brought into school once we have welcomed in all of our children.

### **Parent Governor Vacancy**

We currently have a vacancy for a new parent governor at our school. This is an important and valued role and we are looking for a committed parent or carer to join our governors and help lead our school into the future.

Information packs can be collected from our main school reception or requested electronically by emailing [headteacher@uplandsmanor.sandwell.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@uplandsmanor.sandwell.sch.uk). The deadline for applications is 3.30pm on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April, and there will be a parent/carers election after this.

If you have any questions about the role, I am more than happy to speak with you to answer them.

### **Swimming lessons**

Next half term, 5E and 5W will be going swimming again every Tuesday morning starting on 16<sup>th</sup> April. 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 can get involved in:

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

### **Staffing Update**

There are a few staffing changes to make you aware of for the summer term:

#### **SENCO Role**

Mrs Bullock is leaving Uplands Manor on 24<sup>th</sup> April to take up a post as an Assistant Head Teacher at another school. I want to express my sincere thanks for her hard work and support, and wish her every success in her new role.

I am delighted to welcome Mrs Kiran Dulai to our team at the end of April. She has been working as a SENCO already for a number of years, and joins us with a wealth of experience and expertise.

#### **2F Maternity Cover**

Mrs Flavell is due to go on maternity leave at the end of April. I am delighted to announce that Miss Begum has been appointed to cover her maternity leave, and will be teaching in 2F for the remainder of this school year. 2F's teaching assistants will remain the same and are not changing.

There has been transition work carried out between Mrs Flavell and Miss Begum which will carry on throughout April, and Year 2 children have already met Miss Begum as she has started with us this week as part of a detailed and thorough handover.

#### **Nursery**

Mrs Hodgkiss is leaving Uplands Manor after 13 years of service. I would like to thank her for all she has done for our school over this period and wish her luck for the future.

Mrs Jordan has returned to work following her maternity leave, and she will be replacing Mrs Hodgkiss in Nursery on Mondays and Tuesday every week.

#### **5H Update**

Mrs Hussain remains off work, and so Miss Soneri will be continuing as the teacher in 5H in the summer term. She is a strong teacher who has been carrying out a really good job in 5H, and I am thankful that she is able to help us provide consistency and a high-quality education to the children in this class.

### **Autism Acceptance Day**

We are holding an autism acceptance day on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April – children are invited to come into school wearing bright colours on this day to represent the colours of the spectrum. Mrs Bullock and Mrs Chester will be leading assemblies for the children to raise awareness of and to celebrate people with autism in our community.

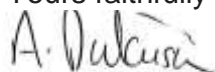
### **Year 6 SATS**

Year 6 SATs week starts on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May. Information has already been shared with parents and carers at a meeting this term, and more information will be sent out to you nearer the time.

Please reassure your children that there is nothing to worry about, and all we ask is that they are in school and on time and that they try their very best.

**I look forward to welcoming all children back to school on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April.**

Yours faithfully



Mr A Dickinson  
Head Teacher

## Uplands Manor Calendar - dates for summer 1<sup>st</sup> half term:

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

### **EASTER HOLIDAY: Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March – Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April**

➤ **All children return to school on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April for the summer term**

#### **April**

- Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April - Year 4 visit to Old Church, Smethwick
- Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April – Year 5 RSE meeting for parents @ 9am
- Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April – Year 2 Inspire Workshops (2F 9am, 2C 10.30am, 2S 1.30pm)
- Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April – RJC Family Friday @ 9am
- Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April – Year 3 RSE meeting for parents @ 9am
- Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April – Autism Awareness Day
- Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April – 3G Inspire Workshop @ 9am
- Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April – Year 5 to Bristnall Hall Academy Dance Extravaganza
- Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April – 3S Inspire Workshop @ 9am
- Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April – Year 2 visit to Old Church, Smethwick
- Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April – 4S visit to Thimblemill Library
- Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April -3P Inspire Workshop @ 9am
- Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April – 4H visit to Thimblemill Library
- Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April – 3GS Inspire Workshop @ 9am
- Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April – 4FS visit to Thimblemill Library
- Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April – 4A visit to Thimblemill Library
- Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April - Year 4 RSE meeting for parents @ 9am
- Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April – 3GS class assembly @ 9am
- Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April - Year 6 RSE meeting for parents @ 9am
- Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April – 5S class assembly @ 9am

#### **May**

- Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May – RO class assembly @ 9am
- Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May – 4S class assembly @ 9am
- **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May – BANK HOLIDAY – SCHOOL CLOSED**
- Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May – 2F class assembly @ 9am
- Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May – 2F visit to Thimblemill Library
- Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May – RJC class assembly @ 9am
- Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May – 2C visit to Thimblemill Library
- Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May – 2S visit to Thimblemill Library
- Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May – Year 6 SATs Week
- Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May – 2C class assembly @ 9am
- Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May – 3P class assembly @ 9am
- Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May – RM class assembly @ 9am
- Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May – 2S class assembly
- Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May – 5H class assembly @ 9am
- Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May – School Class Photographs
- **Half term holiday from Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May**

*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, INCLUDING FOR 2024-2025. A COPY IS ALSO ATTACHED TO THIS EMAIL FOR YOUR REFERENCE**

**– PLEASE DO NOT BOOK TRIPS ABROAD OR HOLIDAYS DURING TERM TIME.**