



UPLANDS MANOR PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Dear Parents / Carers,

We are halfway through the academic year – how time flies! It is a good opportunity for me to update you on all the exciting events and progress made at Uplands.

Progress on key areas:

- Whole school **attendance** is currently 94%, and higher than last year. We value the relationships we build with parents to support you to get your children to school – we will work hard with you to ensure this continues to improve.
- **Y6 predicted results** for this year are looking like our highest in more than three years – please encourage your children to do their revision, homework and attend our booster classes! This shows the hard work that is going into improving **basic skills**.
- Our recent **phonics audit** with the English Hub shows the importance we place on **early reading**, and the amount of progress pupils make at Uplands. Once pupils can read, they are able to achieve so much more in school, and their confidence can soar.
- **After school clubs** continue to go from strength to strength with our great choice of clubs for each key stage. We value the importance of **wider life skills** and opportunities, and this helps us help your children. Please read our letters to get your children signed up.
- Our new catering company are providing tasty meals which are going down well with pupils! The healthy menus offer pupils a good choice, along with fresh bread and fruit water. Thank you to all parents for downloading the app and getting your children's meals ordered.
- The **extension of the school day will start from 28th April, and all main school pupils will leave by 3.20pm**. This will help all parents when collecting lots of children from school.
- Wellbeing and mental health continues to be a priority for the whole school and community – we continue to offer and pay for counselling for our families and are ensuring we have staff trained in different levels of **mental health support**.
- Mr Flavell is finding out more about the Diana Award for **anti-bullying**, so we can train playground buddies to offer support for pupils and reflect as a school on our provision.
- Pupil questionnaire feedback showed that pupils wanted us to ensure that **work was more challenging, and lessons were interesting and fun**. We have had staff training sessions on adapting lessons to meet the needs of all learners including the more able and continue to work on engagement, with leaders supporting year group planning time. Homework will be a priority for next year.

Events this term:

- We have learned lots when we welcomed the Egyptians to Y3, Vikings to Y4 and Wonderdome in Y5 – bringing our history and science learning to life
- Some of our looked after pupils get to spend time with Huggle Pets, who visit us with their animals to spend time with our pupils, for animal assisted therapy
- Our football players competed in a football tournament at West Bromwich Albion
- The local PCSOs visited Nursery to talk to them about people who help us
- Reception classes completed a visit of the local area
- Our Y6 Eco-Councillors have been making plans to save the environment and complete weekly litter picks to look after our school environment.
- Sandwell's mobile Family Hub visited us again to offer support to families on the playground after school and offered us their mobile library too – it is always so well attended.
- Y5 continue to swim this year

Latest News:

- Reception and Y6 obesity rates in Sandwell are some of the highest in the country. As a result, Sandwell are offering a range of different incentives to **engage pupils and families to become more physically active, emotionally supported, and to develop their knowledge of healthy eating, mealtimes and growing their own food.** If you would like to have support in these areas then please email headteacher@uplandsmanor.sandwell.sch.uk and we can put your name forward for support from Sandwell.

All support is free and includes activities such as Malthouse Activity Centre, Supermarket Shop Tour for free advice on how to save money on your shopping and you get a free £5 gift voucher, food growing and activity day, and growing food at the allotments. Let us know what you are interested in.

- The Dorothy Parkes Centre also have the **Community Fridge** – Dotty's Fridge, available to all in the community to share or take food. It is open Tuesdays and Fridays from 10am to 2pm.

We all return to school on Monday 24th February. I wish you a very lovely half term holiday.

Very best wishes



Mrs R Keen
Headteacher

