



December 2024

Dear Parents / Carers,

I am writing to update you on all we have achieved this term, and what a busy term it has been! We have lots to celebrate. From our work supporting the elderly at the Dorothy Parkes Centre, our 100% safeguarding assessment report from Sandwell, our fabulous football team's achievements and our wonderful music lessons through school, there is lots to be proud of at Uplands Manor.

At the start of the year, I promised parents the following **school improvement actions**, and here is an update as to our progress:

1. An increased amount of **after school clubs** – the number of clubs each term has significantly increased, as we now offer all key stages clubs every term. We have also increased the range of clubs we are offering. This will continue throughout the year.
2. A focus on **anti-bullying** – pupil questionnaire responses tell us that 91% of pupils feel that we properly deal with any bullying concerns; a real strength of the school. Parent questionnaire feedback shows us that parents aren't sure about how well we deal with bullying, so it's good to see that your children see the effectiveness daily.
3. Raise the profile of **mental health and wellbeing** in our school and community – we offer families Single Point support, Early Help support and continue to get pupil assessments completed via educational psychologist reports and CAMHS. As a staff team, we have had our first session on 'Wellbeing' and understanding that everyone's wellbeing is different.
4. Key focus on **reading and writing skills** – our staff meetings this term have been dedicated to key English skills. We are looking forward to seeing how pupils have scored on their assessments so we can ensure accelerated progress, and pupils enjoying their English lessons.
5. **Attendance** focus – our new attendance policy has highlighted the importance of support for families, to prevent fining. We all know the importance of getting your children to school, and the right to a full-time education. We are here to support you if there are barriers at home. Please contact Mrs Ford via the school office if we can support you. Our whole school attendance is currently 94%, higher than this time last year, but the government's target for us is 96%, so please continue to work with us to address any barriers. It is important that even if you have one child who is poorly that you still bring other children, and that you don't take holidays in term time.

### Parent Questionnaire Feedback showed us:

97% of parents state that their child is happy at our school 😊

95% of parents state that their child feels safe at school 😊

90% of parents state that their child makes good progress at school 😊

91% state that their child is well looked after at our school 😊

90% of parents state that their child is well taught at school 😊

These are amazing questionnaire responses and show the strength and importance of home and school collaboration at Uplands Manor.

**We know we still need to work with parents on:**

- a) Some parents feel that pupil behaviour needs to improve – please come into school and participate in our workshops. You will see first-hand how good behaviour is through school. I will be reviewing the behaviour policy next year.
- b) Some parents don't feel that bullying is dealt with – look at your children's questionnaire responses though. 91% of pupils state that it is dealt with effectively, so I hope that reassures parents that there are good systems in place. We will be ensuring that there is anti-bullying training for pupils in the new year.
- c) Some parents feel that school does not always respond well to concerns it raises. Please email [headteacher@uplandsmanor.sandwell.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@uplandsmanor.sandwell.sch.uk) if you do not feel your concerns have been dealt with appropriately. Whenever a parent has a concern, speak to the classroom assistant / class teacher first, and if it is not resolved at that stage, let us know via the email above, as a leader will contact you.

**Pupil Questionnaire Feedback tells us:**

- a) Bullying is dealt with
- b) Pupils feel safe in school
- c) Pupils know to respect people from other backgrounds

**Pupils are not as sure about:**

Having challenging work, lessons being interesting and fun, and homework. We have asked teachers to work on this with their class and year leaders will be gathering actions as a result to ensure pupils feel happier about this.

**Mrs Round:**

Mrs Round retires this week. We would like to thank her for her years of dedication to the pupils and families of Uplands. She will be greatly missed. Our safeguarding support continues with our new DSL lead Ms Fox. I'm sure you will meet her in due course and will give her a warm Uplands welcome!

**Christmas Holidays:**

That just leaves me to say thank you. Thank you to all the school community who have made me feel so welcome during my first term at Uplands. What a special community we are!

I wish you all the very best Christmas holiday. We return to school on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January. Stay safe.

Very best wishes



Mrs R Keen  
Headteacher

