



A message from the Chair of Governors

Easter is nearly upon us; the most significant event in the religious calendar. At the same time, this period signifies a phase of new beginnings and growth in our daily activities.

School is as usual very busy as we enter a new financial control period. No doubt you will have heard that more than seven thousand headteachers have warned of a funding crisis in a letter sent to three and half million families in the UK. Their message is that they are not being provided with adequate funding and resources to deliver the level of provision and support that is expected and deserved by both families and children.

Uffington is facing the same financial hardships; however, over the past financial year we have managed, albeit with changes in our staffing, to work within the budget without causing an impact on our educational strategy, thus maintaining our outstanding levels. The coming financial year will be very challenging, however, I would like to assure you that the governing body are doing everything in their power to secure additional funding. As always, the governors would welcome any parental support and / or suggestions regarding securing the financial future of the school. When looking at education, it should excite, enable and enlighten—it should be recognised that not every child has the same capacity, the same interests, or the same way of learning and absorbing information. Uffington has always adopted the holistic approach in the way that we educate our children, not just words, numbers and punctuation marks but giving them soft skills by addressing the development of the whole person to attain natural self-assurance to integrate fully into their secondary phase of education and future workplaces.

On behalf of my fellow governors and school staff, our best wishes for an enjoyable Easter break with your children.

Ron Carter

Church School Links

We continue to build upon our already-strong links with the church: during the Spring Terms, Year 6 led our celebration of Candlemas and we marked the beginning of Lent with an Ash Wednesday service led by Fr Aran. Most recently, children in Y3/4 delighted us all as they led a service to celebrate Mothering Sunday followed by an impromptu dance performance in the playground! We feel so fortunate to have Fr Aran as our rector, and really appreciate his commitment to the school as he leads us in worship each week—he has even been known to join us on his day off! Open the Book continues to be a highlight of the week for our younger children and their teachers, and, by all accounts for those who are involved in such a wonderful project to bring the Bible alive to those who attend. And finally, it is always good to see a large number of parents and younger children going over to church after 'drop-off' on a Friday morning to enjoy a cup of coffee and a chat / play at the Casewick Café. Everyone is welcome at these informal sessions—please come along!



Wrap-around Care

I am delighted to report that plans to provide wrap-around care are well-underway: following a survey of parents and carers which suggested that there was significant demand for this type of service, we have worked closely with Local Authority officers to ascertain whether the school's accommodation is suitable and to organise the tender process. All local childcare settings were invited to tender with two submitted. Interviews took place on 15th February and Inspire+ was offered the contract.

A group of staff and governors are now working with Inspire+ to make the necessary arrangements to ensure provision is in place for September 2019.

Out and About

Since our last newsletter, children throughout the school have had the opportunity to take part in visits to various places of interest. Children in KS2 went to the cinema in Peterborough to watch 'Sgt Stubby' as part of the annual IntoFilm Festival; this was greatly enjoyed by all and fitted in perfectly with their study of the First World War. In the run up to Christmas, children in the Foundation Stage and KS1 visited Tallington Christmas Tree Farm and we all enjoyed our annual visit to the pantomime at The Cresset Theatre.

More recently, children in KS2 visited the Shree Sanatan Mandir in Leicester as part of their study of Hinduism. As always, we were made to feel most welcome and the children conducted themselves impeccably. There is no doubt that visits to places of worship help children to understand other cultures and, indeed, life in modern Britain in a way that cannot be achieved in the classroom, however skilled the teacher!



KS2 visit to Shree Sanatan Mandir



School Council

The autumn term was a busy time for the School Council who organised a very successful collection of shoeboxes of Christmas presents as part of the annual Samaritan's Purse Appeal as well as raising £72.80 by organising Christmas Jumper Day in aid of Save the Children. Earlier this week they raised almost £80 for the Cyclone Idai Appeal by encouraging staff and children to come to school with 'Crazy Hair'!



Crazy Hair Day

Sports Premium

We benefit greatly from our investment in the sports charity Inspire+, not least because of the opportunities our children have to meet inspirational athletes. Since our last newsletter, we have welcomed Inspire+ Ambassadors Sarah Outen MBE and Paralympian Jonathan Broom-Edwards who have spoken to the children about overcoming personal difficulties and developing resilience. Olympic swimmer Sophie Allen is currently mentoring a group of four children in Years 5 and 6. Our Sports Apprentice, Mr Stacey, is kept busy with organising lunchtime training sessions for children in KS2 as well as leading daily running sessions before school for those in KS2 who wish to take part. One of the highlights of the end of last term was the school 'Winter Wonderland' running challenge which culminated with every child from Reception to Year 6 running around the school field in their Santa hats and Christmas jumpers. We were delighted that every single child exceeded their personal running goal!



Sarah Outen MBE



Running Club



Winter Wonderland

Inter-School Sport

There have been a number of inter-school sporting events since our last newsletter and I am delighted to report that every child in the Y5/6 class has represented the school in at least one sport since September. All the children in KS2 were invited to run in the Stamford and District Cross Country run which will take place in March giving every child the opportunity to represent their school.

The lacrosse team triumphed at the Stamford and District competition taking both first and second places and qualifying for the county finals in the summer. The athletics team were successful in the Indoor Athletics competition and qualified for the South West Lincolnshire finals. A large team was entered in the South West Lincolnshire Swimming Gala: they came third overall. The local netball league took place over the autumn terms with the team winning all their matches and the trophy; they went on to win the Stamford and District tournament and were ranked fifth in the county when they competed in the County Finals last week.



Netball Team

Uffington Reading Challenge

Mrs Clayton led a new venture for the spring terms with a school Reading Challenge. We were delighted by the children's enthusiasm for this project with over fifty children completing the whole of the challenge! All those who completed were entered for a prize draw which was the cause for great excitement on World Book Day—another exciting event which was enjoyed by the whole school. Many thanks to all our parents and carers who work so hard to support our special events and projects to ensure that the children gain the maximum benefit from all the opportunities on offer.

Parent Teachers' Association

The PTA continue to work hard to raise funds for the school. The annual Christmas Fayre was most successful, raising over £1,600!. The PTA have also organised activities including a disco, Bingo Night, the annual Mothers' Day Shop and end of term Mufti Days and cake sales, all of which have been greatly enjoyed by the children.

Forthcoming events include Uffington Scarecrow Festival, another Mufti Day and Cake Sale on 24th May, and the annual family social on Friday 14th June.

The PTA meet once a month at 8pm in The Bertie Arms—everyone is assured of a warm welcome at these informal meetings. The next meeting will take place on **Tuesday 30th April**—this will be a 'Scarecrow Special' as we plan for one of the most profitable events of the year. Please join us!



Playing together
in the February
sunshine...

Extra-curricular activities

Sports coaching—Mrs Swanson and Mr Stacey
Running Club—Mr Stacey
Hockey Club—Inspire+
Woodwind tuition—Ruth Smith
Two Little Birds Sewing—Vicky Palmer
MACCA Soccer
Board Games Club—Miss Johnston

Somes Trust

We value highly the financial support given to us by the Somes Trust. The Trust continue to subsidise the cost of swimming tuition and transport to Stamford for both PE and Swimming lessons. In addition, they have generously agreed to fund the maintenance of the school field in full for the coming financial year to alleviate pressure on the budget.

Information for Parents

All Parents' Evenings for the current academic year have now taken place but we would like to remind you that staff are always available to meet with you to discuss any concerns about progress; please make an appointment with your child's class teacher. End of year reports will be published in July.

Summer Diary

Term ends this Friday with an **Open Afternoon from 2:30 to 3:30pm**. The summer term Commences on **Tuesday 23rd April**. There will be an **Easter Service at 2:30pm** in Uffington Church on the first day of term. All diary dates for the summer term are on the school website— as always, we will inform you of any additions / changes that take place.