

NEWSLETTER 26th September 2020



Uffington
Church of England
Primary School

Dear Parents and Carers

It seems incredible that we suddenly find ourselves at the end of the third week back at school and I am delighted to report that our Reception class have now joined us full-time and are settling well. Although we are all back, we live in a very isolated world with staff and children seeing very few people beyond their own bubble, let alone the usual array of visitors who would normally be in school but keeping safe remains our priority as we steer our way through the pandemic.

Where are we now?

As each week has passed, the needs of the children have become clearer and we continue to adapt our teaching methods and the curriculum. There is no doubt that many children do not yet have the stamina to maintain concentration and work for long periods and they are certainly not used to sitting in one place for any length of time. Five-minute 'pitstops' have been introduced between lessons to give the children the opportunity to take a short break where they can move out of their seat, get a breath of fresh air and have a drink; these have been well-received and are helping the children to maintain focus in class.

The Uffington Plan

Following the government's announcement on Tuesday evening, it is clear that we shall be living according to the Plan for many months to come.

We have received further guidance regarding educational visits and PE which will lead the way forward in these areas. There is now clarity surrounding PE in schools: children may share equipment within a bubble as long as a thorough regime of cleaning / quarantine of equipment is maintained – the children were delighted to play cricket and tag rugby this week for the first time! The rules for schools are different to those for recreational sport but teaching staff are relieved to have a little more freedom in order to make PE lessons more interesting and enjoyable for the children. Some educational day visits are now permitted as long as the venue is COVID-secure and this is something which we can now begin to explore. In the meantime, KS1 greatly enjoyed a virtual interview with Mr Genever about his time as a pupil at Uffington School.

As the rate of infection nationally and internationally continues to rise, infection control must remain our priority: distancing, handwashing and good respiratory hygiene are stressed every day and are becoming embedded in our day-to-day practice. Sadly, they don't seem to have had much of an impact upon the cold virus which has so badly hit levels of attendance over the past two weeks! I hope you have had the time to read the letter sent by Public Health England earlier this week clarifying when children should have a coronavirus test.

Drop Off and Collection

Please follow the guidance regarding the safe drop off and collection of children. We are still having problems with parents congregating around the school gate at the beginning and end of the day. Please remember that the time slots between bubbles is very short so it is important to keep the entrance clear until it is time to drop off or collect. Many parents are choosing to wait on the verge on the other side of the road and we would encourage you to do the same to maintain social distance. FOR THE SAFETY OF ALL, PLEASE DROP / COLLECT AND GO!

We understand that things happen, but please make every effort to arrive on time to drop off / collect your children.

Curriculum Information

All Curriculum Information has been uploaded to the school website. It can be found on both the **News** page or click on the **Parents tab** and follow the link to **Curriculum**.

<https://www.uffingtonprimary.co.uk/page/?title=Curriculum&pid=73>

Parents' Evening

Class teachers will contact you by telephone to discuss settling in, English and Maths in place of the usual face-to-face meetings. These calls will be made mostly at the end of the school day rather than in the evening. Further information regarding booking a slot will be sent next week.

Good News...

We have successfully appointed a Sports Apprentice who will join us next week. Mr Judd has a background in football, basketball, climbing and diving and completed voluntary work in a primary school in Oundle as part of his BTEC studies. Mr Judd will be largely based in the KS1 class while also supporting PE lessons and providing support to children with physical needs across the school.

And finally...

Although we cannot celebrate harvest in the usual Uffington way, plans are afoot to ensure that the elderly and vulnerable of the community are not forgotten. Over the coming week, the children will be having a day in which to create harvest displays to be placed in the school grounds and the churchyard. There will also be a collection for the Stamford Food Bank and Y56 will be preparing messages of hope and thanksgiving to be delivered to the elderly in the village (details to follow).

Yours sincerely



Mrs HR Simms
Headteacher