

# Newsletter

## 11<sup>th</sup> March 2022



Dear Parents and Carers

It is quite some time since my last newsletter but there has been plenty going on in school and we have some exciting plans for the coming weeks.

### **COVID-19**

COVID continues to take its toll of staff and pupils; although there is no statutory requirement to self-isolate following a positive test, we are asking everyone to follow government advice and stay at home until two negative test results are obtained. Please do not send children showing any of the symptoms to school without testing first.

Thank you for your patience regarding staffing over recent weeks; since the beginning of December, there have only been five days where all members of staff have been fit for work and this has had an impact upon staffing arrangements across the school. We continue to endeavour to ensure that all classes are taught by a qualified teacher but may need to call upon the services of our support staff when this is not possible. Please be assured that our support staff team are well-qualified to care for the children, delivering lessons planned by the class teacher if necessary.

### **SAFEGUARDING**

Our first priority as a school is to keep everyone safe and, to this end, all staff are subject to rigorous screening prior to appointment and are required to engage in regular training. The Designated Safeguarding Lead is Mrs Simms, with Miss Waters acting as her deputy. Mrs Laura Lovell is the Governor with responsibility for Safeguarding and she works closely with the Designated Safeguarding Lead to monitor the implementation of the children protection policy and associated procedures. Further information is available on the school website: [Uffington Church of England Primary School - Pupil Welfare \(uffingtonprimary.co.uk\)](https://uffingtonprimary.co.uk)

## **CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK**

You may be aware that we follow the Five Ways to Well-being programme developed by schools in the Stamford district. Everyone enjoyed the 'Five Days; Five Ways' activities organised by the School Council and Bronze Sports Ambassadors during Children's Mental Health Week. Each day focused on one of the five ways to well-being: Connect with people around you; Be active; Take notice; Keep learning every day; and Acts of kindness.

Next term will see the launch of a journaling project to support children's mental health and well-being.

## **WORLD BOOK DAY**

The whole school had a wonderful time celebrating World Book Day. Activities included making masks of favourite characters, enjoying stories read by other teachers and sharing books with children from other classes.

## **SCHOOL SPORT**

A large team of children from KS2 took part in the Stamford and District Cross-Country meeting held at the Welland Academy last weekend. Well done to everyone who took part and especially to the following children: Daisy Shackell, Martha Shackell, Lois Dobson, Alice Turner and Martha Saralis who all came in the top twenty in their respective races. Particular mention should also be made of the boys in the Y56 race who stopped running to care for a team-mate who suffered an asthma attack – thank you to John, Sid, Thomas and Nathan; we are very proud of you.

A team of children from Years 4 to 6 entered the South-west Lincolnshire Small Schools Swimming Gala recently. The team were placed second – Well done everyone!

The Stamford Girls' Netball Tournament took place yesterday for the first time in three years – I am delighted to report that Uffington won the tournament and therefore retained the trophy they won in 2019. Congratulations to the team and to their coaches Miss Johnston and Mrs Herrick.

The Football Team are playing weekly matches in the Stamford and District League this term; to date, they have won two out of the four matches played so far.

All the children in KS2 enjoyed learning how to play the Paralympic sport 'Goalball' earlier this week. Sessions were led by Carl Blackman of Inspire+ and some of the Y56 children are looking forward to taking part in the Stamford and District Goalball competition later in the year.

## **LOOKING AHEAD**

### **Y2 Well-being Workshop**

Next Tuesday, the Y2 children will take part in a Friendship and Emotions Workshop led by the Lincolnshire Stay Safe Partnership. Earlier this year, Years 5 and 6 enjoyed a similar workshop and we hope that this one will also be of benefit to our Y2 children.

### **KS2 Visit**

To end their study of The Romans, all children in KS2 will be visiting Peterborough Museum on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> March for a Roman experience day. Thank you to the PTA for funding the cost of the visit.

### **EYFS / KS1 VR Experience**

To finish their Space topic, the children in Reception and KS1 are looking forward to a VR experience on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> March. The PTA have generously funded this activity.

### **RE Talk**

The Faraday Trust will be visiting school on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> March to talk to the children as part of their RE study: Creation and Science: Conflicting or Complementary? This visit has been generously funded by The Somes Trust.

### **Easter**

We marked the beginning of Lent with a service in church led by Fr Aran on Ash Wednesday. Years 3 and 4 will lead a service for Mothering Sunday on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March at 2pm in Uffington Church and we hope that you will be able to join us.

Towards the end of term, Mrs Ludford will be setting the annual Uffington Easter Challenge and KS1 will hold a fundraising coffee morning for their parents on the last day of term.

As Easter does not fall until the very last Sunday of the Easter holidays, we shall celebrate together in church on Easter Tuesday at 2:30pm – everyone welcome!

### **PTA Mothers' Day Shop**

If you wish to take part, please donate a gift with a value of around £5 by Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March. The shop will be open on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March with all gifts being sold for £1. Classes will visit in turn and members of the PTA will provide a gift-wrapping service.

*Please note that to buy a gift, children must have donated one so that the stock has sufficient 'stock'.*

### **Comic Relief**

Although there is a great deal of focus on supporting Ukraine at this particular time, we shall still be raising funds on **Red Nose Day – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March.**

**We would like to invite the children to come to school wearing something red in exchange for a £1 donation please.**

The School Council are planning a fundraising event for Ukraine in the summer term.

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Yours sincerely

*HR Simms*

Mrs HR Simms

Headteacher

*PS Thank you to Mr Hammett who has been a wonderful 'Headteacher for the Day'; he has helped with many of my Friday tasks including organising Merits, reporting on swimming, liaising with Mrs Lawson to organise my diary for next week and making important decisions!*

