

A Message from Mrs Fawkes

Dear Parents/Carers

What a very busy first term we have had at Uphall. Our children look very smart in their uniform, thanks for supporting us with this.

It brings me great pleasure to tell you that our new school website is now up and running. Please access using **uphallprimary.westlothian.org.uk**. This will be a one stop shop for lots of communication such as: newsletters, policies, twitter and glow blog. We are still updating and adding to the website so please bear with us while we further develop. We will no longer be issuing paper newsletters unless specially requested at the school office.

Our children have been working hard during the first term on our health and wellbeing focus, 'Cool in School' and we will continue this term looking at our emotions through the 'Emotion Works' programme and the film 'Inside Out'. This will help our pupils in developing resilience, compassion and support positive relationships and behaviours. Please ask your children what they have been learning.

We are currently working hard to develop our whole school Positive Relationship Policy and will send home our draft policy this week which will let you know some changes we have made to our reward system, rules and sanctions. Our high level expectations and rules are linked to the 'UN Rights for the Child': **Ready to Learn, Responsible and Safe.**

Thank you for your support at the start and the end of the school day with standing back from the lines. This has made a huge difference for many of our pupils who had been feeling anxious at these times with such a busy playground.

As we approach the festive period the school will have a variety of events on - please see the dates for your diary section. We start with our school Winter Fayre on Saturday 17th November. We will look forward to seeing you all there!

Kind Regards
Mrs C Fawkes

Important
Message

- Remember to avoid parking in front of garages, double yellow/zig zag lines and driveways. Please don't park near the entrance to the car park as delivery lorries and emergency services are unable to enter. If there is a risk for our pupils crossing the road you may be asked to move your vehicle. The community police are aware of the ongoing issues at drop off and pick up times.
- Please could you check your child's hair for head lice regularly so we can avoid the spread across the class.
- For health and safety reasons we would encourage that children do not arrive at school until **8.40am** unless attending breakfast club. On very wet days we will allow children into the school building from 8.40am.



Communication

We are continually looking at ways to communicate with parents/carers about the work of the school and support you with your child's learning.

Our first parents evening was an opportunity for your child and their teacher to share with you the focus for learning for this term and to look at the learning targets set. This will be followed up in March, once the teachers

have a fuller picture of your child's progress, with a report in the normal parents evening format. We also plan to have an opportunity for you to visit your child's class after their class assembly to look at their work and pupil profiles.

We will be holding a Biscuits and Blether session on **Friday 23rd November at 11.30pm**. This is a chance for you to come along and see what we are doing to develop learning and teaching and for you to share your views on the work we are doing in school. We would love your support!

We will communicate through our school website, text message, email, letter and school Twitter with the aim of trying to give you as much support and information as we can.



Healthy Eating

Could I ask you to support our schools Healthy

Eating policy by encouraging your child to bring a healthy snack, in particular on a Tuesday and a Thursday.

Budgets

As a school within the current climate of reducing costs due to budget reductions we are needing to be mindful about our spending.

The impact of this is that we are unable to fund some pupil activities as fully as we have done in the past and would like to ask parents/carers to help support us with raising additional funds so that we can continue to provide the children with parties, outside visitors, panto, treats, golden time and rewards.



Memorial Garden



We are delighted with our new memorial garden which was designed to remember our local war hero Corporal Robert Beveridge.

Well done to all our pupils who contributed their design ideas as it looks fantastic! Thankyou to Mr Patience and Mr Low for their help in the garden, our Janitorial team, John Jenkins (Ancre Somme), Kevin Skey (Stone Masonry Specialist) Pupil Support staff and Mrs Patience for all their hard work and determination in making sure that everything was organised for our special memorial service.

It would also be helpful if you can check how much they are bringing for snack as some children are struggling to eat lunch as they have eaten so much at playtime. Only a small snack is required, other than maybe on a Friday when it is a later lunch. Thank you for your support.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 17th November	Xmas Fayre
Tuesday 20th November	P4 Benchball Tournament
Thursday 22nd November	P1 Trip to Summerlee
Friday 23rd November	Road Safety Dress Down Day
Friday 30th November	P6 / 7 Football Tournament
Wednesday 5th December	Christmas Lunch Day
Thursday 6th December	P1 Christmas Nativity
Friday 7th December	P1 Christmas Nativity
Saturday 8th December	Christmas Light Switch on
Monday 10th December	P6 Christmas Party
Wednesday 12th December	P5 Christmas Party
Thursday 13th December	Whole School Panto
Friday 14th December	P7 Christmas Party
	P5 Festive Coffee Morning
Monday 17th December	P1 Christmas Party
Tuesday 18th December	Nursery Christmas Party
	P3 Christmas Party
Wednesday 19th December	P2 Christmas Party
	P4 Christmas Party
Thursday 20th December	Christmas Church Service—South Church
Friday 21st December	Last Day of Term

Family Fun Afternoon

Thank you to everyone who came along to our family fun afternoon to help raise funds for our memorial garden. A great afternoon was had by all!



Supporting Pupils Needs

Every term the senior leadership team meets with class teachers to discuss pupil progress. Where pupils may be requiring some extra support with aspects of learning appropriate interventions are put in place. Support starts with class teacher differentiation of activities and or support given within the lesson.

Where we feel there may be a specific barrier to learning our support for learning team use a range of assessments to help us to identify these specific needs or barriers. They are then able to support class teachers to make sure that these needs are met in class. Our pupil support team also provide small group input focussing on aspects of literacy and numeracy with pupils.

Our Nurture Teacher provides whole school nurture support, small group intervention at P1-2 and Emotion Works Groups across the school. This helps to support the range of health and wellbeing needs our pupils may have.

We have links with the high school to support our pupils who are working at third level and require extra challenge within their learning. Paired reading is in place at various stages across the school and supports our younger pupils to gain reading confidence and enjoyment through working with an older pupil.

We also work with outside agencies such as speech and language to provide important input with individuals as well as groups and full classes which provide targeted intervention depending on the need. We are currently working with 'The Waggy Dog Project' to support pupils with reading confidence and also work with some of our pupils with ASD.

CELEBRATING SUCCESS



Congratulations to:

Kaja Matuszek who won a bronze medal in Taekwondo.

Calvin Sneddon for his Swimmer of the Month Improvers 3.

Athena Pearce represented the school at the local school swimming championships and won a silver medal for 50m backstroke.

Fiona Robinson who completed a Golf Summer Programme.

Isla Devaney who gained her Level 7 Intermediate Swimming

Elsa Paterson who took part in the County Outdoor challenge with the 1st Uphall Rainbows. They were making instruments from cardboard.

Lexi Buchanan who won a lovely medal for Judo. This is the third piece of 5 which join together to make a larger medal.

Community News

Messy Church

Sunday 18th November 1200-1400hrs

Strathbrock Church Hall.

Children aged 3 and up with a grown up

'Safe and Sound'

Food, Game, Crafts, Story

