



Friday 8th September 2023

Newsletter 1

Welcome back!

It has been so lovely to see everyone after the summer break and to welcome new staff and children. We have welcomed our wonderful new Reception children into school this week for their first half day at school, and the children have blown us away with how grown-up and independent they have been so far. We feel privileged that they have joined us on their educational journey, and we cannot wait to see them flourish!

I would also like to welcome our new members of staff: **Mr Jake Kuliszewski** (Year 1 teacher), **Miss Niamh Fowler** (Year 5 teacher), and **Miss Imogen Ridgway** (Year 1 TA). They have all made a super start and we look forward to working with them to provide the very best for our children.

You will shortly receive your child's **class newsletter**, detailing the timetable for your children, expectations regarding homework, and some key dates relevant to the class. These newsletters also include the topics your child will be learning this term, and I am sure you will support us with this throughout the term.

As always, if you have any questions, worries or queries, please do contact the school office via email or phone, or speak to your class teacher if it relates to classroom matters.

I would like to mention how impressed I have been with how the children have returned to school: being focussed; showing respect; displaying kindness. I hope this continues as we move through the year.

Blackdown Education Partnership

As you will be aware, we are now under the umbrella of the Blackdown Education Partnership (BEP), with the merger of Uffculme Academy Trust (UAT) and The Castle Partnership Trust. It has been such a brilliant journey of school improvement and increased opportunities under Uffculme Academy Trust, but the next step on our journey means that we can collaborate more closely with more primary schools, further developing the ambitions and interests of our children.

BEP believes in the potential of every child.

Our mission as a Trust:

- To nurture and develop the ambition, talents and interests of every child
- To break down the barriers that inhibit the opportunities and achievements of disadvantaged pupils so that they can go on to lead lives of choice and opportunity
- To create a family of schools that are deeply and purposefully connected to their communities



Uffculme Open Evening

Uffculme School Open Evening takes place this year on Thursday 28th September from 6-8pm.

Yearly calendar dates

Please find attached to this email the yearly calendar dates for this academic year. Most dates are set in stone, but there will be some events that will need to be confirmed nearer the time. We will always communicate and confirm these events to you through letters, emails, MCAS or school newsletters.

Lunches

For parents currently accessing hot meal provision, please remember to order your child's lunch using MCAS by Thursday for the following week.

I would also like to remind you that **lunch boxes** should be healthy. In our school this means:

- There should be a 'main' (i.e. sandwich, wrap, sausage roll); the children will be encouraged to eat this *first*.
- At least one piece of fruit/veg (e.g. carrot, cucumber, cut grapes, apple etc.)
- We allow 1 packet of crisps
- We allow 1 small cake/wafer/cereal bar

We DO NOT want the children to bring sweets, fizzy drinks, or full-size chocolate bars (e.g., Mars bars) etc. We want to encourage all our children to have a balanced diet.

Diary Dates

SEPTEMBER		
Friday 15 th		First full day for Reception children
Tuesday 26 th		Open Classrooms
Friday 29 th		Non-Pupil Inset Day
OCTOBER		
Wednesday 4 th	2:00pm	Harvest Festival (Church) - Food donations to CHAT
Wednesday 18 th	3:40pm	Parent Consultation Evenings (incl. SENDCO meetings)
Thursday 19 th	3:40pm	Parent Consultation Evenings
Monday 30 th	All day	Non-Pupil Day Trust-Wide Day
Monday 23rd to Friday 27th October 2022 - Half Term Break		
NOVEMBER		
Friday 10 th		Armistice Day (2-minute silence)
Thursday 16 th	9:15am	Open morning 1
Friday 17 th		Children in Need – non-uniform day
Tuesday 21 st	9:15am	Open morning 2
Thursday 23 rd	9:15am	Open morning 3
DECEMBER		
Sat 2 nd - Sun 3 rd		Christingle Weekend at St Mary's Church
Tuesday 5 th	2:00pm	Years 1&2 production dress rehearsal (pupils only)
Wednesday 6 th	2:00pm 5:30pm	Years 1&2 afternoon performance Years 1&2 evening performance
Thursday 7 th	3:30pm	Christmas Fair
Friday 8 th	3:30pm	Christmas Jumper Day
Monday 11 th	2:00pm	Reception afternoon dress rehearsal (pupils only)
Tuesday 12 th	2:30pm	Reception afternoon performance (for parents)
Wednesday 13 th		Whole School Pantomime Trip – Northcott Theatre
Thursday 14 th	1:45pm	KS2 Carol Service at St Mary's Church
Friday 15 th		Last day of Autumn Term
Monday 19th December to Tuesday 3rd January - Christmas Holidays		

Yours sincerely,
Fraser Wallace
HEADTEACHER