



Dear Parents/Carers

A warm welcome to our new Reception children who had their first full day with us last Friday. We are absolutely delighted in how they have settled into school and we are all starting to learn their names.

Welcome to all of our new families that also join us this year. We look forward to developing our partnerships with you over these formative primary years.

### **Collection of children from the playground**

For those new to the school, at the end of the day, the EYFS class and KS1 children are taken to the playground where they are released to you. Please could we ask that all parents remain at the far side of the playground nearest the KS1 climbing equipment and up the slope where the teachers can see you. The children are released from their class lines one at a time and only when the class teacher is aware that the parent/carer is present. Having all parents in one place and not scattered around the playground can help speed this process up considerably. Please let the teacher work through the class lines rather than approach them directly as in these circumstances visibility is often reduced. If for any reason, you or the designated person collecting your child at the end of the school, are delayed or it is somebody different than planned, please let the office know so we can get a message to their class teacher.



### **Curriculum enrichment activities for this year**

Please have a look on our website under the "Events and Activities" section for a taster of some of the activities that we have planned for our children over the forthcoming year.



### **Snack reminders**

A portion of fruit or vegetable is provided for each child in Key Stage 1 and Reception to eat at playtimes. For children in KS2, your child may bring a piece of fruit/vegetable for morning break or they can purchase items (at 50p) from our Healthy Eating Tuckshop provided each term by the Year 5 class. If your child does bring anything else onto the playground for snack other than a piece of fruit or vegetable, they will be encouraged to eat this at lunchtimes as part of their packed lunches.



### **Contact with school staff**

For those that are new to school, I would like to take this opportunity to let you know who you can talk to if you have any queries over your children's education or any other matters within school.

- Parent consultation evenings are held in the Autumn and Spring terms in which progress is shared and discussed.
- Staff are available briefly on the playground each morning as the children line up for messages or accessible for longer if required after school, apart from Wednesday evenings when it is our staff training time.
- If you have any queries or concerns about any aspect of your child's education, please talk to your child's class teacher first. They will endeavour to resolve the problem but if they are unable to do this then you may need to talk to the Key Stage Leader (KS1 Mrs Moss and KS2 Mrs Hayman). If you have any SEND concerns then please book an appointment with Mrs Welch via the office (she works on Wednesday and Thursdays and will be very happy to help).
- If still unresolved, please contact myself as Headteacher.
- Mrs Tucker, Mrs Watmore and Mrs Ware, our school administrators, are more than happy to answer queries and reasonable requests where possible – please do bear with them though during the busy periods, particularly if messages do have to be delivered to children directly in their classes.
- Please feel free to email the school office if it is not possible for you to speak to teachers before or after school and phone calls/a response will always be returned to you within 48 hours unless it is an emergency

We all place a high importance on building relationships with you as parents so please do come and talk to us.



### **Staffing news**

Mrs Askew will be starting her maternity cover after half term. Mrs Pethick, who already works in school delivering our music provision, will be covering her Wednesdays in Reception Class. Mrs Pethick, who is an early years teacher, will introduce herself to the new children over the next couple of weeks.



### **Grenville House**

Last week's trip to Grenville House with our Year 6 class was great and the children really benefitted from the experiences that they had - whether this be from the activities that they took part in, being away from home, making their beds or even just getting up on time! They behaved well and as a group, it was lovely to see how well they all got on. Pictures will be ready in due course!



### **Secondary School Applications - Reminder for Year 6 Parents**

The application window for Year 7 secondary school admission in 2018 is now open. Parents of Year 6 pupils should have recently received a letter from the Local Authority giving details about applications for secondary schools. It is important that all Year 6 parents make their applications either on-line or send a paper copy to the Admissions Team at Devon County Council by **31st October 2017**. It is important that the application is made on time so that parents can secure a place for their child at the secondary school of their choice. If you have any difficulties accessing this online, please ask school for assistance and we will happily support your application. *(All children who currently attend this school will automatically get a place at Uffculme School regardless of whether they live in the catchment area or not, but you will still need to go through the Devon County Council application process.)*

All the information you need, including a Step by Step guide is available on Devon's secondary school admission website via this link: <https://new.devon.gov.uk/educationandfamilies/school-information/apply-for-a-school-place/apply-for-a-secondary-school-place>



### **Overall Safety of Pupils**

It has been brought to my attention that children have been climbing on the fire exit staircase on the Masonic Lodge building in the car park next to school. Please can I request that children are supervised in this area and refrain from climbing here. Please could I also respectfully ask that the children do not throw conkers from the school field at anybody. They should not be on the field in the morning before school.



### **MacMillan Cake Sale**

Year 5 will be holding a Cake Sale in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support after school on Friday 29 September from 3.30- 4.30pm. Come along to the Hall to buy some goodies! If anyone is able to bake something to sell, Year 5 would be very grateful for your support. Please bring cakes on Friday morning and leave them at the school office. Looking forward to seeing you there! Yours

sincerely,

*Jo Dentith*

**HEADTEACHER**



### **PTFA**

The next PTFA meeting will be on Tuesday 7 November at school. We meet in the school staff room at

- From time to time the school may need to make referrals to Children and Young People's Services

6:30pm for tea and coffee and aim to end at 8:30pm at the latest. All parents and carers with children at Uffculme Primary School are members of the PTFA. The PTFA raises money for extra resources and activities for our children. Our committee meetings are open to all members so please do come along if you would like to get more involved. If you would like an agenda or further information please email [ptfa@primary.uffculmeschool.net](mailto:ptfa@primary.uffculmeschool.net)

### Easyfundraising – raise money for the school as you shop online!

If anybody would like to join and help to raise funds for the school, just go to <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/uffculmeprimaryptfa>

It is really easy, just register with Easyfundraising and go to the website/app before you shop. There are links to 100s of retailers including eBay, Amazon, Argos, Groupon, Tesco, Sainsbury's, Trainline, and lots more!

**ALL funds raised will be donated back to the school to benefit your children's education.**

### Have you followed the PTFA on Facebook?

For all the latest news on school events, fundraising and lots more, follow the PTFA on Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/UPS.PTFA/>.



You can contact us via this page if you have any queries or ideas, or if you would like to become more involved with the PTFA.



### UFFCULME PRIMARY SCHOOL - TERM AND HOLIDAY DATES 2017/2018

|                  | Autumn Term         | Spring Term         | Summer Term           |
|------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Begins           | Tuesday 5 September | Wed 3 January       | Monday 16 April       |
| Half Term        | Mon 23 – Fri 27 Oct | Mon 12 – Fri 16 Feb | Mon 28 May-Fri 1 June |
| Last day of term | Friday 15 December  | Thursday 29 March   | Friday 20 July        |

**Non pupil days:** Friday 6 October; Tuesday 2 January; Friday 29 June (Inset)

### Diary Dates for the Autumn Term 2017 and beyond:-

| SEPTEMBER  |                |  |
|--|----------------|--|
| Friday 29  | 3:30pm         | Macmillan Cake Sale                                    |
| OCTOBER  |                |  |
| Friday 6   |                | Non-Pupil Day – staff in school but <b>no children</b> |
| Tuesday 17   | 2.00pm         | Harvest Service at St Mary's Church                    |
| Thursday 19  |                | Dirt Day   |
| Monday 23 October to Friday 27 October 2017- Half Term Break |                |  |
| NOVEMBER   |                |  |
| Wednesday 1  |                | School photos (individual)                             |
| Wednesday 1 & Thursday 2                                     | 3:40pm onwards | Parent consultations                                   |
| Tuesday 21   | 9.00-11:00am   | School Nurse Community Drop                            |
| Tuesday 28   | 6.00pm         | Christingle Service at St Marys Church, Uffculme       |
| Thursday 30  | 10:00am        | New parents Open morning (for 2018-2019 intake)        |
| DECEMBER   |                |  |
| Friday 1   | 10:00am        | New parents Open morning (for 2018-2019 intake)        |
| Tuesday 5  | 2.00pm         | KS1 Christmas Production                               |

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| Wednesday 6   | 6.00pm         | KS1 Christmas Production   |
| Friday 8  | 10:00am        | New parents Open morning (for 2018-2019 intake)<br>School Christmas Dinner   |
| Tuesday 12th  | 3:40pm         | Countries Day<br>Open Classrooms   |
| Wednesday 13  |                | KS1/KS2 trip to Pantomime in Exeter  |
| Friday 15   |                | Last day of term   |
| <b>Monday 18 December to Wednesday 3 January 2018– Christmas Holidays</b> |                |  |
| <b>JANUARY</b>  |                |  |
| Tuesday 2   |                | Non-Pupil Day – staff in school but <b>no children</b>                       |
| Wednesday 3   |                | First day of Spring Term 2018  |
| Tuesday 16  | 9.00-11:00am   | School Nurse Community Drop  |
| <b>FEBRUARY</b>   |                |  |
| Thursday 8  |                | Dirt Day   |
| <b>Monday 12 to Friday 16 February 2018- Half Term Break</b>              |                |  |
| Wednesday 28  | 3:40pm onwards | Parent consultations   |
| <b>MARCH</b>  |                |  |
| Thursday 1  | 3:40pm onwards | World Book Day<br>Parent consultations                                       |
| Tuesday 20  | 9.00-11:00am   | School Nurse Community Drop  |
| Friday 23   | 6.00pm         | Uffculme's Got Talent <b>tbc</b>   |
| Tuesday 27  | 2.00pm         | Easter Service at St Marys Church, Uffculme <b>tbc</b>                       |
| Thursday 29   |                | Last day of term   |
| <b>Friday 30 March to Friday 13 April 2018- Easter Holidays</b>           |                |  |
| <b>APRIL</b>  |                |  |
| Monday 16   |                | First day of Summer Term   |
| Wednesday 18 - Friday 20  |                | Year 4 Residential to Heatree House, Dartmoor                                |
| <b>MAY</b>  |                |  |
| Monday 14 - Thursday 18   |                | KS2 SATs week  |
| Thursday 24   |                | Dirt Day   |
| <b>Monday 28 May to Friday 1 June 2018- Half Term Break</b>               |                |  |
| <b>JUNE</b>   |                |  |
| Thursday 7  | 9:30am         | New Intake parents meeting   |
| Saturday 16   | 11:00am-2:30pm | Summer Fete  |
| Friday 29   |                | Non-Pupil Day – staff in school but <b>no children</b>                       |
| <b>JULY</b>   |                |  |
| Tuesday 3   | 3:30pm         | Year 6 Transition day to Uffculme School<br>Meet and Greet with new teachers |
| Wednesday 11  | 6:00pm         | Primary Presentation Evening in the Theatre                                  |
| Friday 20   | 2:00pm         | Last day of term<br>Year 6 Leavers Assembly, and BBQ on field                |