



## Newsletter 2

Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> September 2021

### First few weeks...

I cannot quite believe that we have almost reached October! In fact, I heard a Christmas advert on the radio driving home yesterday and it completely took me by surprise...I still feel like it is Summer! Luckily, I haven't heard Christmas being mentioned at school...yet!

We continue to feel proud of how our Uffculme children have settled into the new school year and we are especially proud of our incredible children in **Reception Class** who have just completed their first, full-time week with us and we cannot believe how amazingly well they have settled, so a big well done to them and their families.

Rachel Higginson, our primary advisor, spent yesterday in every classroom, getting to know our children and staff. I was keen to share with you how brilliant she thought all the children were and how much of a credit they are to our school.

I would also like to mention that our fantastic TA, **Julie Morgan**, has reached the unbelievable milestone of having worked at Uffculme Primary School for 30 years! Her dedication to not only her role as a TA and MTA, but to the children themselves is an inspiration to us all and she has certainly been an unsung hero of the school over the years, throwing herself into all areas of the school, such as residentials, sports fixtures and all manners of wider school life. Everyone at the school loves Julie and we would all like to celebrate this milestone with her. Many congratulations, Julie!

### Goodbye

We are feeling extremely sad to be saying goodbye to our amazing TA **Lisa Pinnell** who is leaving the school next Friday after 14 wonderful years at Uffculme Primary School. She has supported so many classes over the years, predominantly in Key Stage One, and has had a huge impact on the school and the futures of so many young children. The school is eternally grateful for the dedication, hard work and joy that Lisa has brought to her role and she will be sorely missed.

On behalf of the school, I would like to wish Lisa the very best of luck as she joins RD&E Hospital to work as an Audiology Assistant. There is no doubt that you will be successful within your new role.

Please keep in touch, Lisa – you are welcome back here any time.



### Yearly calendar dates

Please find attached to this email the yearly calendar dates for this academic year. As with most things during this pandemic, events may have to be rescheduled or cancelled, but we are confident that we will at the very least be able to celebrate and partake in the events we have planned.

### Staffing

We are delighted to inform you that we have appointed **Anouska Blake** as a part-time Teaching Assistant and MTA. Mrs Blake will be working predominately with Year 6 and we are thrilled to have her working with us. Her passion, enthusiasm and qualities shone through during the interview process and I am sure you will join me in welcoming her to Uffculme Primary School as a member of staff.

### Reminders

If your child is showing any of the following symptoms:

- **a high temperature**
- **a new, continuous cough**
- **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste**

They **must** self-isolate and get a PCR test. We will now be requesting parents to send in their results before their child returns to school.

There have also been questions around testing when your child has previously tested positive for Covid-19. The advice states that **anyone who has previously received a positive COVID-19 PCR test result should not be re-tested within 90 days of that test, unless they develop any new symptoms of COVID-19.**

As the county is still classed as an **Enhanced Response Area (ERA)**, staff and visitors have been advised to wear face masks when in the school building.

We have noticed that some of our older children have been **arriving at school early** in the mornings. Please can you be mindful that the school is not responsible for unattended children before 8.50.

Regarding **Hot School Dinners**, Willand Kitchen have advised us that there could be some last-minute menu changes during the next few weeks due to supply issues. We will email parents if and when this happens but we again, ask you to bear with us on this matter.

Finally, I would like to make you aware that **Uffculme School Open Evening** will be on **Thursday 7th October from 6 - 8pm** and this event will be in person.

Yours sincerely,  
*Fraser Wallace*  
HEADTEACHER