



ULEY C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2024

Happy New Year to you all! I hope that the Christmas period has been one of rest, renewal and rejuvenation.

For some, the Christmas period and start of the new year has been a particularly difficult time. Mrs Delrosa and Mrs Hempshall are currently on compassionate leave after losing close loved ones. Our thoughts are with them both.

A huge thank you from all the staff at Uley School for the thoughtful words and generous Christmas gifts received at the end of last term. Thank you!

The focus of this week has been settling everyone back in to school routines and completing a few assessments to check the children's knowledge to inform us of any areas we need to practice.

On Monday as a school, we thought about the new year and resolutions, and reflected on our vision of being the best we can be. We created a little reminder for the spring term.

New Year 2024

BE THE BEST

Working at being the best you can be

Being respectful to each other, to belongings and the environment.
Remembering good manners.

YOU CAN BE

Being a good listener

Lending a helpful hand

Being a good role-model

Sharing is caring

Being kind and caring

Showing our values:

- Friendship
- Trust
- Wisdom
- Compassion

Having a positive attitude - we recognise that this can sometimes be difficult

Trying hard at being resilient

Safeguarding and Smart Watches and Mobile Phones

Technology is a wonderful thing and I am sure Father Christmas will have been very busy delivering devices this year.

Although we encourage children to wear watches in school to be able to tell the time, we request that the children do not wear a 'smart' watch, or any watch that has the same functionality as a mobile phone such as camera, video, messaging etc. to school, this includes before and after school club.

This is a child protection requirement of the school and your compliance is requested for the safety and well-being of the school community.

Additionally, please can I remind parents that mobile phones are not permitted in school. The only exception is when it has been agreed that a child is permitted to walk to and from school (Year 5 and 6s), and the parent feels that they should have one for contact in an emergency.

Snacks

We are a healthy school with Healthy School Status and part of this is to eat fruit and vegetables and drink plenty of water.

Monday – Thursday we ask that the children have fruit / vegetables for their morning break. The infants receive a piece of fruit or vegetable daily through the government run, Fruit and Vegetable Scheme and we would encourage juniors to bring in a piece for break times also; it can be a long morning without a snack!

Everything in moderation - Friday's are Fruitless Fridays when children can bring in a fruitless snack for break time. Please no big bags of crisps, large chocolate bars or sugary drinks. Examples of Friday snacks include a cereal bar, popcorn, fairy cake, an extra sandwich etc.

Water is available throughout the day. Please ensure the children have water bottles in school, but please, no Prime bottles.

Young Voices

The Young Voices had a fantastic time on Wednesday at Birmingham Arena. A very late night, but well worth it! It is such an amazing experience. We will do it all again next year!



Communication

At Uley School the staff believe in good communication. We are always visible and available in the morning albeit briefly but time to give messages or to request a time to talk, and we are available more so at the end of the day. As a staff we cannot stress enough how much better it is to have a face to face conversation rather than receiving an email. If there is something you would like to talk about – your child’s learning, areas of education or, interested in volunteering, then please do come and ask.

The class emails are not checked as they are used for exceptional circumstances such as remote learning, so please do not send correspondence to class emails.

Staff are happy to arrange to talk to you, should you:

- like an update on your child’s progress other than Parent’s Evenings
- like more information on how to support your child at home
- like to celebrate your child’s achievements in and out of school
- have a worry
- have any questions about your child’s education
- need clarification/reminders on information
- just want to come and say hi

Free School Meals

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/school-transport-and-free-school-meals/apply-for-free-school-meals/>

What are the qualifying criteria for Free School Meals?

Your child might be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker’s Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you’re not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

We are very much aware of the impact the rising costs of living may have on families, please come and speak to a member of staff if you think you may be entitled to Traditional Free School Meals. This is still applicable even if your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 and are entitled to Universal Free School meals.

School Closures

Making the decision to close a school is quite a challenge as there are so many factors to consider. In the event of a closure, the decision will be as early as possible, this could be early in the morning to allow for additional information such as monitoring of the area, updated weather forecasts and information from the Local Authority.

In the event that the school has to close, such as snow, the procedures are:

- You will receive a text message
- A message will be posted on the Gloucestershire County Council website so please check: <http://ww3.gloucestershire.gov.uk/closedschools/>
- A message will be posted on the school website

The Remote Learning Policy can be found on the school website. The children's emails are currently being updated.

Dates for your Diary

Saturday 13th January – Cross Country at Dursley Rugby Grounds

Saturday 3rd February – Final Cross Country race at Dursley Rugby Grounds

Tuesday 6th February – Internet Safety Day – more information to follow

Thursday 8th February – Parents' Evening – information to follow

Friday 9th February – End of term 3

Monday 19th February – INSET Day – staff only

Tuesday 20th February – Start of term 4

Thursday 22nd February – Parents' Evening – information to follow

Term dates can be found on the school website