



ULEY C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Happy New Year!! 2023

January and the Roman God of Beginnings and Transitions

Janus- is the God with two faces, one looking onwards and the other one backwards. **Janus** was the Roman God of doors, choices, beginnings and endings.

Happy New Year and a warm welcome back to the Spring term 2023. I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and a good rest and, like Janus, the transition in to the new year has provided an opportunity to reflect on 2022 and look forward to 2023.

The staff and I would like to express our thanks and appreciation for such lovely Christmas gifts and kind words!

Here's to a very happy and successful 2023!



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

Value for the Spring Term

Our value for the spring term is forgiveness.

Have you ever found forgiving someone hard to do?

When you forgive you don't change the past, but you change the future, Bernard Meltzer.

Over the next few weeks we will be exploring:

- Wiping the slate clean
- Turning over a new leaf through the story of Zacchaeus
- Forgiving others as God has forgiven you
- Beginning again through the story of the Prodigal Son
- Putting the past behind us

THINK TOGETHER ABOUT WORDS OF WISDOM

"Without **forgiveness** there is no future.... If you can **forgive**, then you can move on and even help the person you are forgiving to become a better person"

Desmond Tutu

TALK ABOUT FORGIVENESS TOGETHER..

Everyone makes mistakes, it's part of being human. Sometimes our mistakes hurt others and then we need to say sorry. Sometimes mistakes made by other people hurt us. When this happens we need to be able to **forgive**. **Forgiveness** can be difficult and costly but without it a new start is impossible.

Talk together about:

- A time when you needed to say sorry
- A time you didn't say sorry but wish you had
- A time when you had to **forgive** someone who had hurt or upset you
- How it feels when you are given a new start because someone has **forgiven** you

Curriculum Spring Term 2023

We have been getting back in to the swing of things and it is always good to start a new term with a focus on routines, expectations and values. The children have had the opportunity to meet with buddies, work with teams and re-intergrate back in to class through our Live, Learn Flourish week. Next week the children will engage in some assessments (reading, maths and writing). The children know that this is for them to demonstrate their knowledge (to be the best they can be) and to identify next steps.

Class letters and homework webs will follow shortly.

Illnesses

As you are aware, there are a number of infections circulating at the moment including scarlet fever, flu and chicken pox.

WHAT IS GROUP A STREPTOCOCCUS (GAS)?:

Group A Streptococcus (GAS) is a common bacterium - many of us carry it in our throats and on our skin but it doesn't always result in illness. However GAS does cause a number of infections, many of which are mild such as scarlet fever, tonsillitis, pharyngitis and impetigo. These can easily be treated by antibiotics.

GAS is spread by close contact with an infected person and can be passed on through coughs and sneezes or from a wound.

COMPLICATIONS

In very rare situations, GAS can cause a more serious infection (Invasive Group A Strep). This is when the bacteria get into parts of the body where it is not normally found, such as the lungs or

bloodstream. Children who have flu or chickenpox at the same time as a GAS infection are more likely to develop this serious infection.

WHAT THE ILLNESS LOOKS LIKE:

Scarlet Fever

You can get more information here:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/scarlet-fever/>

Usually a mild illness with non-specific symptoms including sore throat, headache, fever, feeling sick and vomiting. After 12-48 hours - the red rash with pinhead spots can develop. The spots can appear on the chest and stomach and may spread across the body. The skin may feel like sandpaper. You may also see a strawberry tongue and flushed cheeks. Anyone with suspected symptoms should speak to their GP. Antibiotics are usually issued.

Children need to stay off for 24 hours after starting antibiotics. If antibiotics are not prescribed by the GP children will need to stay away from your setting for 2-3 weeks as they may still be infectious.

Cases who are still infectious (e.g. within first 24 hours of antibiotics or until fully recovered if antibiotics not taken) should avoid people in vulnerable groups. This includes people with chronic illness such as cancer or diabetes, who are immunocompromised, or who have had very recent influenza or chicken-pox infection. All suspected cases of scarlet fever should seek medical care, either via NHS 111 or their GP.

Impetigo

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/impetigo/>

Impetigo is a skin infection. It will start with red sores or blisters. These will burst quickly and leave crusty, golden-brown patches.

Anyone with signs of impetigo should speak to their GP. They should stay at home for two days (48 hours) after starting antibiotic treatment or until all lesions have crusted over / healed.

Strep Throat

Strep throat is a more severe or longer lasting infection in the throat and tonsils caused by bacteria called Group A Streptococcus (group A strep). It can only be diagnosed by swabbing the throat and running a test on the swab. Cases can attend the setting when they no longer have a fever AND have taken antibiotics for at least 24hrs.

Chicken Pox

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/chickenpox/>

Chickenpox causes a rash of red itchy spots that become fluid filled blisters. These will crust over to form scabs. Those with symptoms cannot come into your setting until all the spots have crusted over (which is usually around 5 days).

Do not give anyone with chickenpox ibuprofen or aspirin.

Please note that people with mild respiratory symptoms such as a runny nose, sore throat, or slight cough who are otherwise well and do not have a high temperature can continue to attend their education or childcare setting.

Supporting Children with Medical Needs at School

This policy relates to pupils who have a recognised medical condition who is being supported or treated by medical professionals, which will last longer than 15 days and will require the pupil to have a care plan protocol in school such as asthma, anaphylaxis or longer term prescribed medicines for other medical conditions.

For short-term illness and related medication, for example antibiotics or paracetamol for a cold or eye infection etc, the school remains insistent that under these circumstances it will have to consider whether to administer medication. Any pupil who is infectious or too poorly should not attend school until they are well enough.

Most antibiotic medication will not need to be administered during school/setting hours. Parent/carers should be encouraged to ask the GP to prescribe an antibiotic which can be given outside of school/setting hours wherever possible.

Twice daily doses should be given in the morning before school/setting and in the evening. Three times a day doses can normally be given in the morning before school/setting, immediately after (provided this is possible) and at bedtime. It should normally only be necessary to give antibiotics in school/setting if the dose needs to be given four times a day, in which case a dose is needed at lunchtime.

If antibiotics have been prescribed and you would like the school to administer the medication, then please speak to myself or Carol in the first instance to discuss the illness, wellness and the prescription.

As school staff are not required to administer short term medications, we will also need to agree which staff will be willing to administer medication.

There will then be paperwork to complete!

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.

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.

Safeguarding and Smart Watches and Mobile Phones

Technology is a wonderful thing and we have seen an increase in smart watches.

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 to this ruling 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.

Attendance

Uley C. of E. Primary School is committed to providing a full and efficient education for all pupils. Regular and punctual attendance is of paramount importance in ensuring that all children have full access to the curriculum. All pupils of compulsory school age are entitled to a full-time education and attendance has a major impact on a child's future life opportunities.

School attendance is monitored through various ways:

- Through the school procedures including the monitoring of time out of school requests and looking for patterns across the children's education.
- Through the school census in October, January and May each year.
- Through the Local Authority.
- Ofsted and SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) inspections ask questions about school attendance

WHAT DOES YOUR END OF YEAR ATTENDANCE DATA REALLY MEAN?

190 days in a school year (52% of the year)

175 non-school days (48% of the year)

Percentage %	How much have you missed	
	School Days	School Weeks
100	0	0
99	1	0
97	5	1
94	10	2
92	15	3
89	20	4
86	25	5
84	30	6
81	35	7
78	40	8

School Closures

Making the decision to close a school requires a lot of information; there are many factors to consider. In the event of a closure, particularly around weather, the decision will be made as early as possible. This may mean during the evening or even early in the morning to allow for additional information such as monitoring of the area and weather forecasts to play a part.

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 is currently under review and will be adapted to meet a range of scenarios including closures due to snow or Coronavirus.

Let's Talk is a free NHS service available to provide evidence-based therapies to help with stress, anxiety, depression and related conditions.

Let's Talk is for all adults aged 18 and above, and you do not need a GP referral. Simply visit www.letstalkglos.nhs.uk or call 0800 073 2200 to see how the service can help you.

Dates for your Diary

Friday 13th January – Young Voices to Birmingham – please see information sent out

Friday 13th January – Class 4 Swimming

Saturday 14th January – Cross Country KLB – 8.30am for 9am start

Saturday 4th February – Cross country KLB – 9.30am for **10am start**

Friday 17th February – CHIP Council snack shop

Friday 17th February – End of Term 3

Monday 27th February – Start of Term 4