



Upton Heath Church of England Primary School.
Upton Lane, Chester, CH2 1ED. 01244 972970



10th December 2021 newsletter

Dates for the next two weeks in school

Mon 13th Dec	Tues 14th Dec	Wed 15th Dec	Thurs 16th Dec	Fri 17th Dec
Week 1 Menu RHINO House - own clothes day.	Conkers - Nativity 2pm	Acorns - Nativity 2pm Menu change - Chicken/quorn curry	Christmas Lunch Christmas Eve dress up (Y1-6) - £1 donation	Christmas Jumper Day. EYFS - Christmas Eve dress up - £1 donation. School Closes.
Mon 3rd Jan 2022	Tues 4th Jan	Wed 5th Jan	Thurs 6th Jan	Fri 7th Jan
Week 1 Menu	INSET DAY	School Open to pupils		

Diary Dates

Rhino House	-	Own Clothes Day (NO football kits)
EYFS Nativity	-	14th & 15th December 2021
EYFS Panto	-	16th December 2021
Christmas Lunch	-	Thursday 16th December 2021
Christmas Eve	-	Thursday 16th December 2021 (Y1 - Y6)
Christmas Eve	-	Friday 17th December 2021 (EYFS)
Christmas Jumper Day	-	Friday 17th December 2021
School Closes	-	Friday 17th December 2021

Christmas Eve Dress Up

On **Thursday 16th December** Y1 - Y6 pupils can come into school dressed as they would for Christmas Eve. There will then be a Christmas story afternoon.

EYFS will do this on **Friday 17th December** for a donation of £1.00, due them going to the Panto on Thursday.

Friday 17th December - Christmas Jumper Day

Parking at School

Just a gentle reminder to park sensibly outside school when dropping your children off. Please DO NOT park or stop to let children out of the car on double yellow lines or in the school entrance. We have had a number of complaints.



At this time of year, we are all busy and finding our money doesn't go very far but some adults and children in our community won't even have enough to buy food for Christmas day.

Please can you just buy one item extra while shopping this weekend and send it into school with your child.

Let's try and make Christmas a little better for all.

Thank you

Mrs Glover & The Ethos Team



Bookings are now being taken for children who wish to start learning a musical instrument after Christmas, with the deadline for booking being the 21st December subject to a final confirmation from tutors that they can accommodate everyone. Should we find we are unable to accommodate anyone, we would of course keep parents fully informed. [Click here for more information and video.](#)



Learn a Musical Instrument at School after Christmas!

Website: www.musicforlife.org.uk

Email: admin@musicforlife.org.uk

Tel: 01978 761162

- **High Quality tuition** provided by a highly trained specialist music tutor
- Lessons available in school on **almost any instrument including voice**
- All new courses are only committed to the 12 week “taster” period
- Support with fees may be available in cases of hardship
- Two independent reviews of school music services rated Music for Life an “**outstandingly effective service**” offering “**outstanding value**”
- **Book by 21st December via our website** for lessons to start after Christmas. They may be a perfect Christmas present for your child!



“The opportunity to learn an instrument in school offers something very special that can last a lifetime”

**future
talent**
inspiring young musicians



STARS OF THE WEEK

ACORNS: Stars of the Week will commence in January for EYFS	CONKERS: Stars of the Week will commence in January for EYFS	ASH: Dwayne Balenaka for super sounding out when reading and writing; Freddy Hughes for his fantastic attitude and always having a go with a smile.
YEW: Evelyn Davies for application of number bonds to 10 in independent work; Rose Mahoney for her enthusiasm and independence when writing.	WILLOW: Aarav Kapur for improved focus and effort in writing this week; Oscar Smithson for being our owl expert and making a fabulous owl clay model.	SYCAMORE: Sienna Saville & Harry Adshead For writing fantastic fact files about owls independently!
BEECH: Jesse O'Keefe for writing a detailed piece of independent writing about owls; Jett Radcliffe for outstanding behaviour, teamwork and enthusiasm during our multi skills festival.	JUNIPER: Jacob Egerton-Parry & Sonny Lynch for excellent reading and quizzing; Albion Thom for solving super tricky maths challenges in his power maths book.	HAWTHORN: Jack Arnold for his wonderful descriptive language in writing and for creating a fantastic fantasy character; Jack Morris for being enthusiastic and engaged in his work and showing great determination with problem solving in Maths.
LIME: Derry O'Reilly for perseverance in Maths; Joseph Bradley for creating modelling skills for our Christmas service.	HAZEL: Lilian Horsham for creating an amazing fact file on the Greek God Hera; Elizabeth Rose for showing more of a risk taking attitude towards her work, having a go at it before asking for support.	ELM: Thomas Mottershead for using detailed and descriptive language in English; Santi Thenga-Owen for her excellent contributions to all our lessons this week.
BIRCH: Isobel Taylor for outstanding commitment to her learning especially Maths; Nevaeh-Skye Harvey for her fantastic attitude in Math and adopting a resilient attitude.	OAK: Still away at Min-y-Don	CHESTNUT: THE WHOLE CLASS; For fantastic behaviour, resilience and teamwork at Min-y-Don. You were fantastic representatives of our school and we are very proud of you all.

Year 5 created scary winter forest poems using figurative language, such as similes and personification, to create atmosphere. We used our computing lessons to practise our skills on Powerpoint, thinking carefully about images, font, position and size.

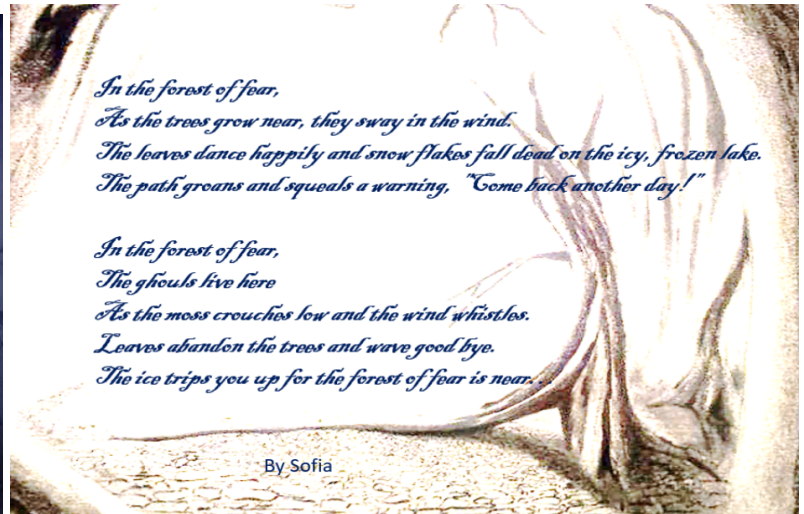
IN THE FOREST OF FEAR, TALL TREES
STOOD ABOVE THE CRUNCHING
LEAVES.

THE TWISTING PATH WEAVED
BETWEEN GNARLED ROOTS.

THE WIND HOWLED THROUGH THE FOREST.
THE CREATURES CRAWLED INTO THE DECAYING
TREE.

WIND OF LIGHT RUSTLED THE ROTTING
LEAVES.

TWIGS FELL ON THE CRUNCHY ORANGE
LEAVES.



Wind howled like a angry wolf
Vines licked my face and pulled my legs
Horrid shadows
Midnight wind

In the Forest Of Fear, the old tree's branches were reaching out at the screaming wind as the leaves scurried off to avoid it.

The snow was thrashing down and the trees narrowed, closing in on the running path. Wind pushed the dirt so that it swam with the damp, frozen snow and the lake shivered with horror.

Mountains perched on the shaking ground and hummed their dramatic tunes.

The colourless sky was darkening to a velvet black and the stars were scattered as if they were sprinkles .

By Cora

*In The Forest Of Fear, wind whistled and screamed,
The mist hugged the trees like a scarf;
In The Forest Of Fear, the leaves swayed to the song of the nearby crew.
The branches reached out to grab the falling snow
In the Forest of fear, the path twisted and turned.
The moon was the only light.
In the Forest of Fear the leaves crunched violently.
In the Forest of Fear . . .*

By Amelia H

Virtual Astronomy Club

Please follow this link to view the [Astronomy Club Starmap](#) and observing notes for January. Hopefully Mr Brankin will soon be back in school to resume Astronomy Club.

Letter from Mr North

10/12/2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I want to start off this week's letter by saying a huge thank you to our community for their support, patience and resilience in light of the latest updates and guidance from the UKHSA, PHE and DfE. I know that I gave you lots of information last week relating to COVID-19 and the new variant, as ever, this guidance continues to be updated, almost daily. We are monitoring these updates and will share information that is relevant to our community as soon as we can. As it stands, we continue to see a small number of positive cases in school, but not enough for us to meet further thresholds. We have had a review meeting with the Local Health Protection team today, who have confirmed that our actions and measures are suitable and effective.

Our Year 6 classes have been out to Min Y Don this week. I know that they have had an absolutely amazing time, and I would like to thank all of the staff for giving up their own time to support and plan the trip for our children. **THANK YOU!** Mrs Howie, Miss Barker, Mrs Britten, Mrs Morris, Mrs Allan, Miss Williams, Mrs Jones and Mrs Glover for your time, support, dedication, hard work and for updating us all via Twitter during the week.

It has been lovely to welcome back our colleagues from the Baptiste church and Holy Ascension, who have been leading worship with us mid-week. We look forward to enhancing our partnership with them over the coming months.

As you will be aware, especially in Acorns Class, Mrs Brocken is expecting her first baby in the New Year. Mrs Harrison and I have recruited another Miss Wilkinson, who has recently been working in an Outstanding school in Ellesmere Port and a local Chester school, to cover Mrs Brocken's maternity leave. Mrs Brocken is planning on leaving mid-January and Miss Wilkinson will start from 4th January, to ensure a good hand-over and transition. She has already been in school to meet the children and will be the class teacher for the rest of the academic year. Further staffing news, I have been asked by Hillside Primary School to extend Mr. Riley's secondment, as their Acting Deputy Headteacher, until the end of the academic year. This has been agreed and Mr. Wyllor has been employed to at least the end of the academic year to cover this secondment. Thus ensuring continuity for both schools

Next week is an extremely full week, so I thought that I would share with you all what is happening and also to give you the guidance needed to keep all of our children, staff and community safe. All of the measures that we have had in place are included in the latest guidance; as we are determined to reduce the risk of spreading the infection as possible to ensure that you and our amazing UHPS team can enjoy a family Christmas break, without worrying about having to isolate.

Together, we have overcome many obstacles, your **resilience**, **compassion** and **respect** for our decisions and measures, have enabled our school and our community to overcome the challenges of the last few terms, and as ever I thank you for that support. So next week:

Date	Event	Guidance
Monday 13 th December	Non-uniform day for our winning House Point Team (RHINOs)	
	Reception Nativity Dress rehearsal	Held in the school Hall, no parents to watch but Year 5 physically distanced are watching to support their reading buddies.

Tuesday 14 th December	Reception Nativity (pm)	<p>Parents are asked to have an LFD test before attending the meeting and only attend if they have received a negative result.</p> <p>Parents are asked to wear a face covering, unless exempt, whilst in school.</p> <p>Parents are asked to sit physically distanced from each other.</p>
Wednesday 15 th December	Reception Nativity (pm)	<p>Parents are asked to have an LFD test before attending the meeting and only attend if they have received a negative result.</p> <p>Parents are asked to wear a face covering, unless exempt, whilst in school.</p> <p>Parents are asked to sit physically distanced from each other.</p>
	(am) Year 4 Advent Performance to the school	This will be streamed live to the school. Originally, we were going to have an audience for our Year 4 children, but we have changed this plan.
	(pm) Year 4 Advent Performance in the church for Year parents.	<p>Parents are asked to have an LFD test before attending the meeting and only attend if they have received a negative result.</p> <p>Parents are asked to wear a face covering, unless exempt, whilst in church.</p> <p>Parents are asked to sit physically distanced from each other.</p> <p>Children will be brought back to school and collected at the normal time.</p>
Thursday 16 th December	Reception classes will be going to see their Pantomime.	<p>Any parent helpers to take an LFD test.</p> <p>Adults will wear face coverings.</p>
	Christmas Dinner in school.	Currently, we have re-established single year groups, physically distanced in the Hall during lunch time, as previously. This has helped us manage the cleaning down of equipment and tables between sittings and to reduce the amount of mixing of classes.

	<p>PTA Hot Chocolate in the afternoon has been postponed.</p> <p>Children to wear “What they would wear the night before Christmas”</p>	<p>Unfortunately, in light of the latest guidance, I have made the decision to not invite PTA members into school to give the children a Hot Chocolate drink, again to reduce the number of additional adults being school and therefore reduce the risk of spreading the infection. However, we have had communication with Father Christmas, who will take a test and will wear a face covering and, all things being equal, will be popping in to see some of our children in the afternoon.</p>
Friday 17 th December	<p>The last day of term</p> <p>“CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY”</p>	<p>Children are able to wear a Christmas jumper over their uniform for the day. We are not asking for Christmas party food</p>
	<p>Reception Classes to wear</p> <p>“What you wear the night before Christmas”</p>	

We hope that you find this information useful.

School reopens to the children, in the New Year, on Wednesday 5th January 2022. Staff are in school Tuesday 4th January for an INSET Day.

Yours faithfully

Conrad North

Headteacher

Leave of Absence Request

Leave of absence during term time will not be authorised unless the reason meets the exceptional criteria. In response to your leave of absence request, a decision will be made and a letter sent to you within 5 working days. If leave of absence is authorised, a date to return must be agreed with the Headteacher. A child who is absent longer than the agreed date can be legally removed from the school register and the parent may be liable to prosecution.

When the leave of absence is ‘unauthorised’ and a child incurs 10 unauthorised absence marks in a term, i.e. five school days, the Local Authority may be informed and a fixed term penalty notice may be issued. The current rates payable by parents are £60 where the amount is paid within 21 days and £120 where the

amount is paid within 28 days. This charge is per parent/carer per child. If the fixed penalty notice remains unpaid this could lead to prosecution in the Magistrate's Court.