



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



14th January 2022 Newsletter

Dates for the next two weeks in school

Mon 17th Jan 22	Tues 18th Jan	Wed 19th Jan	Thurs 20th Jan	Fri 21st Jan
Week 3 Menu Parents Meeting 5pm for Hawthorn Residential			Census Day - Please note change of menu	
Mon 24th Jan	Tues 25th Jan	Wed 26th Jan	Thurs 27th Jan	Fri 28th Jan
Week 1 Menu				

Census Day - Thursday 20th January 2022

Please note the change of menu for Census Day - Cheese & Tomato Pizza, Tuna & Cheese Melts and Jacket Potato with choice of filling.

Next Thursday is school census day, when every school in England has to submit data to the government. One of the areas the government would like statistics on is the number of infant pupils taking a universal free school meal. The government needs to know how much funding to allocate to each school to cover the cost of these meals for the year. If they under-estimate the take up on universal free school meals and therefore reduce the amount of funding we receive, the actual cost of these meals has to come from our budget, reducing the money we have to spend in other areas. The more children that take a universal free school meal on that day, the more funding we receive and the less we have to fund ourselves. Whether or not your child usually takes a school meal on a Thursday, if your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2, we'd very much appreciate it if they could take a meal next **Thursday 20th January**, thank you for your support.

The Dogs Trust

Thank you to Bethan [@DogsTrust](#) for her visit this week into school teaching us how to treat dogs and how to keep them and us safe. We learned the five [#happydogrules](#) and how we can help dogs to be happy.



PIC•COLLAGE

STARS OF THE WEEK

ACORNS: Walter Fletcher for always being ready and focused; Tornado Liu-Kanu for being a lovely friend.	CONKERS: Leila Muniu for her fantastic reading this week; Millie Owen-Phillips for being such a kind member of the class.	ASH: Kaiden Jenkins for super listening and following instructions; Stephen Fletcher for fantastic participation in lessons.
YEW: Ariana Tamasanu for explaining how to solve problems in maths; Sophie Bronnert for applying phonics knowledge to her reading and using expression.	WILLOW: James Mangan for commitment to his reading and getting 100% on each quiz this week; Kenny Graham for his enthusiasm and participation in all lessons, especially those about dragons!	SYCAMORE: Cara Mason for showing lots of enthusiasm towards our maths unit on multiplication; Sophie Campbell for showing lots of perseverance towards her learning.
BEECH: James Cummins for trying hard on his sentence writing about Zog the dragon; Winnie Roberts for focusing really hard on including lots of Year 2 features in her writing this week. Her writing has been fab!	HAWTHORN: Osian Watts for a brilliant first week back and working hard and being focused in all lessons; Sean Jackson for a brilliant first week back and showing super determination and resilience in reading and English.	JUNIPER: Macey Frodsham for neat handwriting and working very hard in all subjects; Kian Haselden for completing all his home learning really well and then doing extra to challenge himself.
LIME: Bethan Faulkner for always being a resilient, sensible and kind member of our class; Harvey Taylforth for his excellent progress in reading and quizzing.	HAZEL: Isabella Sanderson for showing perseverance when practising her dribbling skills in PE (basketball); Niamh Mullen for creating an amazing Greek root work booklet that clearly shows where some of our words in English come from.	ELM: Noah Booth for outstanding behaviour and excellent engagement in all lessons; Kaiden Pritchard for the independence and confidence he has shown when faced with new challenges.
BIRCH: Rylan Klieve & Aayaan Shaheen For incredible perseverance and courage at swimming this week and a fantastic start to this term	CHESTNUT: Olivia Hanna & Phoebe Hughes For their inquisitive nature and enthusiasm for science.	OAK: Ella Lewis for working incredibly hard at simplifying fractions; Jareth Freemantle for great persuasive writing about saving tigers.

Mrs Morris' Award for Acts of Kindness: **Archie Kelly** (Sycamore) & **Stanley Golding** (Birch)

Letter from Mr North

14/01/2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been great to see so many children accessing the clubs and after school activities this week and also to get back into the swing of a normal week. Your support and positivity is very much appreciated and your kind words to colleagues and myself have been gratefully received. Mr. Codd and Mr. Rafferty have settled into their role well and have been made to feel very welcome and part of our team, so thank you for assisting with that too.

This week's big news is to share with you that Mr. Rodgers, has made the decision to retire from his role as Site Manager. John has been working with the school since 2011 (11 years), and has come from a background of working in construction in London for 40 years. I know that his knowledge and joinery expertise have been utilised by the school for over a decade and that he has seen a lot of changes in his time here. I know that John will be missed, as he has become an institution around the school, but time and some health concerns have finally helped him make the decision to retire and spend time at home with his partner. Mr. Rodgers will be in school until the half term, whilst we are in the process of recruiting someone to take on the role and I know that he will be very supportive in this time. Please join me in wishing John all the very best for his retirement.

This week we have welcomed the Dog's Trust representative, Bethan Richardson, who has been working with all of our children about how we handle and look after dogs. She has led sessions for Reception, Y1 and 2 "Happy Dog Rules", Y 3/ 4 "Safety and Sense" and Y5/6 Dog Detectives" These sessions have been specifically arranged to support our introduction of "Buddy" to the children as our School Dog. As you are aware, Buddy has been attending different puppy training lessons over the autumn term and has been in school, being walked around the school building to "get used" to the sights and sounds of our children and team at work and play. Mrs Morris has done an amazing job and already children are used to asking if they can stroke him, or watch him in her office through the window. He is proving to be a very calm and timid individual and has already made a positive impact. Consequently, we have asked the Dog's Trust to come into school to see the environment we are keeping Buddy in and to give us some training pointers to ensure Buddy's safety and well-being is taken care of. I am delighted to say that the children have been brilliant and have been thoroughly engaged in the sessions and Bethan has been incredibly impressed by them and Buddy and how he has settled into school life. We feel that Buddy and our children and staff are now ready to engage more widely and for Buddy to be used as a specific intervention or reward for those children whom we feel would benefit. If you haven't already given consent for Buddy to work with your child, then please do get a consent form from the office or we can email this out to you. Should you require any more information, please contact Mrs Morris, who will be delighted to answer any questions that you may have.

Our next parent's evenings have been set for the week beginning 14th February this term and will be held virtually. We were hoping to be able to invite parents into school, but in the current circumstances we feel it is more prudent to continue to hold the meetings virtually this term, especially as the system has worked really well and feedback has been so positive. Should you require a further meeting, face to face, this can be arranged at a mutually convenient time with your child's teacher and allowing for our normal COVID-19 measures.

We have seen pockets of positive cases this week across the school, consequently, I have put together an updated "what to do" guidance based on the Local Health Protection team and UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) advice for your attention. I hope that you find the guidance of use. Please remain vigilant and take heed of the advice about keeping children at home if they are symptomatic, get a test and follow the guidance regarding isolation. We have yet to reach the threshold in any class to be in contact with the Local Health Protection Team, but are very aware that this picture can change very quickly. We are confident that our internal measures keep our children and staff as safe as we possibly can, but your support in being vigilant is vitally important to reduce the risk of spreading the virus across our community. Thank you for your support with this request.

Yours faithfully

Conrad North

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.