



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



17th December 2021 newsletter

Dates for the next two weeks in school

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		
Mon 10th Jan	Tues 11th Jan	Wed 12th Jan	Thurs 13th Jan	Fri 14th Jan
Week 2 Menu				

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.

Message from Mr. Bowman.

I would like to send a heartfelt message to all of the staff, children and parents of Upton Heath Primary School. Thank you all for making the last 5 years a pleasure to be part of your school family. I am humbled to have received so many lovely presents, cards and very creative handmade messages from the children.

St Christopher is looking after me well on my travels delivering Christmas parcels (p.s. Up the Villa) Yorkie bars rule! Look after Mr Rodgers for me.

I wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a happy new year.

Lee Bowman.

COVID

Should you or your child test positive during the Christmas Holiday, would you please inform us on the COVID notification email (COVID@thesamaratrust.cheshire.sch.uk), providing us with any dates of isolation periods that are given. This email address will be monitored during the holiday break. Whilst school is no longer responsible for tracking COVID cases, I want to keep up to date with any cases that would impact on school. Thank you in advance for your support with this request.

Headteacher Awards December 2021

Class	Name	Reason
Acorns	Bobby Haselden	Ror his amazing singing, acting and dancing during our nativity play
Conkers	Anastasia Rancev	For her positive attitude to everything and efforts in our nativity play.
Ash	Ruby Widdison	For being an all-round superstar. Ruby is incredibly polite and always listens and follows instructions. She contributes to class discussions and is great at listening to other children's ideas. Ruby works hard in all subjects and always writes neatly. She is an absolute joy to teach. Thank you Ruby for always putting in your best effort.
Yew	Ruby Jones	For her infectious love of learning and independent application of what she has learnt. Ruby, you have been a star this term!
Willow	Skylar Pritchard	For always trying hard with all her work, making good choices in all areas of school and being kind to others. Thank you Skylar! We are so proud of you.
Sycamore	Perry Layland	Perry is always respectful and kind to everyone. His work is produced to the best of his ability and he enjoys joining in with all class discussions. He is a superstar!
Beech	Saara Shaheen	For always putting 100% effort into everything so does, being an amazing role model and a fab member of Beech class
Juniper	Louie Lamont	Louie has been a superstar this half term. He has completed tasks in the classroom and has responded thoughtfully to class discussions, contributing some interesting and insightful ideas. He has been an eager and active participant in PE lessons and after school clubs and has also represented our school in two sports events - a multi skills event and a cross country race. He has made his teachers very proud.
Hawthorn	Henry Gray	For always being so focused in every lesson and for working hard at everything he does. Henry is polite, respectful, and has shown great resilience this half term.
Lime	Mayumi Wijekoon	An absolute superstar! She is hardworking, always ready, always resilient, always respectful and a great role model to have in our class.
Hazel	Oliver Bronnert	For always being an amazing role model to the rest of the class. He is always kind, compassionate and respectful to his peers and adults, as well as always being ready to learn and giving it his all every time. Well done Oliver!
Elm	Oscar Briggs	For his positive approach to all areas of learning. Oscar has shown resilience and determination throughout the term, especially when faced with new

		challenges. He tackles everything with a smile. Well done Oscar. ★
Birch	Isobel Taylor	Isobel has proven to be an incredibly resilient and hardworking super star. She always contributes to class discussions and is willing to give everything a go, even if she finds it tricky sometimes. Isobel is helpful in class and supports her peers, inspiring others to do well. An excellent role model and a fabulous attitude to learning. Well done Isobel!
Oak	Ido Magal	For always working to the best of his ability, producing amazing work and demonstrating our school values at all times. Such a superstar!
Chestnut	Alicia Tootle	A resilient and hardworking member of the class, who excelled at Min-y-don, made great progress with her reading and spelling work and has demonstrated excellent artwork for her Lowry inspired piece of work.

Christmas card designs inspired by our guided reading book : Hansel and Gretel (Elm)



“A very special visitor called in to Upton Heath on Thursday afternoon and visited all the classes.

Thank you Father Christmas for making time for us at a very busy time for you!”



PTA Raffle

A huge **THANK YOU** to everyone who supported our PTA Luxury Hamper Raffle by either donating items or buying tickets – which raised a whopping £711 for school. The 8 lucky winners have now collected their prizes.

Thanks also to our amazing PTA, in particular Mrs King-Magee and Mrs Willetts for organising.

Passion For Learning

Have been shortlisted for two awards by Steve Morgan Foundation. Click on the links advertised on their social media and look for Passion for Learning under two of the categories. If they are successful extra funding will allow them to continue to support children and their families across Cheshire.

Follow them on;

Facebook - @PassionforLearningCheshire

Twitter - @P4LCheshire

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: Rayyan Hamid for always taking care over his written work and presenting his work beautifully; Layla Turnbull for her super work on describing the properties of different 3D shapes using the correct vocabulary.
YEW: Quinn Greaves for her knowledge of 3D shapes and their properties. Wow!; Oscar Williamson for blowing us away with his rainbow words. Wow!	WILLOW: Isaac Ashton for having a 'can do' attitude and trying new things this week; Kenny Graham for showing his understanding of money by solving word problems.	SYCAMORE: Freya Hirst for being helpful around the classroom; Clark Anderson for coming to school with a positive attitude.
BEECH: Cade Precious for always approaching his school work with a smile on his face; Freya McGarrity for trying hard to be more independent in her classwork.	JUNIPER: Emelia Cooper for writing a fantastic fantasy story based on Winter's Child; Jack Lawson for great focus and concentration this week and completing all his tasks with care.	HAWTHORN: Sami Muhashash for super focus and wonderful writing in English; Harriet Antrobus for always being a superstar and for working hard at everything she wants.
LIME: Holly Roberts for her hard work and progress in reading and quizzing; Callum Mason for his effort and resilience in Maths.	HAZEL: EVERYONE IN HAZEL CLASS; For an outstanding Christmas service performance in the Church. You presented yourselves amazingly well and told the true meaning of Christmas beautifully.	ELM: Rosie Blackwood for her responsible attitude and approach to all areas of school life; Olivia Bibby for outstanding behaviour and the kindness she shows towards others.
BIRCH: Faye Morris for always trying her best and working hard in everything she does; Charles Shaw for bringing joy to our classroom and working hard.	OAK: THE WHOLE CLASS; For outstanding behaviour whilst at Min-y-Don and demonstrating bravery and resilience during the activities.	CHESTNUT: Matvey Rancev for great enthusiasm and determination shown in our music lesson; George Mottershead for his enthusiasm and contributions to our Christmas RE lessons.

Mrs Morris' Award for Acts of Kindness : Alex Frodsham & Oscar Briggs (Elm)

Choir

On Friday 3rd December the Upton Heath choir performed for the first time together this year to the members of the Friday Luncheon Club at Upton Village Hall. We received a very warm welcome and the children brought festive cheer by singing a range of Christmas Carols. They were even asked to do an encore! The audience showed their enjoyment by joining in with a couple of favourites - it was a wonderful experience for the children to be part of. The audience could not believe we had only been singing together for five weeks, which is testament to the children's enthusiasm and determination to learn a range of songs.

The following day, Saturday 4th December the children gave up their time to sing in support of the Hospice of the Good Shepherd at the Christmas Fair organised by the Church. The choir sang fantastically and received glowing reports. They then enjoyed the treats given by the Church as a very well-deserved reward. Well done to all the members of the choir, you did an amazing job, and we are so proud of you.

Mr Blackwood's raffle - Wooden Items

An amazing £359 has been raised from Mr Blackwood's raffle for the 2 wooden items.

The winners are Mrs Egerton-Parry and Mrs Powell. Thank you to everyone who supported this fabulous school fundraiser.

Year 4 Christmas Service



On Wednesday, the Year 4 classes performed their Christmas Service in the Parish Church of the Holy Ascension in Upton in front of their parents/carers.



They did amazingly well, they spoke clearly when it was their turn to speak, and they all sung beautifully. Mr Wyllor, Mrs Mistry,

and Mrs Massey are so incredibly proud of the children in Hazel and Lime, their hard work and dedication clearly paid off! Super job Year 4!



In November, KS2 children all entered the Bebras Computing Challenge which promotes computational thinking. The competition is carried out in over 50 countries and designed to get students all over the world excited about computing. This was our first time entering the competition and I am so pleased with the children's enthusiasm towards it. Well done to all the KS2 children who participated.

Some of the children were lucky enough to receive 'best in school', 'distinction' or 'merit' awards. We can't wait to try again next year.

A special mention goes to the following pupils:

In the Y6/7 competition we received:

1 x Best in School Award
14 x Distinction Awards
12 x Merit Awards

Chestnut Class Winner:

Tyler Ashall

Oak Class Winner:

Sophie Rowlands



In the Y4/5 competition we received;

1 x Best in School Award
29 x Distinction Awards
27 x Merit Awards

Birch Class Winner: **Freddie Willetts**

Elm Class Winner: **Billy Morris**

Hazel Class Winners: **Archie Aldom, Max Dean, Kays Elgamoudi & Taylor**

Flora

Lime Class Winners: **Itay Magal & Edward Graham**



In the Year 3 competition we received:

4 x Best in School Awards
10 x Distinction Awards
16 x Merit Awards

Juniper Class Winners:

Thomas Booth & Tommy Hunt

Hawthorn Class Winners:

Millie Hall & Kian Haselden

Online Safety Guides

We would like to bring your attention to a game which some of the young children are playing online. It's on Roblox and called "The hated child", briefly it's a game where the children send mean and nasty messages to another. [Gaming: what parents and carers need to know \(thinkuknow.co.uk\)](https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/gaming/parents-and-carers-need-to-know/)

Please see these guides from the [National](#) Online [Safety](#).

In school we continue to use [Kidsafe](#) as one way to educate our children about different ways to keep themselves safe. The online safety sessions and workshops aim to empower children to make healthy choices about what they watch or play and deepen and develop their ability to do this. This includes identifying the impact of and harm to children as a result of playing or watching inappropriate aged games and films.

We also talk about the issue of peer pressure to help children to understand how difficult it is to say 'No' to their friends and to not do something just because other people say that they are doing it.

We always encourage children to talk to trusted adults and share any sad, scared or worried feelings they may have. These could be caused by other children encouraging them to play unsuitable games or watch unsuitable content online.

We understand that as new games are developed and released it is difficult to keep up with the changes. Please contact the school if you would like help to support your children and keep up to date with ever-changing online material.



This week we have had our second member join the Upton Heath Millionaire's Club!

Congratulations to Sophia Mangan in Chestnut class, who has read a million words since September!

Our Accelerated Reader reading programme tracks words that the children read and adds them to their word count once they pass the book's quiz. You can check on your child's current word count by logging into your Home Connect account. We will also be looking to see who our 100% quizzers are so please keep reading!

Sophia has received a certificate, a free book of her choice and her photo will be displayed in our Millionaire's Row display area in the library.

I wonder who our next Millionaire's Row member will be...!



Letter from Mr North

17/12/2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year. This has been one of the most challenging terms in my time as a Primary School Headteacher and I want to convey my huge respect and thanks to our school team, who have done an incredible job in the most challenging of circumstances. I also thank you, our community and family, for your continued support, respect and resilience, all of which have contributed to us being able to keep our children, staff and community as safe as possible. It has been a delight to be able to invite our parents to certain events this week. Thank you so much for supporting our requests to follow our COVID-19 measures, this has enabled us to open up the school safely to our community, albeit not as we had originally planned. Our Reception children were able to perform their wonderful Nativity to their parents and our Year 4 children led our worship in the Holy Ascension Church for their parents too. Our Year 6 children thoroughly enjoyed their residential experience at Min Y Don. I was able to go there too, for the first time, and I can confirm that it is a fabulous experience for all. Consequently, we have booked for next year! (More details to follow for our Year 5 families next term). We continue to plan to go on the residential to Conway and Tattenhall next term, these will go ahead, unless Government / UKHSA guidance changes nearer the time.

The Government has sent out updated guidance to schools this week, with links to other documents to give details about self-isolation, testing and how to get PCR tests, all of which I have copied for your convenience. I am aware of some concern about the availability of LFD test kits to enable families to complete daily tests, should they need to. I shared this concern with Public Health England, who have said locally for parents to keep trying to order or seek test kits via pharmacies. They are rectifying LFD test kit issues as soon as possible. Reading through the updated guidance I am pleased to report that all of the recommendations have been implemented in school already. We have been making a concerted effort to ensure that we do all we can

to reduce the risk of spreading the virus, with as little disruption to the daily routines in school. This has been supported by the Local Health Protection team who have reviewed our measures and been very positive about the actions that we have implemented.

Should you or your child test positive during the Christmas Holiday, would you please inform us on the COVID notification email (COVID@thesamaratrust.cheshire.sch.uk), providing us with any dates of isolation periods that are given. I will be monitoring this email address during the holiday break. Whilst school is no longer responsible for tracking COVID cases, I want to keep up to date with any cases that would impact on school. Thank you in advance for your support with this request.

Useful links for parents during the holiday.

Advice on what to do if you have been contacted by Test and Trace	NHS Test and Trace: what to do if you are contacted - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
What to do if told to Stay at Home	Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
Guidance on self-isolation	When to self-isolate and what to do - Coronavirus (COVID-19) - NHS (www.nhs.uk)
How to get a free PCR test kit	Get a free PCR test to check if you have coronavirus (COVID-19) - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

More sporting success for UHPS!. During this term many of our children have joined West Cheshire Schools in the Cross Country competition. It is with great pride that I can announce that our Year 3 boys came first overall after 4 races, Noah and Ella came 3rd overall in their age groups and Jack came first overall in Year 3! Amazing talent and a fabulous result. Thank you so much to the children and their families for their commitment on a Saturday morning and Miss Hodge for giving a lot of her time to support and arrange these events.

School will be reopening on Wednesday 5th January 2022 at the normal time and at the moment there is no intention to change drop-off and pick-up times, as these are ensuring a good flow of traffic around school, which helps keep all of us safe. Should there be any change to guidance during the holidays we will of course update you as soon as we possibly can. You will be informed of any changes via Twitter, Facebook and ParentPay email. We are in school for an INSET Day on 4th January, so please look out for a school notification on the 4th January confirming our position.

From Wednesday 5th January 2022 Mr Peter Codd and Mr Kevin Rafferty will join our team as Assistant Caretakers. They will be job sharing this role, whilst the school looks to recruit a member of the premises team, following Mr Bowman's departure to pastures new. Huge thanks to Mr Rodgers for supporting me with opening and locking up these past two weeks, and for being on gate duty every day.

We all hope that families and friends can be together during the Christmas period and wish you all the very best. I am sure that you will join me in thanking the UHPS team, who have been amazingly positive and resolute, hard-working and committed to ensuring that they do the best for our children and families. Thank you.

Merry Christmas everyone!

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.