



Newsletter

Autumn Term 1
September 2016

Ursula Taylor Church of England School

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'Living God's Love, together we flourish'

A message from our Senior Leadership Team:

WELCOME BACK! We all hope you have had a super summer holiday, plenty of fun in the sun, ice creams and that you have all made great family memories. We look forward to welcoming you all back to school ready for another fantastic year!

All the staff have been busy over the holidays preparing the classrooms and planning great lessons for all our children to enjoy. This year, for the first time, we are beginning the school year with two weeks of 'well-being time'. This means there will be no assessments, no formal lessons and no setting until after the first 2 weeks. We want our children to settle quickly into school life, after what has been a long break, feel confident, secure and happy in their new classrooms and with their new teachers. So, be prepared for your children to come home talking about all sorts of experiences! (Top Tip!! Buy some 'Vanish' you might need it...) Den building, arts and crafts, drama, sports and games. The children will be taking the lead and deciding what they would like to do! This will be a wonderful time for children and staff to bond and get to know each other. The Staff and Governors of Ursula Taylor feel very strongly that our children's well-being and self worth need to be high in order for them to be engaged, open to learning new things, resilient and tackle new challenges head on!



After the first two weeks, children in Year 2, 3 and 4 will be set for Maths. Children in Year 3 and 4 will be in set groups for Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar (SPaG) for 30 minutes a day for four days a week. Year 1 will be mixed across the year for daily

phonics. On Friday our whole school will experience a weekly 'Big Write' extended writing session, where we will link our developing writing skills to our creative curriculum and the topics that our children have been learning about. Big Write has been a very successful and popular initiative so far and for this year we would like to use it even more to extend our children's writing skills even further!



Finally...



A **BIG THANKYOU** to all our children, parents, family members and supporters of our wonderful school. We are very proud of our children and our school and all we have achieved over the last two years. We are very fortunate to have such encouraging and supportive parents and carers and we really appreciate all you do to help your children with their learning and also in support of our school. Our very best wishes for a super 2016 / 2017!

Mrs Morrall, Mrs Hall and Mrs Lee

Values Education at UTS

Thank you to everyone who voted for their top 6 values ready for the new school year. The following values were chosen and will form our Values Education programme for 2016/2017.

Autumn Term 1 - Koinonia (Fellowship), Autumn Term 2 - Patience

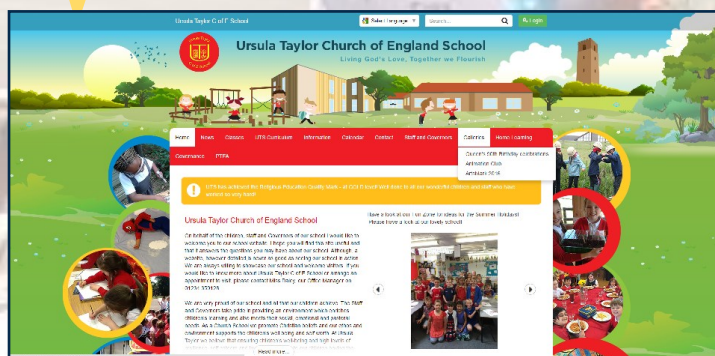
Spring Term 1 - Thankfulness, Spring Term 2 - Respect

Summer Term 1 - Honesty, Summer Term 2 - Love



REQM gold!

We are very, very pleased to announce that we have achieved the Religious Education Quality Mark GOLD! This is wonderful for our school, recognising how hard our children and staff work with RE at UTS. We were especially praised for our Pupil led worship and the amazing whole school RE day that our Year 4 children planned and delivered! We have been asked to submit this as a case study for other schools to learn from! A huge well done and thank you to Mr Burton and Miss Wintle whom have been responsible for collating all the evidence and also ensuring we have high quality RE across the school for all our children to benefit from.



School Uniform

Uniform is available from the school office, Miss Daley has a small stock in school and is able to order uniform easily. This usually only takes a short time to arrive.

Order form and price lists are available from the office.

We are intending to provide an online uniform purchase option in the future where cards can be used to pay for purchases. We will advertise this in the future when we have secured this service.



Parent Pay - Online payment system

Mrs Bartle, our School Bursar is looking into securing an online payment system for our school. We hope that this will offer the facility where parents can pay for trips and Active Kids online - reducing the need for cash of cheques. We do not

think this will be available for Dinner Money, as this does not go through the school finances but directly to Caterlink.



Communication



Over the last year we have been working to improve our communication to parents and also make accessing school information easier. We have made several changes to the website, including a new home page and drop down menus to find things more easily. We hope this has made a difference and the web site is easier to navigate.

Now we have our email system up and running, a large proportion of parents are receiving newsletters and information through emails. If you have not yet signed up for this and would like to, please let Miss Daley know and she will add you to the system.

Twitter - We are up to 52 followers so far, this is a great way to quickly let parents/carers know what is happening at school - our ID is @UrsulaTaylorSch

SMS service - we will continue to use this quick and easy service to get messages to parents quickly.

Newsletters - We are aiming to have a newsletter at least every half term, more frequently when there is a lot to report! We hope this new look newsletter is easy to read and keeps you posted about life at



UTS!

!!NEW!! In September we are introducing a suggestions / feedback box and a 'quick drop' box for letters, reply slips etc. to go to the school office. This will not replace the systems in place for children handing letters in to their teachers, but we hope it will ease the congestion at the front desk in the mornings! The suggestions / feedback box is so we are able to offer another avenue for parents / carers to have a voice and support our school.



UTS Prayer for the return to school.

Dear Jesus,

We thank you for our school - so cool!
Please help us in our quest: that we might learn through work and play to do our very best.

We thank you for the place - it's ace!
Whether inside or out, we're sure, that you will keep us safe and well feeling cared for and secure.
Amen



Diary Dates for 2016 / 2017

NB: Term dates are available on the school website - we are NOT using the Bedford Borough term dates this year - as Sharnbrook / Lincroft have set their dates (which are different to Bedford Borough) - we have matched SAF to make it easier for parents.

Key Dates for 2016 / 2017

5 + 6. 9.16 - TRAINING DAYS (Staff only)
 7.9.16 - SCHOOL STARTS
 12.9.16 - Foundation Stage start
 19.10.16 Harvest Festival
 9.11.16 Bedtime Story (Info to follow)
 31.10.16 TRAINING DAY (Staff only)
 2/3/4 November PARENT CONSULTATIONS
 w/b 5.12.16 and 12.12.16 Christmas Plays
 3.1.17 - TRAINING DAY (Staff only)
 7/8/9 March PARENT CONSULTATIONS
 17/18/19 May Frontier Centre TBC
 30.6.17 Sports Day (Provisional Date)
 4/5/6 July PARENT CONSULTATIONS

Dates
for your



Morning Snack...

All children are invited to have a snack and drink at morning break to see them through until lunchtime. Children in Foundation, Year 1 and Year 2 receive free fruit for their morning snack through the 'Fruit for Schools' initiative, children in Year 3 and 4, will need to bring a snack should they wish to have something to eat.



The following snacks are acceptable and in line with our healthy eating and healthy schools policy.

Fruit (in it's natural form - not fruit strings, fruit rolls etc.)

Small piece of cheese and a couple of crackers.

PLEASE do not send in: Dairy Lea Lunchables, Sushi, Cheese strings / strip cheeses / packets of mini biscuits - e.g. party rings, jammie dodgers, crisps or nuts. Teachers have been asked to send these snacks back home with the children as it is unfair for some children to 'bend' the rules when others always stick to them.

NB Nuts can be extremely dangerous to our vulnerable children with nut allergies - please be responsible and think about all the children in our school and their individual needs.

All children will require a named water bottle to have in class, our children are encouraged to keep well hydrated and have open access to water at all time. Please only send water in their children's bottles.

THANKYOU for respecting our Healthy Eating Policy and abiding by our requests.



Friday Golden Assembly

Every Friday we celebrate our children's achievements in our 'Golden Assembly'

Children are chosen from each class to receive a 'Values Certificate' or be nominated for the Golden Book.

We also celebrate children's birthdays as a whole school. This year our Golden Assemblies will start on **Friday 16th September at 9:15am**

From now on, Golden Assembly will always be at 9:15am to give us a dedicated hour for 'well-being' last thing on a Friday

If your child has been nominated for a certificate or is in the Golden Book, you will receive a text message inviting you to attend or celebration. You are also invited to attend if your child is celebrating a birthday that week.

We ask that you only attend if you receive a text (or it's your child's birthday) We would like to really make Golden Assembly a special time where we are able to celebrate each child and all our guests can hear and be involved in their child's successes. Whilst it has been lovely to have so many parents and family members coming every week, it has become difficult to make sure the parents of children being celebrated can really enjoy the experience.

Thank you for your support and understanding.

Our Creative Curriculum...

Topics for the Autumn Term 2016



Foundation Stage - Yet to be determined!

Year 1 - 'Our Places and Royal Places'

Year 2 - 'Turrets and Treason'

Year 3 - 'Stone Age to Iron Age'

Year 4 - 'The Long and Winding Road'



Topic booklets with more information will be coming home soon

Extra- Curricular Clubs

At UTs we try to offer a wide range of clubs and activities for our children to enjoy. Some of these clubs take place during the school day, e.g. lunchtimes, and others are after school.

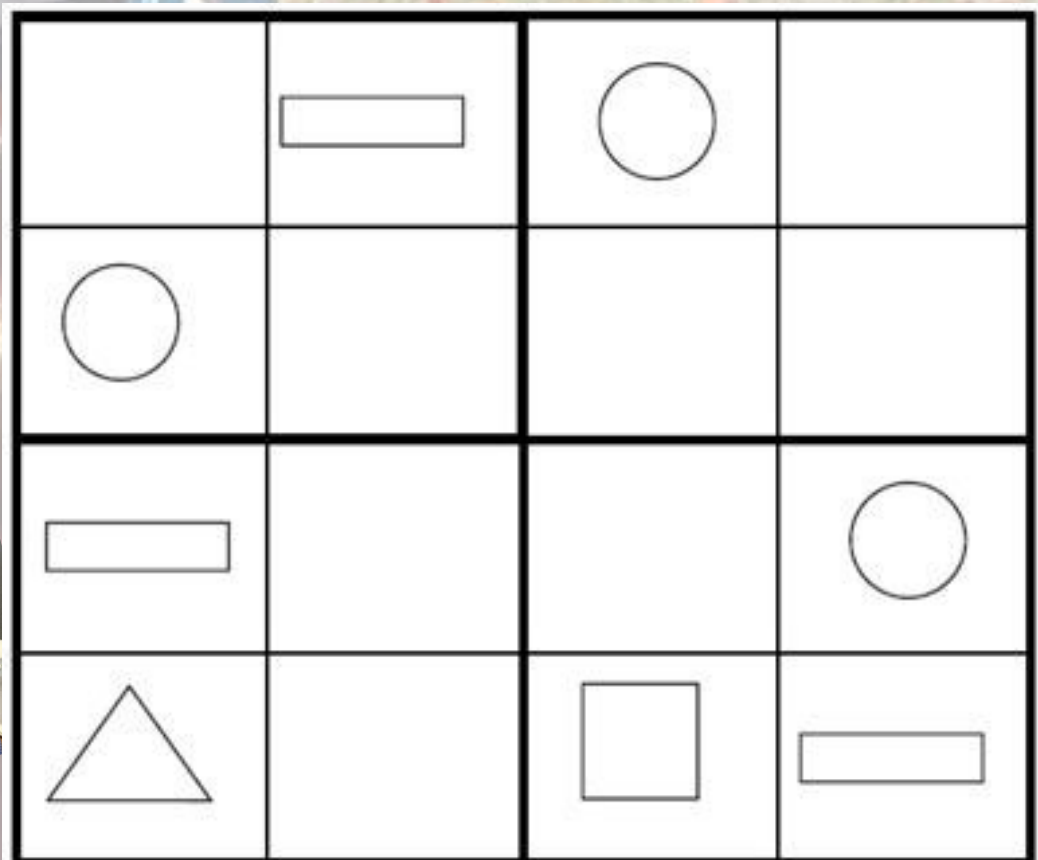
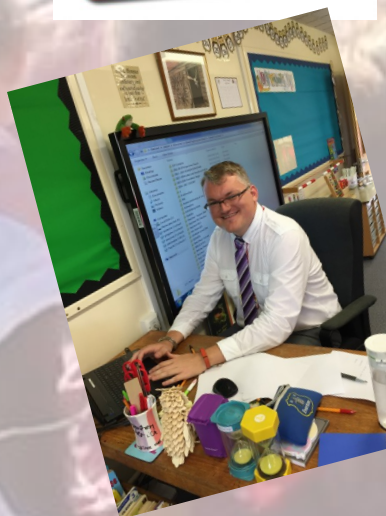
We are aiming to still offer clubs such a Premier Sports which will be advertised and start at different times of the year. We are also looking at our clubs and what we offer as part of our preparation for Primary. In the next few weeks we will send home a short survey, asking for ideas for clubs that you and our children might like to see at UTS. We cannot promise to have clubs for every idea, but it will really help to see what sort of things our children and families will value.



Magic Maths!

Mr Roderick is our Maths Leader and often puts up new challenges and activities for our children to try and puzzle out. In our newsletters we would like to continue this and pose some challenges for our children to complete. Each newsletter will have a new set of puzzles, activities or websites to try out.

Puzzle #1: Shape Sudoku. Each shape can only appear once in each row or column or in each 'section'. Can you arrange the shapes to fill each box?



Also try: <http://www.coolmath-games.com>

Lots of great game to try, have a go at: Parking Panic (a bit like our car park!) 2048 (warning parents - quite addictive!) and Sticky Ninja (Very popular with After School Club!)



Literacy Corner!

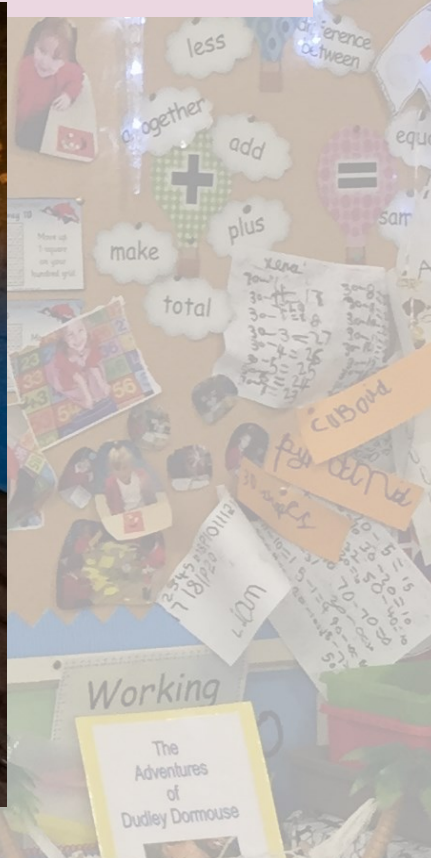
Our Literacy Leader is Mrs Hall. In every newsletter we will be setting a challenge or two to our children to have a go at! If you have a go, bring your work in to school to share with Mrs Hall - the best ones will be shown in assembly and displayed in the foyer for everyone to enjoy!

Creative Task #1: Have a look at the photograph below, it is an abandoned home in the Namib Desert. Imagine you are exploring this house and you go through the door in the distance... What could be there? Where does this door take you?

Can you write short story about what happens next?

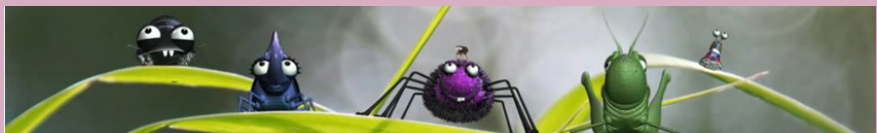
You could continue this sentence:

Slowly, I opened the wooden door, it was hard to move because of all the sand pressed against it. Suddenly I saw ...

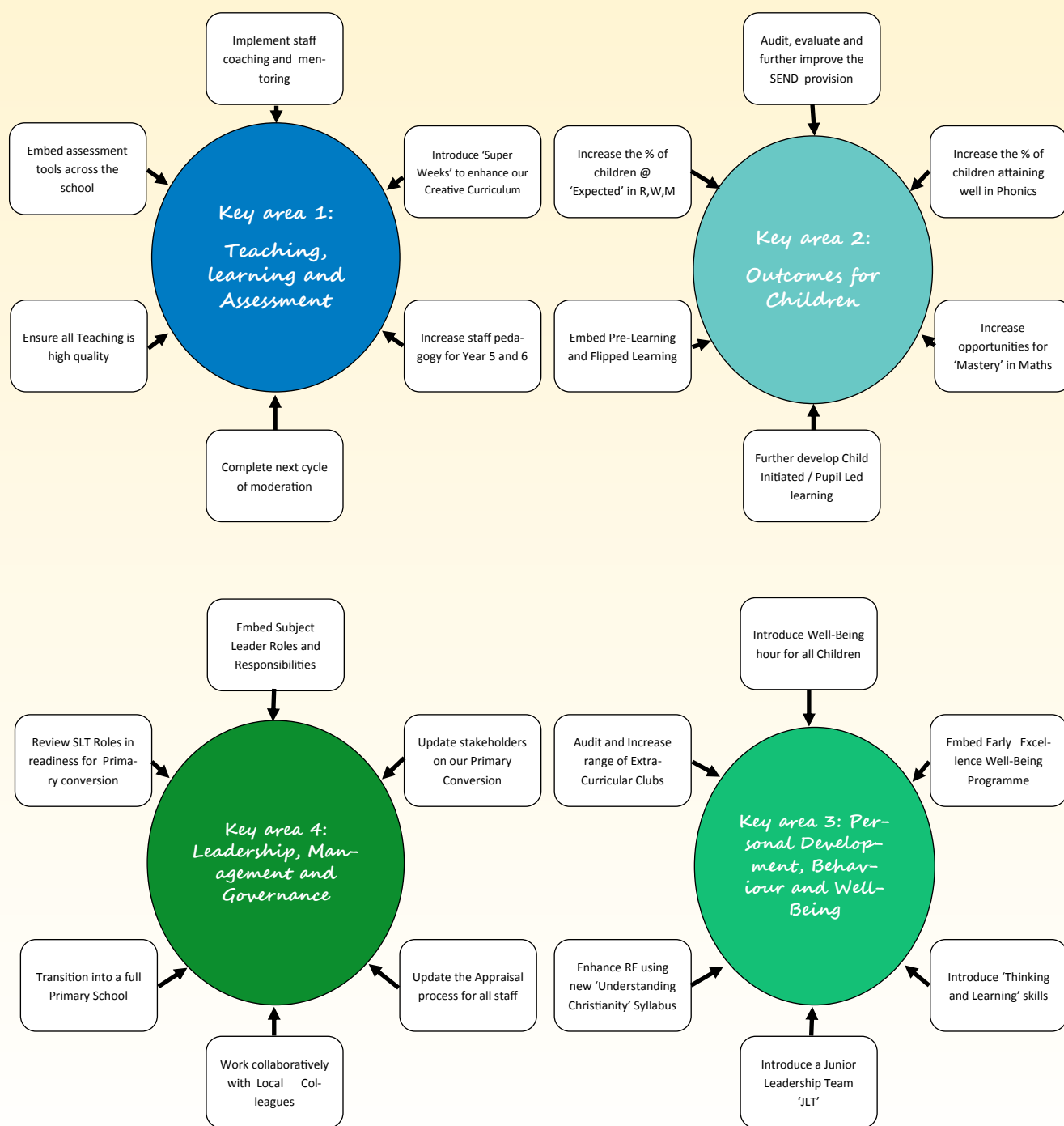


Visit 'The Literacy shed' at www.literacyshed.com/caterpillar-shoes.html

Watch the animation (listen out for the rhyming!) and create a story board showing the different animals and the order that the caterpillar visits them. Perhaps you could add some speech bubbles?



The Key areas for whole school development for 2016 - 2017 are:



Ursula Taylor School Dinners - Please remember that School Dinners are only free for Foundation, Year 1 and Year 2 through the Universal Infant Free School Meals initiative OR through applying to the Borough Council for Free School Meals (See Miss Daley for more information)

Meals cost: £2.15 per day, £10.75 a week, £70.95 for the Half Term (33 days) £15.05 for Fridays (x7)

Meals MUST be paid for in advance.

A menu will be sent home in book bags very soon and is also available on our school website.