

Ursula Taylor Church of England Primary School



Newsletter
Spring Term 2
April 2017

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'Living God's Love, together we flourish'

A message from our Senior Leadership Team:

Another exciting term has just about finished! It is hard to believe that we are already two thirds of the way through this year, with only one term left until our children move into a new year.

We are organising a series of transition days for children to spend time in their new classes and also a 'Meet the Teacher' event for parents and carers to meet their child's new teacher for next year. This has almost been finalised, once we have clear plans in place, we will be letting children and parents know who will be teaching each class in September.

Thank you to all those parents and carers who have supported our children over the last term with homework, home learning and by bringing things into school to help with our studies. It has been wonderful to see models, books and photos and to hear children speaking so positively about family trips out and special occasions. Please keep sharing these things with us, we love to see what our children do in their home time and also link it to our learning wherever possible.

We have also been looking carefully at our provision for Year 5 and 6. The teachers have been working hard, led by our subject leaders to create a challenging, enjoyable and topic led curriculum for our Year 5 children ready for September. This has also involved planning different extra-curricular opportunities and ensuring our children have the best possible learning experiences we can offer. Our new building is proving to be a super learning environment, the classrooms are very generously sized and the lockers have proven a big hit with our children and staff. Our next steps are to bring the learning into the corridors and foyer more, to make the environment as bright and engaging as the rest of the school.

Huge Thanks to our Science week team, ably led by Mrs Castle - we had a great week with some super engaging investigations and experiments! We look forward to seeing you again next year!

Also a massive THANKYOU! To our PTFA who arranged lovely Mother's Day gifts and also have organised the recent disco and Easter breakfast. Thanks to Mr Roomes for the fantastic disco, the children all enjoyed the music and dancing!

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Easter and we look forward to seeing you back at school on Monday 24th April. (This is NOT a training day)

Mrs Morrall, Mrs Hall and Mrs Lee

Values Education at UTPS

Our new Value for SUMMER 1 is HONESTY

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



Our Value for next half term is:

Honesty

We will be learning about the Value of Honesty in our Collective Worship, in our lessons and as part of our Religious Education Work.

The key themes we will be covering are:

- ◆ Truthfulness and telling the whole story
 - ◆ Living without lies or exaggeration
- ◆ Honesty and Truth and making the right choices
 - ◆ How 'tall tales' can grow into big lies
 - ◆ Searching for the Truth
- ◆ Having the courage to be Honest - even when this can be hard

We will cover the story of Jacob and Esau, the day Theo met Jesus and Zechariah.

We will be displaying some ideas and concepts linked to Honesty in school, if you have a good example or photograph of your child/ren demonstrating the value of Honesty- please email it to school, so we can display it! office@ursulataylor.bedssch.co.uk



Golden Assembly

Our Golden Assembly is an important time when we celebrate the achievements of our children.

We like to offer parents and carers the opportunity to attend and share their children's achievements with us. As a school, we are very unusual that we invite parents into worship on a weekly basis.

If your child is going to be honoured, we will text you to inform you. We ask that only parents of children who have been nominated attend, to keep our parent numbers to a minimum.

You are welcome to bring younger siblings, but please sit near the door so you can make a quick exit if your child becomes noisy. It is very distracting for our children and very hard for parents to hear their children's awards being presented. Thank you for your support with this.



UTPS Prayer

Dear God,

In this season of new life,

With the sight of buds and the smell of grass

With the sound of the birdsong and warming

Spring sun,

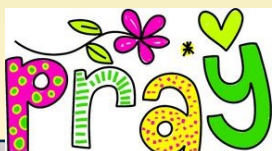
With the taste of fresh food, and the promise of

Easter,

God of springtime, your spirit brings your world alive.

We give thanks for creation.

Amen.



Term Dates for 2016 / 2017

We have had a number of parents say that our website has incorrectly stated the Term Dates for this year. This is not the case. Our website is www.ursulataylorschool.co.uk or it can be found at ursulataylor.eschools.co.uk and is fully up to date with this years' dates and also the dates for the next school year.

There are a number of websites that publish term date information e.g.. 'My school holidays' 'term dates.co.uk' these websites have the wrong information on them as they blindly use dates from the Borough Council - and don't actually check if these are the dates for our school.

We strongly advise that you don't use these websites as they are incorrect and not monitored by us. We have no influence over other websites and use our site to convey the most up to date and relevant information.

We have been advertising the term dates since the start of the school year when all the North Beds Headteacher agreed to adopt the Sharnbrook Academy Federation dates for this year. This decision was made as we have a large number of parents who have children at UTPS and also Lincroft. Had we chosen to stick with the Bedford Borough dates, we would have had parents needing to find three weeks of childcare arrangements to cover an extended period for Easter.

Please do make sure you check the term dates we publish, on our website and also the newsletters which always include Diary dates. Unfortunately we have a number of people who have booked holidays during term time, using the wrong term dates. We are not able to authorise this absence and it may lead to a referral being made to the Educational Welfare Officer for a Fixed Penalty Fine.

Attendance at UTPS has always been good, and we have achieved this through an Attendance policy which we believe to be fair and open. However, our attendance figures are dropping due to holidays being taken in term time, it has been suggested by the Educational Welfare Officer that we need to alter our policy to issue more unauthorised absences and also Fixed Penalty Notices.

This is an option we would like to avoid, so that we have some flexibility to support parents where required. We would ask parents and carers not to book any holiday during term time, this will help us improve the attendance figures and also avoid making our policy more stringent.

Thank you for your help with this.

Summer Term Uniform

We are soon entering the Summer Term and our children's uniform changes slightly. We have all the usual things plus the addition of grey shorts and summer dresses.

Marks and Spencer have launched school 'playsuits' which are ideal for girls - especially if they like cart-wheels, handstands etc. We are happy for children to wear these as long as they are red to match our uniform. (We are not on commission!)

Please make sure that shoes are still **BLACK** and practical (not slip on ballet pumps which fall off when running or shoes with impractical heels)

Tights - if needed **MUST** be plain red, grey, white, **NOT** striped, spotty etc.

Ankle socks - white with skirts/dresses

Grey/ black /white with shorts.

Hair Bands/bobbles - small, plain and **NOT** flowers, bows, glitter hair-bands please. These are **NOT** uniform.

Also needed:

Sun hat

Sun Cream

Lightweight waterproof

ALL NAMED PLEASE!



M and S
Playsuit

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

5th April - Easter Bonnet Parade

7th April - 2:45pm Golden Assembly

7th APRIL - Break up for Easter

10th, 11th, 12th and 13th EASTER CLUB AT UTPS

24th April - Back to School (NOT a training Day)

1ST May - BANK HOLIDAY

2nd May - Year 4 Public Speaking Comp (info to follow)

4th May - Class Photographs

15th, 16th and 17th May - Y4 Frontier Centre

w/b 29th May HALF TERM1

16th June Eco-Day

19th, 20th June Y4 Bike ability (info to follow)

30th June SPORTS DAY

3rd July - REPORTS GO HOME

4th, 5th, 6th July - CONSULTATIONS

7th July **TRAINING DAY** No Children in school

11th, 12th, 13th July Internal Transfer Days 'Meet the Teacher'

21st July BREAK UP SUMMER HOLIDAYS

w/b 24th July SUMMER HOLIDAY CLUB

w/b 31st July SUMMER HOLIDAY CLUB



School Dinners

Dinner costs for next Half term are:

24 Days @ £2.15 = £51.60

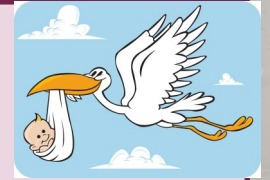
Fridays x 5 @ £2.15 = £10.75



Please note - Foundation, Year 1 and Year 2 have free school meals and do not have to pay. The above costs are for Year 3 and 4 only. Please pay in advance for your child's meals. Cheques payable to 'Caterlink' Please.

Thank you

Staff news!



Miss Dennison is leaving us a little earlier than planned on Friday 7th April. We would all like to wish her well and look forward to meeting the new addition to the family! Mrs Woodward will be increasing her hours to be a full time teacher in Dragonflies for the Summer Term.

Mrs Williams has now returned from Maternity Leave as is working in Foundation Stage and across the school covering time out of class for teachers.

Mrs Bartle is sadly leaving us on April 7th. Mrs Bartle has been our School Bursar for a number of years and has been instrumental in ensuring our school finances have been managed effectively and efficiently.

On May 8th, we have a new School Business Manager starting at UTPS. Mrs Mulholland will take over the reins in the office and join, Miss Daley, Mrs Lee, Mrs Hall and Mrs Morrall as part of the School Leadership Team.

Out of School Care - Breakfast and After School Club

As our school grows and changes to accommodate Year 5 and 6 we are altering our OSC provision to ensure it is suitable for children from F stage to Year 6.

Mrs Harte has already made a number of changes, to booking in / out and signing in/out and also positive changes to the menu to ensure a balanced and healthy range of choices for both Breakfast and After School Club.

The children have also been working together to come up with new ideas for topics and activities and will be taking a greater role in the planning of sessions and choosing new games and resources that they may like. This is ideal for our older children who will be able to design their ideal OSC ready for Year 5 and 6.

For our older children, we will be making use of the new classrooms in the Year 4, 5, and 6 block. There will be an opportunity for children to do homework, have different games and activities to the younger children and also to organise and plan their own sessions.

Pick up and drop off systems may change slightly, but we will make you aware of the details once we have agreed how to manage a larger group of children.

Our current maximum capacity in OSC is 60 - which we are regularly reaching. We will be able to exceed 60 if we use other spaces around the school and also ensure staffing ratios are met to ensure the Health and Safety of all of our children.

There are other changes which will take place from September including payment systems and also pricing. (See next page for more details)

Out of School Care - Breakfast and After School Club (Continued)

Payments and Pricing:

Currently: Invoices are created for the half term and given to parents/carers. Then parents /carers have a period of time with which to clear the invoice. This is proving to be unwieldy and very time consuming. Especially as we have a significant number of outstanding invoices and large debts which remain unpaid and need to be chased by a member of the Office Team. We have looked into many options to avoid this, make payments easier for parents and reduce the workload placed upon admin staff. The usual system for childcare is that you either pay in advance or as you go - not after the sessions.

From September: We will be opening 'Tucasi', an online booking and payment system for the school. This is primarily for After School and Breakfast Club but also can be used for trip payments etc. There are many advantages to this system both for our school and parents.

The main difference is that parents / carers add 'credit' to their account through an online card payment route (If you use childcare vouchers - they will be credited to your account by us when we receive them, the same with cash if online payment is not possible)

The system relies upon parents having credit in order to book sessions. You cannot book sessions unless you have credit. This is different to now, as sessions are paid for after the fact - which can make debt recall very difficult.

This also means we have a better knowledge of numbers of children and can always ensure our staffing numbers are adequate.

We want to let you know this now, so you have the summer term and summer holidays to make sure you have the finances ready to pay in advance for the childcare sessions that you need. We will have some sessions in the Summer Term to show you how to use the system and make payments on it.

After School Club Fees:

We have needed to streamline the pricing system for OSC as it is overly complicated. The Governing Body have agreed changes to the current pricing system which will come in to play from September 1st 2017. We are committed to retaining high quality child care and after school provision at reasonable and affordable prices for parents, these costs have been compared to local providers and are favourable. Snacks and drinks will continue to be part of the price.

There will be one price per child per hour: £3.50 Therefore:

Breakfast Club: £3.50 per child

After School Club:

3:30 - 4:30 = £3.50 per child

3:30 - 5:30 = £7.00 per child

3:30 - 6pm = £8.75 per child

Late pick up charge of £7.00 There will be NO registration fee from 1st September 2017

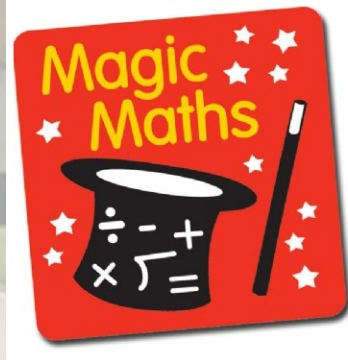
Magic Maths!

Mr Roderick is our Maths Leader and often puts up new challenges and activities for our children to try and puzzle out.

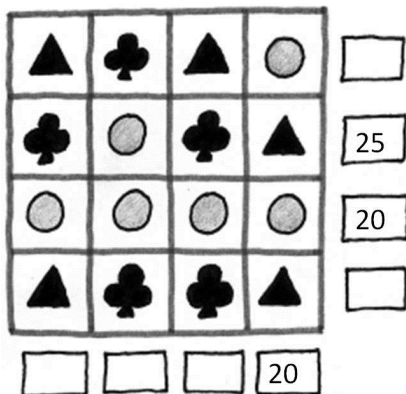
We have had some super answers to his maths teasers so far! Have you been named a super Mathematician?

Fruity Maths - Can you work out what the missing numbers could be?

Shape grid - where do you think would be best to start?



$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Apple} &= 7 \\
 \text{Grapes} &= 5 + \text{Apple} \\
 \text{Apple} &= 1 + \text{Banana} \\
 \text{Apple} + \text{Grapes} + \text{Banana} &= ?
 \end{aligned}$$



Also try: www.mathsphere.co.uk (Tab at the top called Fun and Games)

There are lots of things to try - Maths Puzzles, Maths Magic! And also matchstick games. **Have a go!**



Literacy Corner!

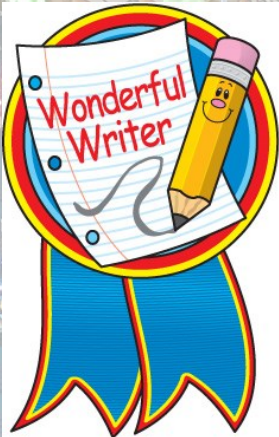
Our Literacy Leader is Mrs Hall. In every newsletter we will be setting a challenge for our children to have a go at! If you have a go, bring your work in to school to share with Mrs Hall - the best ones will be shown in assembly and displayed in the foyer for everyone to enjoy!

The Mysterious Box.

One day there was a knock at the door. I ran to the door, thinking it was my friend coming to knock for me. On the doormat there was a strange cardboard box, the edges were bumped and dirty and there were some odd scratch marks on the outside. Most mysterious of all, was the 'DO NOT OPEN' sticker on the side.

Of course I was going to open it, but what would I find in there?

Can you carry on the story and give us an unusual adventure? Bring your stories in, we'd love to see them!



The Cardboard Box

MaD

ScIEnTISTS!

Mrs Castle has sent in an great idea to try at home! Make your own Lava Lamp!

Thanks Mrs Castle!

What you need:

A clean, empty jar or bottle - tall one work the best!

Cooking Oil, Food colouring, Alka-Seltzer tablets.

What to do:

Fill the bottle 3/4 full of cooking oil. Fill the rest of the bottle with water (almost to the top but not overflowing) add about 10 drops of food colouring. Be sure to make the water fairly dark in colour. Divide an Alka-seltzer into 4 pieces. Drop one of the tiny pieces of Alka-Seltzer into the oil and water mixture. Watch what happens!

