



**Uffculme
School** |  **US**

**Autumn 2021
December**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Seasons greetings!

When I entered the joyful world of education as a teacher, all those many years ago, I was warned that the Autumn term is always the hardest and the longest. Whilst this term has flown by, it has been incredibly hard for all of us. The staff at Uffculme have shown amazing commitment to the students this term. They have battled against seasonal colds, the annual bugs, demands from Public Health for increase in Lateral Flows, and, for some, almost weekly isolation while they wait for PCR tests. This has inevitably brought about a feeling of uncertainty for our students and instability for our parents and carers. You have shown an immense patience and support while we try our hardest to stay open for the students.

The situation was made worse by issues with heating and power at Woodland (Primary) earlier in December which brought about partial site closures. Thank you to the parents and carers who reached out to me, embraced the opportunity to exert Parent Power, got a fix (albeit temporary) and helped get the students back into their classroom.

Somehow we have made it through the hardest time of the year. Well, the hardest for school staff. It is always challenging to send our children home for the holidays when we know how much they benefit from the routine and how much the parents/carers need the respite of the school day.

As we head into a busy two weeks at home, we know it will be a time of balance. Our children's needs will structure your time and make you long for the few moments of peace at the end of the day when they are safe in their beds. Spare a thought for those families who battle the challenge of an autistic child who doesn't sleep. This can be exhausting at the best of times, throw in some glitter and a bauble and it takes on a new dimension. If that is your life, know that you are not alone. You are all part of a community that understands and have been there. Whilst social media brings its challenges, it can be an amazing source of support. Reach out to others for support, help and maybe a few laughs along the way.

Whichever faith or custom you follow, I hope you have a wonderful two weeks with your families.

Staff at Uffculme wish you peace and happiness with a bucket of hope for easier times in 2022.



**Charlotte Stubbs
Head Teacher**

Friendship



Woodpeckers enjoyed sharing time with our friends whilst at the Lickey Hills.



Friendship



In PE this half term the children have been going to Highbury Park to do orienteering. We have been walking there and back and it has been a lovely way for the children & staff to talk to each other in a relaxed environment surrounded by nature. It has been an opportunity for everyone to work as a team, forming friendships & relationships



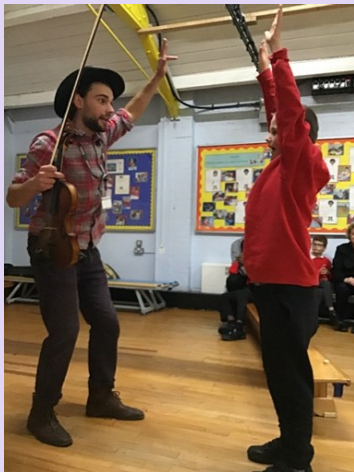
Friendship



In Bunnies we enjoy exploring our environment and playing with our friends. This term we have enjoyed a focus on turn-taking games. We have also continued to explore at forest school!

Music Now!

At Woodlands we loved our visitors from Music Now! We loved hearing the music using different instruments and some beautiful singing. We had turns using our bodies to direct the musicians to play loudly and quietly. We enjoyed dancing to the music with our friends!



Enterprise Project

Students at Osbourne have made Christmas decorations and set up a table in the reception area at the Chamberlain site to sell them

Enterprise Project



Learning with friends



Exploring with friends

In Squirrels class we have enjoy exploring our outdoor learning areas together. We play in the mud kitchen, build sand castles, pour water down the water wall and experiment with making sounds on the music wall. We have lots of fun with our friends.



KS3 Mead have been exploring Highbury Park seeing the leaves change colours each week and then applying that in our creativity lesson 'mixing colours'.

Friendship



Friendship



KS4E have really enjoyed visiting the pet shop and Shirley aquatics to look at the different pets available, where they live and what food they eat.



KS5 Main have been busy creating Jackson Pollock inspired mugs for their Autumn 2 Enterprise project.

Students have developed a range of painting techniques including; drip painting, dabbing, splattering, sponging and detailing.



Friendship

The students in KS5E have been developing their friendships over the last term, and have enjoyed spending time exploring together at forest school.



Friendship



We are all good friends with each other in Raccoons class and enjoy playing games together both outside and in the classroom.



Home to School Transport

Applications

Please note that Uffculme School does not manage the Home to School Transport agreements. This is done by the Local Authority. It may be that your request for Transport may not be approved by the Local Authority. If this is the case, you will need to raise your concerns to them through appeal.

Home to School Transport applications are now completed online:

<https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/xfp/form/902> (link on school website)

Queries, Issues or Complaints

If you have any queries with regard to your child's transport these should be directed to Travel Assist using either of the following contact methods:

Tel: 0121 303 4955, Option 3 then Option 2

Email: travelassist@birmingham.gov.uk

If a bus is late to pick up or drop off your child please contact your transport contractor:

Primary Routes UFP01 - UFP08, All Secondary and Post-16 Routes UFC01, UFC03 & UFC04:
Contact National Express Accessible Transport (NEAT) on 0333 241 2745.

Primary Routes UFP09 - UFP13:

Contract Green Destinations on 0121 553 3369, 07737 024 090 or by WhatsApp on 07534 927837.

Primary Routes UFP04 & UFP05 will be run by Green Destinations on a temporary basis from 16.11.2021.

Post-16 Route UFP02 will be run by Green Destinations on a temporary basis from 22.11.2021.

Please note that if the school is made aware of any delays to transport a text message will be sent to parents/carers.

Transport Updates

Updates from Birmingham City Council regarding transport can be found here: <https://www.localofferbirmingham.co.uk/home-to-school-transport/home-to-school-transport-news/> (link on school website).

If school is made aware of any delays to transport a text message will be sent to parents.

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School Meals

When your child first starts at Uffculme School, we ask what their meal booking pattern will be. Over time, your child's requirements may change. If you would like to change your child's meal booking pattern please email enquiry@uffculme.bham.sch.uk and include the following information:

- Your child's name
- The new meal booking pattern for each day
- The date you would like this to start from (please allow 24 hours' notice for any changes)

All payments for school meals must be made on ParentPay **in advance**. If you require any support with ParentPay or require your activation details, please contact the school office.

If your child may be eligible for free school meals you can complete an online check: <https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/birmingham> (link on school website). You will receive an instant decision and the school will also be notified of the outcome by email. You only need to apply once, if your eligibility changes since the initial application school will be notified automatically.

Children in reception class that are of compulsory school age, until the end of year 2 are currently entitled to universal free school meals. When your child moves into year 3 you will be charged for school meals unless your child is eligible for free school meals or you make any changes to your child's meal booking pattern before then.

If you have any queries regarding school meals, please contact the school office.

Free School Meals for Christmas

Birmingham City Council are providing £30 free school meal vouchers for eligible children in Reception to Year 14 and a £15 voucher for early years children for the Christmas period which will be distributed through school. You will receive an which will include the Cheque Number and Validation Code to order your eVoucher.

If you have any queries when you have received your email, please contact:

enquiry@uffculme.bham.sch.uk.

Term Dates

Inset Days

17th December 2021 - School closed to pupils

24th June 2022 - School closed to pupils

25th June 2022 - School closed to pupils

Spring Term

Term Starts: Tuesday 4th January 2022

Half Term: Monday 21st February 2022 - Friday 25th February 2022

Term Ends: Friday 8th April 2022

Summer Term

Term Starts: Monday 25th April 2022

Half Term: Monday 30th May 2022 – Friday 3rd June 2022

Term Ends: Friday 22nd July 2022

Autumn Term

Term Starts: Thursday 2nd September 2022 - closed to pupils

Friday 3rd September 2022 - closed to pupils

Monday 6th September 2022 - open to pupils

Half Term: Monday 25th October 2022 - Friday 29th October 2022

Term Ends: Friday 17th December 2021

Queen's Diamond Jubilee

Friday 22nd July 2022 - School closed to all

Queen's Diamond Jubilee

You will no doubt have heard the announcement made confirming that an additional bank holiday has been agreed on Friday 3rd June 2022 in celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Birmingham schools will already be on their summer half-term holiday on this day. The additional one day holiday will therefore be taken on Friday 22nd July 2022, meaning that the Summer Term 2022 will now end on Thursday 21st July 2022.

PARENT SURVEY

If you have not already completed and returned the Parent Survey to the school, please can you return it with your child on Tuesday 4th January 2022

Thank you

School Contact Details

Phone: 0121 464 9634

E-mail: enquiry@uffculme.bham.sch.uk

Uffculme Primary

Woodlands

Queensbridge Road

Moseley

Birmingham

B13 8QB

Uffculme Secondary

Chamberlain

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Moseley

Birmingham

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Moseley

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