



Autumn December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Well we are once again at the end of another calendar year. It doesn't feel like we have stopped since we returned in September. So much has been achieved and so much is left to do!

We continue to battle with the buildings and work with the Local Authority for future developments. As concerning as the Birmingham news has been over the past few months, we are working hard to minimise the impact on the students education. Plans are moving ahead for Trittiford and similar projects, more news on these will be shared later in the year.

This term, we have taken the opportunity to host events for new teachers and trainees. Inviting colleagues in to see practice and to learn how amazing our students are. By doing this, we hope to bring more high quality staff into Special Schools and to support better understanding of the needs and diversity of children and young people with Autism. Mr Kirk was buzzing after the South Birmingham SCITT day, feedback from the trainees was amazing and shows how hard the staff all work to ensure that we are showcasing the very best that the students can achieve. Below is a snapshot of some of the feedback.

I learnt the value of classroom organization

That every child is different

Building good relationships

Best experience of the year

The need to have patience!

The importance of present and familiar staff who care

Totally change my outlook on autism

Its inspiring that students are seen and heard as individuals

Seeing how you first connect with the students before bringing in the learning that is personalised for them.

It is always nerve racking when we open the doors to share our school. We never really know what is going to happen on any given day. I am however, always confident that the staff will absolutely do their best and that the students will be the glorious human beings that they are.

Parents and carers have also shared in our successes this term. We have hosted workshops, Meet the Headteacher sessions, Coffee mornings and the Festive Fair at Chamberlain. Sadly the Woodlands event had to be postponed due to a site closure, but we will see you in January for hot chocolate and catch up.

We have continued to prioritise the relationships with parents and carers as partners in the lives of our students. It is an honour to be part of the journey of every child and I know that staff feel this too. We are very aware however, that we pass this care back to parents for holidays and that the two weeks that we look forward to are not necessarily a time of rest for our families. The change of routine, decorations, noise and parties that we are all told we should enjoy, can bring significant challenges to our students. Time at home can feel very isolating. With that in mind, we have shared information from Selly Oak Families should you need to reach out.

Anyway, I hope you all find some peace and happiness this holiday. Whatever the next two weeks throws at you, we will see you in January for more fun and thrills and hopefully no more burst gas pipes.



THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS PERFECT.

Staff Leavers

Since joining the school in 2015, **Miss Hook** has made an incredible impact on the lives of students and families. She began as a History teacher, but her compassion and empathy for the students soon took over and she took on a more pastoral responsibilities. Most recently she has worked as SENDCo at our Chamberlain and Russell Road site. It is no surprise to those that have worked with Clair that she was successful in applying to complete her PhD as a full time student. She will be missed by staff, parents and mostly the students. However, we are looking forward to Dr Hook returning to the school in the future.

Mrs Williams joined Uffculme in 2019 as a class teacher. In this short time she has worked across the three sites in a variety of roles. In April this year, she relocated from Russell Road and took on the role of Interim Deputy Head at the Woodlands site. She has worked tirelessly to support curriculum and pedagogy on this site and to reinforce the schools core values of Independence, Enjoyment and Connection. Lisa is moving on to a role closer to home (she is bored of the M6 traffic). We wish her well in her new job as Vice Principal in a regional Multi Academy Trust.



On Friday 17th November staff and students were invited to come to school wearing something yellow or spotty and parents donated to Children in Need through ParentPay. The children had a wonderful day doing fun activities and we managed to raise an amazing £196! Well done everyone!

As part of our toy's topic, Bears class have created their own board games.

First, they played a range of board games and evaluated what they liked and didn't like about each of them. Then they worked in groups to design their own board games thinking about theme, players, how players travel around the board, whether they must collect things as they travel and whether their game would involve challenge cards or not.

After designing their games, they worked collaboratively to make them, making sure that everyone in the group had a role to play.

Once they had been completed, Bears class really enjoyed playing their games with their friends.















In Otters, we have had fun with balloons. We could make them go up and down.



In Otters, we have had lots of fun with the rockets. We watched them take off and crash!!



















In Robins we have been learning about movement. We have been shaking balloons, scarves and ribbons up and down and round and round. We've been spinning round and round in the cone and jumping up and down on the trampoline.





Santa Visit

On Monday 11th December Santa came to visit and the children came to see him in his grotto. The children found it really exciting and loved the experience.

This term Darby class have had the focus around 'People who Help Us'. This has included learning and focusing on a range of professions including Nurses, Firefighters, Teachers, Police and Doctors. We have been learning what they do to help, what uniforms they wear and how they protect us within the community.

The Local Community Police have visited to give a talk around how they help us, protect us and the different equipment they use.

We have regular visits out into the community as part of the Transition Curriculum and have been working towards NEW ASDAN qualifications in English, Maths as well as accessing community experiences that include visiting the shops, Highbury Park, Local cafes (all focused on building life skills/independence out in the community.











Mead have been working hard on their maths work this term. We have been looking at addition and breaking it down to partitioning, number bonds and understanding how to write a maths sentence. They then applied this in our independence skills lesson where we went shopping to Sainsburys at the Maypole and added up coins to pay for our items.







Boulton class held a tea-party with a Halloween theme for our friends from Russell Road. We enjoyed it so much, we will be repeating it with a Christmas theme for our parents and family members.





This term Priestly class have been out and about in the local community looking at the different types of jobs that people do.

We have walked up Kings Heath High Street looking at the different skills people need for various jobs - such as working in the police station, nail salon, cafe, supermarket and gym.

We have enjoyed weekly walks through Highbury Park and students have loved feeding the ducks at the pond.

We also run a weekly cafe in class 'The Priestly Cafe' where students all take on a job role to make breakfast for everyone.

This half term Cadbury class have been very busy indeed! In English we've been learning about different writing styles including Traditional Tales, Myths & Legends and Science Fiction stories. We've looked closely at what is included in each type of story and worked hard to include these in our own writing.

For Children in Need, we had a lovely afternoon focusing on what makes ourselves and each other "SPOTACULAR". Everyone had to write one nice thing about every pupil in the class, Miss Rowley then collected these all in and read each of the compliments out to each pupil. It was really lovely to sit and read all the nice things their classmates had said about them and it was lovely for that person to hear too. Then, we did some finger painting to make a lovely poster about what makes US SPOTACULAR. So we wrote the things we were good at and had a really lovely afternoon.











Our half term focus is COMMUNITY so we took a trip out to the local community and visited the New Life Baptist Church on the High Street. The Church visit also linked to our RE topic of 'Jesus Christ and Christianity' and pupils were able to ask lots of questions to help further their learning on this topic. All pupils asked a question and all were a credit to the school in their exploration of the church. We can't wait for our next outing in the community!

It's been a very busy term in Zephaniah!

During Children in Need Day students learned about what makes a positive, healthy relationship.

Class Zephaniah also went on a trip to Digbeth to look at graffiti artwork with Miss Smith.















1st December pupils from
Zephaniah class explored part of the
Digbeth Graffiti trail where they saw
a variety of artworks at large scale.
This trip formed part of pupils Arts
Award qualification when exploring
arts as an audience member.
Afterwards pupils went to a local
cafe and ordered hot chocolates and
paid for these using Maths skills. All
pupils were exceptionally well
behaved and well mannered and we
are very proud of them!

In KS5C's recent storytelling sessions, students have become the masters of their own scriptwriting and performance spectacles! KS5C have used their own personal experiences and interests to create captivating stories. As well as boosting reading and writing skills, these sessions are an all-out celebration of creativity, teamwork, and the joy of storytelling. Our students are crafting and performing their own scripts with infectious excitement and flair and can't wait to share these with an audience.



In KS5A we have been developing a range of life skills. In our cooking sessions we have practised making simple snacks, including fruit and yoghurt, and cheese toasties. Through these activities, we have focussed on safety in the kitchen and using kitchen appliances safely.











Our talented students in KS5C recently took the stage at Birmingham Hippodrome alongside the Birmingham Royal Ballet to celebrate Freefall's 21st anniversary. Throughout the week of performances, their dedication and passion for dance were evident, showcasing months of hard work and commitment. The students not only demonstrated their dance prowess but also engaged the audience, leaving a lasting impression. It was a memorable celebration, highlighting both Freefall's milestone and the remarkable talent of our students. We are immensely proud of their achievements on this prestigious stage!









Text Messages from School

We have been informed that some parents are missing text messages that are sent from the school as

they are coming through from KKS. We just wanted to make you aware that these messages are from us and KKS stands for Keeping Kids Safe.



Parent Workshops

Thank you to all of the parents that have attended the workshops that have been offered this term. The Communication workshop was extremely popular and we received some great feedback to expand our pupils communication between school and home. The new pupil workshops have also been a success and will continue in the new year.

Emma Harper - Primary SENCo



Birmingham City Football Club

We are very excited to announce a new partnership with Birmingham City Football Club. From January students at Chamberlain and Russell Road will be taking part in a mentoring program aimed at developing social skills, team work and personal confidence. We very much hope that this will lead to further opportunities as we work together. Community | Birmingham City Football Club (bcfc.com)

There has been a lot happening in PE this term. Cadbury & Tolkien have taken part in Golf Lessons at Shirley Golf Club and Armatrading & Osbourne have had Swimming Lessons at Cocks Moors Woods Leisure Centre and Table Cricket Lessons with Warwickshire Cricket. There was also a Cricket Competition at Edgbaston Cricket Ground.



Donations



Thanks to the Licky Hills Inner Wheel for their generous donation of £200. We will be using this to further develop story telling for our complex learners in KS3 and KS4. Lickey Hills - Inner Wheel

Contributions

We are always seeking to increase classroom resources to enable our students to have a range of play and learning experiences. If you are having a clear out this holiday, why don't you consider contributing to the school? We are currently on the look out for toys, games, books, Lego and puzzles (complete) for students of all ages. Please drop off any donations clearly marked as 'Classroom Contributions' and we will distribute on your behalf.

Festive Markets

Festive Markets have taken place this half term at Chamberlain and Russell Road. The turn out from parents was amazing and the buzz around the school was fantastic. The students did a brilliant job creating items and arranging activities, it really was wonderful and thanks to your kind donations we have raised £432!

Woodlands Winter Festival

Woodlands Winter Festival on Wednesday 13th December unfortunately had to be cancelled due to the gas issues in school. We are planning on having a New Year festival instead in January. We will send out more information in the new year.



Christmas Card competition

Well done to Harris, Jansen and Nimra who created beautiful Christmas cards and are this years winners.







School Uniform

Primary

Grey or Black Trousers/Skirt/Pinafore

White shirt or t-shirt

Red sweatshirt, jumper, cardigan or fleece

Black, grey or white socks

Black shoes

PE Kit – A white or red T-shirt, black shorts and black pumps

School bag - Own choice of appropriate bag/satchel.

Secondary

Grey or Black Trousers/Skirt/Pinafore

White shirt or t-shirt

Grey sweatshirt, jumper, cardigan

Black blazer (optional)

Black, grey or white socks

Black shoes

PE Kit – A white T-shirt, black shorts, Black joggers, Unbranded Grey or Black hoodie for the cold weather and black pumps/trainers.

School bag - Own choice of appropriate bag/satchel.

If you would like to order uniform for a primary school pupil with the Uffculme school logo, please visit the school website <u>Uffculme School (yourschooluniform.com)</u>, select the 'Parents & Carers' tab and choose the Uniform option. You will find a link to our direct supplier. Plain items can also be purchased through the website for pupils of any age or you can purchase plain items at any chain or department store.

School Contact Details

Phone: 0121 464 9634

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

Woodlands	Chamberlain	Russell Road
Primary Site	Secondary Site	Post 16 Site
Queensbridge	2 Yew Tree Road	40 Russell Road
Road	Moseley	Moseley
Moseley	Birmingham	Birmingham
Birmingham	BI3 8QG	BI3 8RE
BI3 8QB		

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 you transport contractor:

National Express Accessible Transport (NEAT) on 0333 241 2745.

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

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).



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 of the week

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/sims/ (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.

Helpful numbers/information

Forward Thinking Birmingham Crisis Team - If someone's mental health deteriorates significantly, they may not be able to wait for an appointment with a GP or community team. Sometimes more urgent support is needed to ensure your safety or the safety of others - and this is where our Crisis team comes in. Contact number is 0300 300 0099 and select option 1.

Pause Hubs – https://forwardthinkingbirmingham.nhs.uk/pause/ drop in centers where you can find out about mental health and wellbeing (always check opening times on their website before visiting).

Kooth – <u>www.kooth.com</u> – an online mental health wellbeing site which can be accessed free, safe and anonymously, where you can access help and support. Aimed at 11-25 year olds.

Waiting room – https://the-waitingroom.org a directory of support services for Birmingham and Solihull with all information from health, to debts, to addiction to welfare support, all at your finger tips.

Term Dates 2023/2024

Inset Days Monday 4th September 2023

Monday 15th January 2024

Friday 9th February 2024

Friday 3rd May 2024

Monday 22nd July 2024

Autumn Term 2023

Autumn 1: Starts Monday 4th September 2023 Autumn 1: Ends Friday 27th October 2023

Half Term: Monday 30th October 2023 - Friday 3rd November 2023

Autumn 2: Starts Monday 6th November 2023
Autumn 2:Ends Friday 22nd December 2023

Spring Term 2024

Spring 1: Starts Monday 8th January 2024 **Spring 1**: Ends Friday 9th February 2024

Half Term: Monday 12th February 2024 – Friday 16th February 2024

Spring 2: Starts Monday 19th February 2024 **Spring 2**: Ends Friday 22nd March 2024

Summer Term 2024

Summer 1: Starts Monday 8th April 2024 **Summer 1**: Ends Friday 24th May 2024

Half Term: Monday 27th May 2024 – Friday 31st May 2024

Summer 2: Starts Monday 3rd June 2024 **Summer 2**: Ends Friday 22nd July 2024

Parent & Carer Information

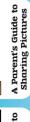
It's Christmas Time - Parents guide to help keep children safe online

*It's Christmas Jime!



A Parent's Guide to Social Media







may be planning to give electronic gadgets to their children this

A Parent's Guide to Gaming





A Parent's Guide to Online Grooming



A Parent's Guide to Live Streaming







A Parent's Guide to Privacy Settings

A Parent's Guide to Fake News

A Parent's Guide to Online Influencers

Online safety is when young people know who they can tell if they feel upset by something that has happened online.

code to find out more.

Scan the QR



January 2024

Newsletter

LET'S FACE THE NEW YEAR!

Fuesday 16th Jan

> It's always best to be

prepared

Many parents

19:00 -20:00 FREE



FREE SESSION

Get the facts so you can have the conversation

Cannabis Awareness

Supporting a Child with ADHD

Thursday

4th Jan

what ADHD is and offering a range of Challenging stereotypes, explaining interventions that can make lasting differences.



£24

to help keep their

children safe

when using the

internet, social playing online

media and

realistic approach

parents take a

designed to help

Our guide is

festive period.

Autism: Improving

Communication

ability to communicate with someone on Small changes in how you communicate, lead to huge improvements with your the spectrum.



19:00 - 21:00

Monday

8th Jan

Tuesday 9th Jan

9:00 - 21:00 £24

Home Office

Working with Home Office 'PREVENT', The Police and Crime Commissioner and Children's Safeguarding Partnerships to help keep children safe online.

Skips Educational Email: info@skipsed.com Tel: +44 121 227 1941

Parents please contact your school to enquire attending

their next e-safety workshop or have any concerns.

www.skipssafetynet.org



Screen Addiction, insomnia, energy extreely useful ideas on how to get drinks and more. Get a range of Getting a Good Night

facefamilyadvice.co.uk.

info@facefamilyadvice.co.uk

quality sleep.

SELLY OAK FAMILIES



Our Early Help service covers Billesley, Bournbrook, Selly Park, Bournville, Cotteridge, Brandwood, Kings Heath, Druids Heath, Monyhull, Highters Heath, Kings Norton North, Stirchley, Weoley & Selly Oak.

- Food support & funding
 - Youth support
 - Housing / Furniture
 - Emergency funding
 - Domestic abuse
- Money and debt advice
 - Digital & IT access
- School uniforms & clothing
- Child & adult mental health support

To request support please complete a Family Connect Form self-referral or professional

Wishing you a happy and healthy Festive Season!







SellyOak.Families@greensquareaccord.co.uk

Selly Oak Families

Green'SquareAccord's Selly Oek Families team, as part of the Birmingham Children's Partnership.

For more information please search 'Birmingham Children's Partnership' at www.birmingham.gov.uk







Food support

Yardley Wood Food Pantry: Every Wed:10:15-12:45 & Fri: 9:45
-11:45. Yardley Wood Baptist Church, Yardley Wood Road,
Birmingham, B14 4LS. Tel: 0121 474 5814
www.yourlocalpantry.co.uk/pantry-listings/

Kings Heath Food bank: Kings Heath Foodbank, 240 Alcester Rd South. B14 6DR. Fri: 9:30-11:30 & Sat 11:00-12:00. Self-referral, turn up on the day. www.facebook.com/Kingsheath-Food-Bank

The Spearhead Trust Food Bank: Mon-Fri: 09:00-15:00 | Free hot meals on Tuesdays, collection from 12:00 – 13:30. 7030, Bells Farm Community Centre, Druids Heath, B14 5Q. Tel: 0121 433 3532.

24-hour Food Bank: Noor E Huda Mosque - 10 Glastonbury Road, B14 4DR. Please call ahead: 0121 430 2272.

Mental health support

Birmingham Mind: Adults can get support from MIND 7 days a week. Call: 0121 262 3555. Email: help@birminghammind.org. For urgent help, contact Forward Thinking Birmingham on 0300 300 0099.

Kooth: An online wellbeing community for young people aged 11-25years, with forums, guides and counselling available. Website: https://www.kooth.com/

Pause: Mental health call back telephone support for 0-25yrs. Tel: 02078414470. Email: askbean@childrenssociety.org.uk. Open Mon-Sat 10:00-17:00, closed Sundays and Bank Holidays. If you are in crisis contact the Access Centre on Tel: 0300 300 0099.

Umbrella: Free Sexual advice. Tel: 0121 237 5700 Website: www.umbrellahealth.co.uk.

Change Grow Live: Drug and Alcohol support service. Mon-Fri 09:00-17:00—App's only. Tel: 0121 227 5890. Website: www.changegrowlive.org

Kikit: BME Specialist Drug and Alcohol support service. Drop-in Mon-Fri 10:00-16:00. 153 Stratford Road, Sparkhill. B11 1RD. Tel: 0121 448 3883. Website: https://kikitproject.org

For support around finance, SEND, parenting, housing, youth, Data and/or IT please contact the Selly Oak Early Help Team.

DECEMBER 2023

Free services & support



Domestic abuse support

Women's Aid: Available every day between 09:15—17:15. Tel: 0808 800 0028. Email: info@bswaid.org

The Home Options Hub is for women at risk of homelessness from abuse. Open every day except Bank Holidays. Tel: 0808 169 9604.

Men's Advice Line: Tel/webchat emotional support, practical advice and information for men. Mon-Fri 09:00-17:00. Tel: 0808 801 0327. Email: info@mensadviceline.org.uk. Website: https://mensadviceline.org.uk/

WAITS: Birmingham domestic abuse support service. Mon-Fri 09:30-17:00. Tel: 0121 440 1443. Website: www.waitsaction.org

Other

Warm Welcome Spaces are available for people to use and visit during the winter period and beyond. Spaces are: inclusive and non-judgmental, heated and free to access. The services at each space will vary but may include: information on further support and available guidance, opportunities to participate in activities and learn new things, free internet access, computers and charging points, a friendly environment to connect with others in the community. For more information go to <a href="https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/directory/73-warm-welcome-spaces-in-birmingham.gov.uk/directory

GBNFC Children's Centre: Tel: 0121 464 4189. Mon-Fri 09:00-16:00. Closed 25th, 26th Dec & 1st Jan, with limited services on 27th, 28th & 29th Dec.

Cruse Bereavement Support Helpline: Tel:0808 808 1677 Mon-Thu only 09:30-15:00. Limited service on 25th and 26th Dec 10:00-14:00 and closed on 1st Jan.

Crisis Skylight Birmingham: Tel: 0121 348 7950. Closed 22nd - 27th Dec & 1st Jan.

Selly Oak Families Early Help Team: Tel: 07483 090434.

Email: SellyOak.Families@greensquareaccord.co.uk.

Mon-Fri 09:30-16:30. Closed 25th, 26th Dec & 1st Jan, with limited staff on 27th, 28th & 29th Dec.



You can contact us via:

Phone | Text | WhatsApp us on: 07483 090434 Email: SellyOak.Families@greensquareaccord.co.uk Follow us on social media: @SellyOakFam





