

# Uplands Junior School

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**Head Teacher:** Mrs S Webster-Smith

Dear Parents and carers,

4<sup>th</sup> June 2020

I do hope everyone is keeping well and safe as this national crisis continues.

I am writing to you regarding Uplands Home Learning activities. Over the last few weeks we have received many emails complimenting and praising us for the way we have supported children and families and provided home learning since we closed on March 20th. We have provided resources, links and ideas and communicated with pupils and parents via personal phone calls (where requested), Website, Facebook, text and email. I know that many of you have expressed your thanks for this.

Our staff, who are all Key Workers have been juggling their own home lives and home schooling their own children whilst physically coming into work and planning at home. In addition they have been set weekly directed tasks, curriculum development work and online "professional development" by myself. They have all worked to ensure that Uplands children have access to education during this difficult time.

In a survey by a leading Teaching union carried out in May, 90% of Primary schools in the country were setting work for classes online in the same format as Uplands. The Local Authority have also been monitoring what we have been sending each week and report that we are consistent with the majority of schools in the city. Teaching Union guidance on Home Learning is informed by Safeguarding and equality for all.

Guidance says that it is not desirable for young children to spend lots of time in front of a screen each day. They advocate that schools provide a broad range of flexible activities that can be selected by pupils and parents with as much time spent out of doors as possible.

Teaching unions do not advocate teachers doing live streaming of lessons and especially not from their own homes. This is due mainly to Safeguarding concerns, for the pupil and teacher. Lessons on live video platforms such as Zoom give access into all pupils' and the teacher's homes for all participants on the call. Were there to be a Safeguarding incident this could place the teacher and the school in a very difficult position. In consultation with the LA very few Wolverhampton primary schools are offering this and have not allowed us to use Zoom for the reasons stated above.

We are constantly adapting what we provide for you as time goes on, as this is a learning process for all of us. Therefore from week beginning June 15th our weekly home learning grids will change in order to become clearer. Activities will now be provided as a weekly timetable with daily Maths and English lessons plus 1 Foundation subject activity. There will be links provided to pre-recorded lessons on either the Oak Academy or BBC bite size. The Government created Oak Academy for this very purpose. All English and Maths activities will be able to be completed from the screen to take away the need for printing which I know some of you have found costly and time consuming.

Teaching Union guidance also states that teachers cannot be expected to mark work. We cannot ask almost 400 families to be bringing work on site as this would not be safe under current restrictions. If children have emailed work to the school email address both myself and the class teacher have sent comments and feedback in response.

We are currently investigating an application called Class dojo which may support us further in the area of feedback especially if this situation continues beyond Summer.

In these challenging times for everyone we have sought to do our very best for you and your children. No-one could have imagined this situation developing as it has-it has impacted upon us all.

Everyone at Uplands will continue to refine and evaluate our current learning provision as time goes on.

Please stay safe and well

