



# Uphall Primary and ELC Newsletter

Twitter: @TEAMUphallPS

Website: <https://uphallprimary.westlothian.org.uk/>

December 2020

## **Staffing Update**

As you will be aware recently I was appointed Head Teacher at Uphall. I am looking forward to continuing the improvement work we started last session and working closely with pupils, staff and families to ensure all pupils reach their full potential. Although we are unable to meet our parents and carers in person at the moment, if you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact the school office by e-mail or phone and we will be happy to help.

Mrs Galek has now started her maternity leave and in her absence Mrs Sutherland has taken on the role of acting principal teacher while continuing to provide support for learning within the school. This session two of our class teachers will be supporting our improvement work with development roles in addition to their class teaching commitment. Mrs Hunter will be supporting improvement within numeracy and Miss Rodger within literacy. We are also working with Education Scotland this session as part of our ongoing development work within teaching and learning.

## **Health and Safety – STAFF CAR PARK/DROP OFF & PICK UP**

Parents, Carers and pupils are not permitted to enter or use the staff car park. Please keep our children safe and ensure you adhere to West Lothian Council policy.

Despite reminding all our families about this important safety notice there is still a minority of families who do not think this safety rule applies to them.

We are still witnessing an increasing number of cars parking irresponsibly across resident access drives and over the zigzag lines which is dangerous and illegal.

Please don't be a selfish driver and think of the safety of everyone. **Please park sensibly and safely.**

## **Attendance**

If your child will not be attending school for any reason please ensure you contact the school office before 9am if possible. The school office operates an answer machine system when the school is closed which you can also leave a message on. Safe arrival procedures in line with West Lothian Council policy will be initiated if we do not hear from you.

## **Safety Measures**

Please ensure you adhere to 2 metre social distancing and any one way systems when collecting or dropping off your child. We would also ask that children arrive as close to school starting time as possible to avoid crowds while waiting to enter and especially as the weather is getting colder.

## **Illness**

As the weather is changing and there may be more colds and other winter bugs we would ask that parents and carers continue to be vigilant about any Covid 19 symptoms and follow the test and protect protocols.

If your child is unwell with a winter related illness they should not attend school until they are well and should be 48 hours clear of sickness and diarrhoea.

## **Uphall Parent Council**

Please check the Parent council facebook page (Uphall Primary Community) to keep up to date with current school events.

## **Dates for Diary** **Key Dates for 2021**

### **School Dates**

#### **February Break**

Last day - 12<sup>th</sup> February  
All resume – 18<sup>th</sup> February

#### **Easter Holidays**

Last Day - 1<sup>st</sup> April  
All resume – 19<sup>th</sup> April

#### **Mayday Holiday**

Last day-Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April  
All resume – Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup>  
May

Inservice (school closed) –  
Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May

#### **Local holiday**

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> May

#### **School Finishes for Summer**

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2021

### **ELC Dates**

#### **Easter Break**

Last Day – 1<sup>st</sup> April  
ELC resumes – 6<sup>th</sup> April

#### **May Holiday**

Last day-Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April  
ELC resume – Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup>  
May

### **Christmas Events**

We are being a bit more creative about how we celebrate the festive season this year to ensure we continue to adhere to current guidance and maintain the safety of everyone. Below you will see some key dates for Christmas events. Please remember on the days of your child's class party they should wear their party clothes/dress down to school and continue to bring a warm jacket and shoes suitable for the outdoors as children will still have time playing outside during their breaks except in heavy rain or severe weather.

### **Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas lunch**

Children can come to school in their Christmas jumpers or wearing something festive (hat, hairband, winter jumper)

### **Christmas Parties**

Due to current restrictions parties will be in classrooms with games, crafts and lots of fun. On your child's party day they should come to school in their party clothes/dress down to wear all day.

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December** - P1, P2/1 and P2

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December** – P3, P3/4 and P4

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December** – P5H and P5G

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December** – P6H, P6S, P7W and P7R

### **Christmas Cards**

Due to current measures being taken in school to minimise items going between home to school and other homes, we would request that children do not exchange cards with other pupils. Pupils may wish to bring in one card for their class that the teacher will display in the classroom.

**School and ELC Finishes for Christmas**– Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020

**ELC returns** – Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021

**School returns for pupils** – Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2021

### **School Communication**

We use various methods to communicate with our parents which include:

- School Glow Blog/Website/Twitter
- Groupcall – update office with mobile number
- Termly newsletter

We are regularly using TEAMS to support learning in school and at home for learners in P4-P7 and SEESAW in P1-P3. Please notify the school if your child is having difficulty accessing these learning platforms at home.

**Please ensure the school office has your current mobile phone number and e-mail address. Make sure you don't miss any important communication from school!**

### **Thank You!**

On behalf of all the staff at Uphall Primary School and ELC we would like to say a big thank you to all our children and families for supporting our successful return to school. We have been amazed at how resilient the children have been and how well they have embraced their learning and adhered to all the routines and structures that have been put in place. We are incredibly proud of all our children at Uphall and wish them all and their families a restful, safe and enjoyable holiday when it arrives.

Mrs J Bruce  
Head Teacher