



## A note from your Head of School.

### **Welcome to the new academic year 2022-2023.**

It was wonderful to hear the chatter, laughter and bustle fill the corridors, classrooms and play-ground within school this week as we return for this new academic school year.

The positive, vibrant way in which children have approached their return is greatly encouraging for the year ahead and a shared sense of optimism and opportunity feels especially strong across the school.

We would like to welcome you all back to school after what we hope has been an enjoyable and restful summer holiday and we would especially like to extend an extra warm welcome to our new nursery families and some families that have joined our school in Key Stage Two.

My staff and I are extremely excited for the term ahead and have some wonderful lessons, opportunities and experiences planned. Please be sure to follow us on twitter for regular pictures, updates and celebrations.

@UtkintonPrimary



Best Wishes

Miss S Simcock

### **Our Vision and Values**

Our value this half term is **Service**. The children will be developing an understanding of what service means through class worship, whole school worship, singing praise and visits from Reverend Jim from Tarpoley Church. The children in Eagles have completed an act of Service to Miss Jones, sending her a card to wish her well in her first week in her new school. Robins class completed an act of service on Friday to share their love with staff at Utkinton. Please also find a prayer from Chester Diocese for all children and staff starting school this week.



### **A Prayer for the New School Year**

Heavenly Father

At the start of a new school year, we give you thanks for the work of all schools (and particularly .... in our own parish).

We pray for all children starting at new schools, and for those returning. Help them to explore what they can achieve, and give them confidence to play their part in shaping our world.

We pray for all those who work in schools. Care for them as they care for our children.

We pray for all governors of schools. Grant them wisdom and sound judgement, and help them to keep children's well-being at the heart of everything they do.

We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen



### **Dates for your Diary –**

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September – Macmillian Coffee Morning

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October – Harvest Festival in Church

More information on these to follow!



## Uniform

On Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September every child should have received a jumper and tie funded through our academy CDAT. If you ordered a second jumper or tie you should receive a notification via ParentPay to pay for these additional items. Once the balance of these items has been cleared, they will be sent home with your child. If you did not order extra uniform but would like an additional tie and jumper, please contact the school office to order one. The children looked unbelievably smart and proud in worship on Friday in their brand new jumpers and ties, we hope you agree!

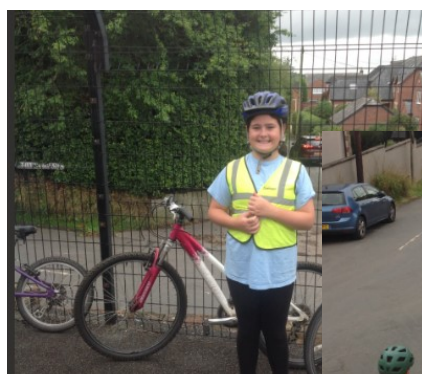


In Eagles Class, the children began the week by discussing their hopes and ambitions for the year ahead, setting themselves goals and targets to meet throughout their time in UKS2. We then looked at the mind set and behaviours that we would need to promote in order to meet them, creating 'wordles' to display our individual non-negotiables. We then worked together to form a set of class non-negotiables that will help us to be the best we can be. Following this, the children explored the difference between Fixed and Growth Mind-set and how developing a Growth Mind-set will help them with their learning. This week, all children in Year 5 and Year 6 have successfully completed their Bike-Ability Level 1 and Level 2 combined and they thoroughly enjoyed their training from Bike Right – well done, all! Mr. Penny is incredibly impressed by the determination and enthusiasm shown by all children on their return to school – keep up the hard work!

## Learning Updates

In Robins class the children explored some beautiful picture books and have been exploring the children's own personal special qualities. They have explored Growth Mind-set and Fixed Mind-set. Ask your child if they can describe the learning pit! We have had a gentle start to our English and Maths learning but will be diving in next week!

Robins have shown amazing determination and grit already and Miss Simcock is extremely impressed by the start they have made. She is very eager and excited to see the work they will produce this term.







The whole school enjoyed their first forest school lesson on Wednesday – look at the brilliant creations that were made.



Please note, all children will participate in Forest Schools every Wednesday—so please bring in waterproofs and suitable footwear each week.

Children will also have PE every Tuesday— we ask that children come to school in their PE Kits that day to allow maximum time for PE lessons!

Children will also be starting weekly Ukulele lessons next week – another exciting addition to our curriculum! Please keep your eye out for an important letter coming out soon regarding the children's instruments and music lessons.

### **Important Information**

#### Eligibility for free-school meals

We understand that the times we are currently living in are both uncertain and challenging. Alongside this, many families are facing changes in their financial circumstances. If your circumstances have changed, and you believe that you now meet the following criteria you may be entitled to free-school meals.

If you are in receipt of -

- Income Support
- Income Based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

- Child Tax Credit but not Working Tax Credit and have an annual income that does not exceed £16,190
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

For further information on applying for free-school meals please visit -

<https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/education-and-learning/free-school-meals>

Alternatively, contact the school for further advice and support.

#### Taking Holidays during Term Time

We would like to make you aware that a leave of absence during term time can only be approved by a Head Teacher/School Governing Body when a written request is made in advance of the leave being taken and the circumstances of the requested leave are 'exceptional'.

A written request for an absence of leave from a parent/carer will be considered by the head teacher, considering if the circumstances of the request are 'exceptional.' As a school, we will confirm via letter if your request has been approved or not. A leave of absence during term time for the purposes of a holiday is not normally considered to qualify as 'exceptional'.

If a leave of absence goes ahead after a request for approval has been declined, the absence will be recorded on the pupil's registration record as unauthorised.



Should an unauthorised leave of absence be of a duration of 10 consecutive school sessions (ie five school days) or more, on the request of the Head Teacher or School Governing Body, the local authority will issue a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) to **each** of the child's parents/carers.

For further information regarding absence of leave please visit the Cheshire West and Chester Website below as well as our school website for our school term dates –

<https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/education-and-learning/early-years-and-childcare/education-welfare-service/taking-children-on-holiday-during-term-time>

<http://www.utkintonce.cheshire.sch.uk/>

### **Sad News**

We are very saddened to hear of the passing of Her Majesty the Queen. I know you will join me as our school family extends our condolences to those mourning the death of the Queen. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Royal Family at this very sad time for our Nation. We will be discussing these events sensitively with the children over the coming week.



#### A prayer on the death of Her Majesty The Queen

Gracious God, we give thanks for the life of your servant Queen Elizabeth, for her faith and her dedication to duty. Bless our nation as we mourn her death and may her example continue to inspire us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



I look forward to writing the next newsletter with amazing updates and celebrations and sharing your child's work and achievements.

Best Wishes,

Miss S Simcock