



Autumn 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

School staff across the country will tell you that Autumn term is the hardest term. Whether that's the declining temperatures, the darker mornings, the memory of summer holidays or the longest term is a subject for debate. However, it is a time when we all need to consider how we balance all the many commitments of our lives as we move towards winter. The theme for this term's newsletter is balance. It came to me in the midst of an event celebrating the change of seasons to Autumn.

We spend so much time rushing around being busy with all the pressures that life brings, that we often forget the need to balance. Ask yourself how you balance the stresses of work with the demands of your child and family. I suspect that one outweighs the other. At this beautiful time of year, we see how nature changes, and celebrate how that change brings balance. The magnificent colours we see around us bring calm to the chaos and excitement of Spring. Of course, our students may struggle to see and share this calm, but at Uffculme we have tried to bring balance in the daily lives of all the students.

Changes to the Curriculum this year have meant that we are all ready to experience life outside the classroom and learn beyond four walls. You'll see from the photos what this has meant and hopefully have joyful stories to share from your child's experiences. Of course, we know that not all students come home full of tales of their marvellous days. In this, our students are no different from any other. So, we continue to search for ways to enable parents and carers to share in the journey of their child. The Evidence 4 Learning project continues to gather momentum and brings a new dimension to the school and parent/carers relationship. Parents/carers of students at Woodlands spent time learning about the Curriculum developments and this will be rolled out across other sites before the end of the Autumn term. Please take the opportunity to engage with these sessions.

Next half term brings the excitement of festivals. As we go into this period with hope, we balance it with a sense of worry. Our students don't cope well with the demands of lights, smells, decorations, parties and general busy-ness. This brings a challenge to all of our families. So, we go into the final months of the year with care, and remind ourselves that we need to remember the balance. Take time to switch off the lights, turn down the music and just enjoy being. If your child wants to be left alone without the fuss, that's ok. The joy of balance is that spring will come around again.

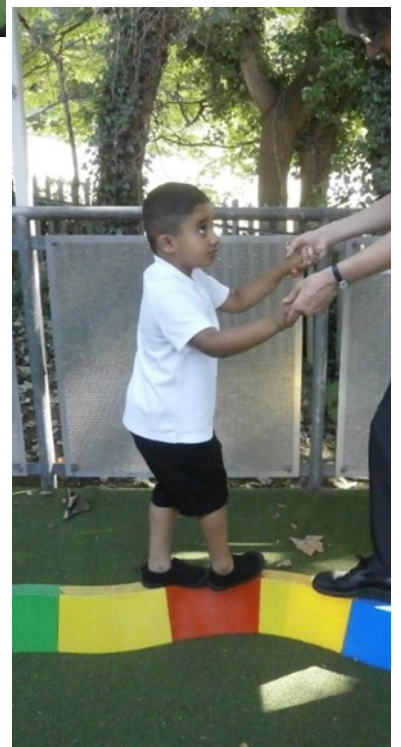
Be kind to yourself and each other.

Charlotte Stubbs—Headteacher

Finding the Balance



In Foundation Stage the children have been balancing on the climbing frames and on lots of different balancing equipment in the play-



All work and no play!

Woodpeckers have been busy during our gardening lessons.



We have explored peppers and removed the seeds.



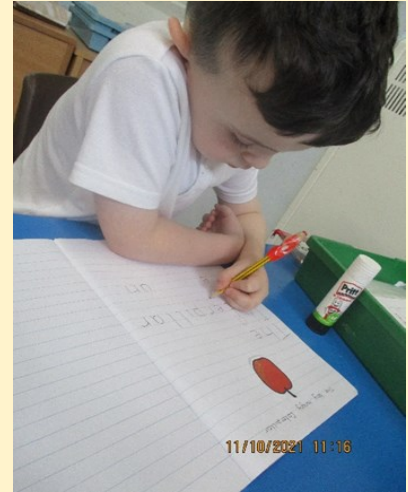
We then planted pepper seeds that we had bought from the Garden Centre to compare with the seeds we had harvested.

All work and no play!



The Sparrows have found a natural balance between work and play.

When all our hard work is done we get time to play and have fun with our friends.



Hedgehog class have risen to the many challenges set this half-term. We love to watch them on the obstacle trail. They've improved their balancing skills and shown great support and encouragement to each other.

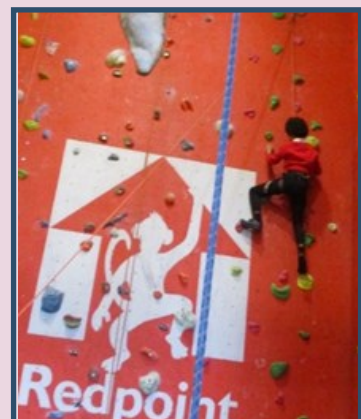


All work and no play!

In Bunnies we are finding our balance between more practical activities and work in the classroom! We enjoy both and enjoy the variety of activities!



Owls class has been learning to balance a new timetable of outdoor learning. We have been having lots of fun learning about mini beasts, going for walks and playing in the park as well as developing our climbing skills and confidence.



Forest School Fun

A wonderful balance of activities! Kingfishers make the most of their time at forest school.



Steady on our Feet

Raccoon class have been practising their balancing skills in forest school and in yoga.



Anne Frank's Fact File

By Kaden Robinson



In KS4 English lessons, students have been considering celebrities and asking what makes them famous. At the end of this topic, each student chose a famous person, from history or the present, to research. They considered why that person is famous and if they deserved their fame. Kaden in Year 11 chose to research Anne Frank and used his excellent IT and writing skills to work independently and produce this fact file also, at the end, considering the question "Why does this person deserve to be famous?"

Anne and her family were Jewish. During World War Two the Nazis ruled her country. Their laws made the lives of Jewish people very hard.

To escape, Anne and her family went into hiding in an attic. Two other Jewish families joined them there. This meant there were eight people hiding in one place.

She was born in Frankfurt Germany and spent most of her life in Amsterdam in the Netherlands. She loved school and books.

Unfortunately, she died in a Nazi concentration camp in 1945. She has a memorial in that camp and is still and always will be remembered by the world.

She deserves to be famous, because of her bravery against the Nazis and for her diary that helped us see what it felt like being held against your free will. Therefore, I think she deserves to be famous.

By Kaden Robinson

Our Students at Work

KS3 Knight have enjoyed finding our inner balance through taking part in yoga during our relaxation session.



KS4RS have settled very well into Russell Road and are enjoying a balanced and exciting curricu-



Our Students at Work

Students in KS3 Zephaniah have been balancing between working incredibly hard and having fun! Here students had a lot of fun writing their own scene from The Twits and then acting out the scene.



KS3 Harewood have settled in really well for their first half term at Uffculme Secondary. We have already been super lucky to go on our first trip to Highbury. We have worked up a good balance between our academic and practical learning.

This half term KS4 Tolkien have been taking part in the daily mile twice per week. Students have really felt the benefit of completing some daily exercise and have commented on how they feel 'energised' 'happy' and 'relaxed'. This has really helped to balance physical and mental wellbeing as well as concentration in lessons. Well done KS4 Tolkien.

Autumn Outdoors

This half term, KS3 Campbell have been finding their inner peace and balance outside of the classroom. We've walked around Highbury Park and visited the Forest School weekly. Additionally, Zane has volunteered to keep our playground clean and has been litter picking during his breaks.



This half-term KS3 Boulton have been growing lentils in science, learning about Kenya in geography, and have been taking part in the daily mile, while understanding how important daily exercise is to our health and well-being. We've been getting to know our new classmates, and are having plenty of fun!

Our Students at Work

KS3SA Osbourne have been balancing work and play. Students have enjoyed taking part in different messy play activities. They have also enjoyed working on their independent skills.



It's not just the students finding the balance

KS3 Harewood have settled in really well for their first Half Term at Uffculme Secondary. We have already been super lucky to go on our first trip to Highbury. We have worked up a good balance between our academic and practical learning.



Finding a balance when you start somewhere new is always tricky, staff and children are *weighing you up* and if you are not careful it can *weigh you down*. I have been made to feel very welcome and already feel part of the Uffculme team. Mr Jones, PE.



Our Students at Work



KS4 Priestly have made an excellent start to the term and have been taking part in a balanced ranged of activities.



In KS5E we have been visiting forest school and learning new skills for cutting tree branches. We had to balance the branches on the saw horse and also use our own balance to hold the saw horse steady.



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>. 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.

Please note that Birmingham City Council have provided FSM vouchers for October half-term for eligible children and the voucher codes have been sent by email to parents/carers. If you have any queries regarding this please contact the school.

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

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR POST 16 STUDENTS **AT RUSSELL ROAD**

The 16-19 Bursary is a fund available to post 16 students who may need financial support to allow them to access their education.

Information will be sent out to you before half term about how to check eligibility and the application process.

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

Autumn Term

Term Starts: Thursday 2nd September 2021 - closed to pupils

Friday 3rd September 2021 - closed to pupils

Monday 6th September 2021 - open to pupils

Half Term: Monday 25th October 2021 - Friday 29th October 2021

Term Ends: Friday 17th December 2021

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

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.

TRANSPORT

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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:

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.

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

DATA COLLECTION

After the half term holiday the school will be sending home a data collection pack to the parents/carers of all pupils. The pack will contain a data collection sheet, privacy notice and consent forms. Please can we ask that the forms are complete on receipt and returned to the school without delay.

Thank you

School Contact Details

Phone: 0121 464 9634

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

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