



University Church Free
School
Murlain House
Union Street
Chester
CH1 1QP

Telephone: 01244 569560

Principal: Mr W J Farrington

8th September 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

Here is a reminder of key dates for next week:

W/C 11 th September	NO CLUBS this week
W/C 11 th September	Achievement Certificates begin this week
11 th September	SWIMMING for Years 4 and 5
12 th September	FOREST SCHOOLS for Year 3

Key dates for your diary

W/C 18 th September	CLUBS begin this week
29 th September	Macmillan Coffee Morning

WELCOME BACK to the new Academic year! I hope that you all enjoyed a relaxing break and managed to find the sunshine amongst the clouds! The children have all returned to school looking extremely smart and very excited to be back at school. Can you please just check to make sure that all clothing is named - we have had quite a few un-named items this week which made it quite difficult to locate the missing clothing! During the holidays, the staff have worked hard to make exciting learning environments for the children and the classrooms are looking magnificent. We have now completely refurbished our Early Years classroom and if you haven't had chance to have a look, do pop in - Mrs. Sykes will be more than proud to show you!

EXCITING NEWS!

This week, our brand new Year 6 Prefects have officially taken office and are now proudly wearing their badges! The Prefects will help the adults in the school to support the other children and ensure the smooth running of the school.

'A Voice for Every Child'



www.UCFSchool.org

University Church Free School (UCFS) sponsored by the University of Chester is the trading name of the University of Chester Academies Trust (UCAT) incorporated with the company number 06929486, which is an exempt charity.

Special Notes:

- I will always try to see you at short notice if at all possible. If your issue is urgent and I am unavailable, I will ensure that Mrs. Bartram or another senior member of staff is made available to you. For non-urgent meetings, you are welcome to telephone the School Office and request an appointment to see me or drop me an email to make an arrangement (jfarrington@ucatrust.org). Alternatively, you can catch me most mornings on the school gate where we can easily make an arrangement to meet.

STAFFING UPDATE

As you may have noticed, Mrs. Leslie has been absent from school this week. Unfortunately, she suffered an accident last week and had not recovered sufficiently to join us for the beginning of the term. We are very much hoping that she will be back with us on Monday. Thank you to Mrs. McLaughlin for stepping in! Also, Mrs. Dalgarno was in hospital during the summer break and will not be back with us until towards the end of this autumn term. I am sure that you will want to join me in wishing both members of staff a **SPEEDY RECOVERY!**

We now have Key Stage Leaders at UCFS who will help Mrs. Bartram and myself to continue to drive standards in school. Mrs. Sykes is now responsible for Early Years and Key Stage 1 and Mrs. Gill is responsible for Key Stage 2.

- During the INSET days, staff took part in PHONICS training and training for our new MATHS approach. Both days were extremely worthwhile and the teachers are all very excited about teaching the new maths lessons! On Tuesday of this week, all the staff looked closely at the original bid that was created when our school was formed. We chose a particular focus of MUSIC and the CHRISTIAN ETHOS within our school. Some very exciting plans have emerged and this term, we will be adding additional opportunities and enrichment activities into our week.
- This week we have introduced our new Behaviour Rewards system into all classes. The children tell me that they really like the new system and they clearly understand how it works. ASK your child whether they have stayed on GREEN all week and how many POWERPOINTS they have achieved!
- Don't forget that if your child suffers from ASTHMA, ensure that you have completed the necessary paperwork and that an up to date INHALER is in school. Ask at the OFFICE if you are unsure.

- **SWIMMING** lessons will commence on Monday 11th September for all children in Years 4 and 5. Please ensure that you have signed and returned the competency and goggles forms that were sent home earlier this week. Please remember to send your child with all the requested kit on Monday.
- **FOREST SCHOOLS** will begin for children in Year 3 on Tuesday 12th September. Please send your child to school in their uniform but don't forget to ensure that they also bring to school some old clothes to change into that are suitable for all weather.
- As you will see from our key dates, this year we are taking part in the world's biggest coffee morning for **MACMILLANM CANCER SUPPORT**. We feel that this is a really worthwhile fund-raising event as most families will unfortunately have been touched by cancer in some way. **MORE DETAILS** to follow next week.
- We are already thinking about Christmas and this year, as our whole school Christmas outing, we are off to **STORYHOUSE** to see the production of *Secret Seven*! More details to follow shortly!

Our school continues to grow with more and more Parents/Carers choosing to send their children to UCFS! This week we have welcomed Reuben, Fathi, Kharis, Amelia, Martha, Mylie, Iremide, Kiara, Freya, Isaac, Gustavs, Henry-James, Roman, Sebastian, Livia, Isabella, Imogen, Logan and Thomas. It has also been lovely to see the return of two old friends - Ted and Anna! We hope that you have settled and already made lots of friends!

I am always pleased to hear about and celebrate out of school achievements. This week, **CONGRATULATIONS** go to Saraid, Ella, Kelsey, Jerssica, Darcy, Lily and Lara who all took part in Theatretrain's eleventh annual summer school at the Forum Theatre in Chester! **WELL DONE EVERYONE!**

The **FRIENDS** of UCFS work really hard to raise money in order to provide additional experiences for our children. They are always looking for volunteers to join the group or simply to help out at



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some events. If you are interested in finding out more, please see Mrs. Leslie in the School Office who will be happy to pass on your details!

Thank you for your interest and support in helping us to make UCFS a special place to be. I hope that you all enjoy a relaxing and peaceful weekend.

W.J. Farrington

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