



University
Church
Free
School

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

Telephone: 01244 569560

Principal: Mr W J Farrington

Composer of the Week: Elgar

Hebrews 11.1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Dear Parents/Carers

Here is a reminder of key dates for next week:

1 st May	BANK HOLIDAY – School Closed
2 nd – 5 th May	CLUBS running as usual
2 nd May	Year 3 FOREST SCHOOLS Project begins!
2 nd May	Parent Information meeting re trip to China at 4pm

Key dates for your diary

W/C 29 th May	HALF TERM HOLIDAY
W/C 12 th June	Year 1 Phonics Screening test
27 th June	Official Opening of UCFS
12 th July	Summer Soiree 6pm – 8pm
14 th July	End of Year REPORTS home
21 st July	End of Summer term

EXCITING NEWS!

This term we will be embarking on an exciting project to encourage and inspire our children through educational outdoor experiences. FOREST SCHOOLS is a unique approach to learning where areas of the curriculum are delivered in an outdoor environment. We are very lucky to be working with St John's Church, who have kindly allowed us to use their grounds, and Broomheath Plantation whose staff will be helping with the delivery of science and learning challenge lessons along with the promotion of team work, problem solving and communication skills.

Our first session will take place on the morning of Tuesday 2nd May and will be for children in year 3. We hope to extend this opportunity to children in years 4 and 5 throughout the next academic year. **Children should come prepared to change into sturdy weather suitable clothes as we will be working outdoors whatever the weather!**

'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.



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Special Notes:

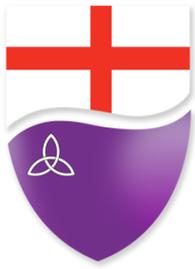
- I will always try to see you at short notice if at all possible. If your issue is urgent and I am unavailable, I will ensure that Mrs. Bartram or another senior member of staff is made available to you. For non-urgent meetings, you are welcome to telephone the School Office and request an appointment 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.
- As the Year 1 parents may know, Mrs. Sykes was not in school yesterday and remains poorly. We are very much hoping to see her back at school fit and well next Tuesday. However, to pre-empt any last minute cancellation should Mrs. Sykes remain unwell, we have postponed the Phonics Test information meeting which was scheduled for next Tuesday. We will send out an alternative date for this next week. We apologise for any inconvenience.
- This has been the first week where senior members of staff have been waiting to greet the children on their arrival to school. We very much hope that you have found it useful to be able to simply drop your child/children off with Mrs. Bartram who has been waiting on the pavement. It has been brilliant to see SO many smiling children confidently running up the path in order to get to school quickly! A very successful start to our new system!
- Thank you to everyone who has now returned the questionnaire. As a school, we will now look at your responses and work with you to bring further improvements to our school. THANK YOU for taking the time to complete these so thoroughly.
- As some of you will be aware, Mrs. Gill is busily setting up a link for us with a sister school in China. Our plan is to be able to take a group of children from Years 4 upwards next Spring to visit our link school! You will see from the key dates next week that there is an information meeting for parents of children from the current years 3-5 who are interested in finding out more details about the proposed trip.
- In order to practise their financial management skills and to raise money to buy t-shirts for their residential visit, Year 3 will be conducting a 50p grow on Friday 12th May, Friday 19th May and Friday 9th June. Stalls will be on the playground/school Hall from 3.40pm onwards. Everyone is welcome and DON'T FORGET your pocket money!

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- On Wednesday morning, Mr. Gill came to talk to the children about his experiences of taking part in the London Marathon last weekend. The children were really excited to watch the film clips and to look at the many photographs. Mr. Gill delivered a really important message about perseverance, resilience and that anything is possible if you work hard to achieve it! A big THANK YOU to Mr. Gill for giving up his time so freely and a big CONGRATULATIONS from us for his hard-earned achievement in the race!

This week's Green Certificate winners – WELL DONE to all these children!

Reception: Sofia and Jasper

Year 1: Ava and Benjamin

Year 2: Oliver C and Bella

Year 3: Angel, Ashley and Courtney

Year 4/5: Sophie, Ruby and Charlotte

CONGRATULATIONS to Faith Heatley who has achieved the 10metre distance of the ASA Rainbow Swimming Award Scheme!

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 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!

The next Friends meeting will be at 4pm on 9th May in school. A movie night will be held for the children of people who wish to attend.

I hope that you all enjoy the long Bank Holiday weekend – Let's hope that the sun shines for us all!

W.J. Farrington

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