



University
Church
Free
School

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

Telephone: 01244 569560

Principal: Mr W J Farrington

9th June 2017

Quote of the week: "For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all." Corinthians 4:17

Composer of the Week: The Beatles

Dear Parents/Carers

Here is a reminder of key dates for next week:

W/C 12th June Year 1 Phonics Screening test

Key dates for your diary

27 th June	Official Opening of UCFS
30 th June	School SPORTS Event
3 rd July	Transition/2017 Reception Class Visits
10 th July	Transition/2017 Reception Class Visits New Parent Meeting 6pm
12 th July	Summer Soiree 6pm - 8pm
14 th July	End of Year REPORTS home
17 th - 19 th July	Year 4/5 Arts project linked to Chester University
21 st July	End of Summer term

EXCITING NEWS!

Before the half term holiday, I asked you to support us in improving our school ATTENDANCE which unfortunately had fallen below the national average. I am DELIGHTED to tell you that in the space of ONE month, you have made a significant improvement to our whole school attendance figure. This is really impressive and I would like to say a huge THANK YOU to you all for ensuring that your child is in school whenever possible. There is still some way to go before we hit our whole school target of 97%. However, you can really help out by making any appointments out of school hours and by avoiding term time holidays. Don't forget that at the end of the term, there will be recognition for any child whose attendance is 97% or above and special recognition for any child whose attendance is 100%.

'A Voice for Every Child'



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There has also been a vast improvement in the number of children arriving at school in good time for the start of the school day. It is really important that your child is in school before the close of register at 9am. This will avoid a LATE mark in the register.

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 you will see from the key dates, the Phonics Screening test will take place next week for children in Year 1. This is a quick, straightforward assessment which tests each child's ability to decode and read words appropriate for their age. The children have already had lots of practice completing this kind of assessment so it will just be more of the same. In the absence of Mrs. Sykes, Mrs. Bartram will be completing the assessments with the children.
- The children are busily preparing for our special Opening of UCFS! We are very much hoping that you will be able to join us on the afternoon of 27th June. More details to follow shortly.
- During this half term, the staff will be taking part in a series of planned twilight sessions in preparation for September. This will include training on: Asthma Management, a new Marking Policy, a new Behaviour system, How to be an Effective Subject Leader and the introduction of a new Maths initiative.
- September 2017 will see UCFS launch a new approach to the teaching of Maths. The approach which is based on mastery, will not only ensure a rigorous progression of mathematical skills from year to year, but also ensure that ALL children are challenged sufficiently in order to maximise their potential. The Staff are all very excited and are looking forward to receiving training during this half term. THANK YOU to Mrs. Foulkes who is working with the other Maths Leaders in the UCAT Primaries to implement this initiative.
- In preparation for September, I thought that it might be useful to include some guidance around our school uniform for the Autumn term:



Early Years and Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2)	Key Stage 2 (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6)
Grey trousers (short or long)/skirt/dress Purple kilt White polo shirt Purple cardigan/sweatshirt Black/white/grey socks/tights Black shoes	Grey trousers/skirt/dress Purple kilt White long sleeve formal shirt Tie Blazer Black/white/grey socks/tights Black shoes

Please remember that if your child has pierced ears, only a small silver or gold stud or sleeper should be worn. No other jewellery apart from a watch should be worn in school. Don't forget that each item of clothing should be clearly labelled in case it goes missing. Please report any missing item as soon as possible so that we can track it down!

- WELL DONE to the Year 3 children who have hosted their final 50p Grow today! They have had such amazing ideas and have enjoyed taking our money! THANK YOU to Mrs. Gill for helping them to be so successful.
- Just a reminder that our sports day this year will take place on Friday 30th June at the main University of Chester campus. We are planning a full afternoon of sporting activities and competitive races for all year groups. You will be invited to collect your children from school at 12 noon and join us all for a picnic at the university. Events will begin at 1.15pm and run until 4pm.

STAFFING UPDATE

It was lovely to see Mrs. Bargery and Miss Wong back at school this week looking fit and well. We really missed them before half term and there were a LOT of happy children on Monday morning! We had expected Mrs. Sykes back at school this week but unfortunately during the half term break, she suffered a set back which required hospitalisation. I am pleased to tell you that she is now back at home and recovering well. However, it is unlikely that she will be back in school for another week. In the meantime, Mrs. Bartram has been adding her support in preparing for the phonics screening test next week.



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

	Outstanding work in Maths	Outstanding work in English	Outstanding Learning Behaviour	Star of the Week	Green Card Certificate
Reception	Alexander	Bailey	Joel	Claudia	Poppy and Jasper
Year 1	Jonah	Lara	Andrew	Austin	George, Rose and Alice
Year 2	Leo	Ava	Teri	Sophie	Woody and Casey
Year 3	Bruno	Nia	Seth	Tomai	Aine and Reika
Year 4/5	Lily W.	Alexandra	Florence	Amika	Charlotte and Eleanor

I am always pleased to hear about and celebrate out of school achievements. This week, CONGRATULATIONS go to Minnie and Henry for their 25m swimming award, Aphra for being Beth Tweddle's gymnast of the term, Sophia for her stage 2 swimming certificate. Congratulations also to Austin and Darcy who took part in the Wales Mini Masters Golf Qualifying round. Well done all!

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!

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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