

Friday 4th October 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

*It’s* ***WORLD SMILE DAY*** *today. It can go a long way…*

*Today, we also thank all our wonderful teachers and teaching assistants on* ***WORLD TEACHER DAY****. The children are almost as lucky to have you, as we are to have them! ;-)*

Sorry…a long newsletter this week…we’ve lots to talk about!...

**Wearing yellow for WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY!**

Next Thursday is World Mental Health Day and the charity, Young Minds, are raising awareness of the issue and raising funds through their #helloyellow initiative. Year 6’s chosen charity is Place2Be, which is also a mental health charity for young people, and we raise money for them regularly. Although we aren’t doing a fundraising event, we do certainly want to raise awareness of the importance of talking to each other about our worries and taking the weight off. So, we’ll all be wearing yellow in support of Young Minds on Thursday 10th October and you may find some of our children at the gates before and after school with buckets, ready for any spare change that you might have, which will, of course, go to the charity. Thank you for your support.

**Science ‘Question of the Week’**

Last week, the focus was, ***Why do leaves turn different colours in the Autumn?*** If your junior children were listening they’ll now know why! This week, the question is, ***Who invented computers?*** Please do talk to your children about this and help to further enhance their curiosity in the world around them!

**Reading Workshop**

Every year we do a reading workshop which is predominantly for KS2. This year we’ll be doing this **Wednesday 9th October** (next Wednesday!). Parents in KS1 are also most welcome to attend as it will be an opportunity to discuss current procedure across the school with Mr Parker and Mrs Hall, our English Lead. A letter about this should have gone out today! As always, we’d love to see you here, **in the junior hall, at 1.30pm.**

**The website**

There have been things that we feel we’ve done really well over the last couple of years, as well as some things that need improving. Consistency with the website comes under the latter category. We are looking at new providers here but now have new software that will help with our class pages. Each class page will soon have a link to a class blog which should have plenty of information uploaded about what has been going on in your child’s class. Thank you for your patience…we’re working on it.

**Helping at home**

Along with encouraging your children to read and evoke a love of reading, as many of you know, we’ve now started *‘Timestables Rockstars!’* Your children should now have their logins so please ask them about it! Also, some of your children might be doing some interventions in school which you can also help with at home! Thank you to those of you attended mini-workshops on *Lexia* and *The Power of 2* this week. Your help will really support your children in accelerating their learning and understanding. If you received an email about these interventions, please do come and talk to us about them and how you might be able to help at home.

**Trash Tuesdays…**

…is finally going to start next week! There will be some litter pickers at both the infant and junior gates after school on Mondays. The idea is that children who walk to school, take a litter picker home with them and, on Tuesday morning, pick up one piece of litter and pop it in our Penguin (who is now named Peter-Paul) at our main entrance. This will be all be sent to the recycling plant in Sharston. We do this, of course, to help clean up our streets a little, but mainly to raise awareness of the importance of looking after our environment. Thanks everyone for your support!

**National Poetry Day**

Those of you who follow us on Twitter will know that we are delaying National Poetry Day a little this year and having our own on 17th October…as the fantastic Matt Goodfellow is coming in to inspire us all. We can’t wait!

**Author visits: Marie Basting in KS2 and Faye Evans in Reception**

Marie Basting, author of *Princess BMX,* will be coming in to talk to our KS2 children on Monday about the writing process and loving books in general. Her books will be available to buy either at school or at Urmston Bookshop. Also, Faye Evans will be in on Tuesday morning with our Reception children

**Harvest**

We are now accepting goods for our harvest festival, where our Year 2’s will be performing as well as Reverend Stephen Smith coming by to talk to all of the children about the importance of this time of year. All donations are gratefully received and can be brought to the children’s teachers. We’ll be passing the proceeds on to the food bank. Many thanks in advance for your generosity.

**Reception Phonics meeting**

Thanks to our reception parents for coming to our Phonics meeting yesterday, where our team discussed you how we support your children with their reading and spelling building blocks…and how you might help too! It was great to see you all. If you couldn’t attend and would like some information, please do come and find us.

**ALDI’s ‘KIT FOR SCHOOLS’ initiative!**

Keep those stickers coming…we’re 60% complete and in for a chance of winning that £20k!

**A note from Mr Doherty-Congratulations Mr Parker**

On behalf of all of the staff here at UPS, we hope you can join with us in congratulating Mr Parker on his appointment as Headteacher. He took over our school in August 2017, at a very difficult time and has led us all through a period of tremendous change and has worked tirelessly every day since to help make our school community one to be proud of. We all look forward to the future ahead! Congratulations Mr Parker and we all wish you every success.

As ever, if you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind Regards,

*Mr Parker and Mr Doherty*