

Upper Beeding Primary School

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Head Teacher: Mr M Andrews

Friday 21st March 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy Spring Equinox to you all! It finally feels like the warmer weather is on its way - this week the children have really enjoyed being able to go on our school field without having to wear their wellies!

I would like to say a big thank you to all of you for your support during our recent Ofsted inspection; we received so many cards, cakes and sweets from you and they were very much appreciated by the staff and helped us through two very intense days! The process for the writing and publishing of the report by Ofsted is quite time consuming, but I would hope that we will be able to share the published version with you before the Easter holidays.

Our new phonic scheme is proving a big hit with the children and we are seeing them make tremendous progress. Children have access to a new book each week, targeted at their current phonic level, on the Collins Hub e-library. I would like to say a massive well done to the following children who have read the most books assigned to them: **Ariana** in Reception, **Julia** and **Percy** in Italy, **Lottie** in Iceland and **Autumn** in Kenya. If you are having trouble accessing the e-book library or need a reminder on how to do so, please speak to your child's teacher. Hearing your child read their phonic book is possibly the biggest contribution you can make to supporting their education.

I receive a fairly regular stream of emails from parents and residents concerned about the unsafe parking in School Road at drop off and collection time, putting our pupils at risk. I would like to remind parents and residents of the option to photograph vehicles parked illegally and on the zig zags and to report them using Operation Crackdown (Sussex Police) <https://operationcrackdown.org/>. If the police receive multiple reports they may take action against individuals or up the enforcement presence outside the school. There's been a recent change in legislation in that PCSO's can now also issue tickets for parking on zig zags (outside of schools only).

Unfortunately, recent trips and in-school events have left the school with a significant financial shortfall due to the number of parents not making paid contributions. As requested by parents through last year's Parent Survey, we have already reduced the amount we ask parents to contribute, and have tailored our curriculum to remove some of the events we have always enjoyed. Due to our limited budget, going forward we may have to cancel events and visits if parents who are able to make a financial contribution do not do so.

And finally, a huge thank you to the children and staff in the Year 5/6 team who provided some great Red Nose Day events today – we apologise if some of them are coming home smelling of squirry cream! Thanks to all of you for supporting this annual event. Comic Relief is one of our chosen charities, and we will be sending them £500 that was raised today.

Best wishes,
Mr Andrews, Head Teacher

Attendance Update

Kenya Class were the winners of the attendance award in Spring 1 and had their golden play and wore their own clothes on Friday last week. With two more weeks to go till the end of the term, it is very close between the top attending classes and this term we have a KS2 class challenging for honours!



Safeguarding Update

As parents of Year 5 and 6 children know from my communications with them, I have been concerned about the impact that smartphones are having on the wellbeing and development of our pupils.

Smartphones are a huge part of life today. However, there is growing evidence about the negative effects of smartphones and social media on children and teenagers. These include:

- Poor mental health, such as depression and anxiety
- Issues with attention and sleep
- Risks of cyberbullying and exposure to harmful content
- Smartphones can be addictive and distract children from learning important life skills

Schools, as well as families, have a role in changing how children use smartphones. That is why we are working alongside a group of parents who are aiming for children at Upper Beeding Primary School to have a smartphone free childhood. Please scan the QR code to join a Whatsapp group for Upper Beeding Parents or use this link:

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/LKer2cmnWpt5OSTvql4ECo>

You can find out more about support for parents who want their children to be smartphone free by visiting [Smartphone Free Childhood](#)

I look forward to giving you more details of our work on this in due course.

Are you worried about the impact of smartphones on our children's education and mental health?

Did you know that one of our local schools is already going smartphone-free?

Join our parent-led campaign to go smartphone-free at Upper Beeding Primary School



Message from our SENCo

WEST SUSSEX LIBRARY - a wealth of activities and resources.

This half term's SEN coffee morning welcomed visitors from the West Sussex library service, who shared some of the fabulous things they offer for our children. We discovered that our local libraries have early reader books to complement what the children read in school, as well as Barrington Stoke dyslexia friendly books, which have tinted paper to avoid visual stress, dyslexia-friendly fonts and age-matched content. They also offer a range of audio books - on CDs / MP3 players pre-loaded with stories / e-library apps with both audio books and online reads.

Additionally, our libraries have reading lists matched to different situations as well as 'ask the librarian forms' where you can request that they put together a bespoke reading list matched to your child's specific needs.

Alongside books, local libraries have the following:

- Toys to borrow, including Orchard games which are linked to maths and literacy skills
 - A weekly lego construction club at Storrington each Saturday afternoon (with plans to introduce a similar club after school in Steyning in the Autumn)
 - School holiday events, which involve sharing a book with follow-up crafts
 - Summer reading challenges - which can include sharing a book with family and listening to stories.
- We also discovered there is a special SEN library team, which encourages parents to join the voluntary disability register (you don't need a diagnosis to join). Website: www.westsussex.gov.uk/disabilityregister Benefits of this include:
- A monthly newsletter that shares SEN events, training and support
 - A Max card, which gives discounts to attractions across the country (Google for more information)
 - Pop-up SEN-friendly events e.g. trains, puppetry, construction (There is one coming up in Henfield soon)
 - Sensory stories, followed by craft activities
 - 'Understand me' communication resources e.g. photo albums where you can add audio to support transitions / up-coming events
 - SEN toys
 - Sensory story packs to borrow, with all of the resources to bring the story alive (packs for different ages from tots to teens)
 - Drop-in 'Story Magic' sessions one Saturday a month at Horsham, Worthing and Haywards Heath libraries.



If you would like further information about any of the above, please contact Sarah Denyer (SENCO) on senco@upperbeedingprimary.co.uk

General Information



Piano Wanted! Do you have a spare piano or a full width electric keyboard that you would be willing to donate to our school? We have lots of children learning to play these instruments, and would love a piano for our old building where some of our lessons take place. If you can help, please contact the office – thank you.

Class Assemblies Assemblies start at 2:45pm for families of the relevant classes – we look forward to seeing you.

Spring Term Monday 24th March – Mrs Duguid and **Italy** Class
Summer Term Monday 9th June - Miss Underdown and **Mexico** Class
Monday 16th June – Mr Hughes and **Ecuador** Class
Monday 23rd June – Mrs McKay and **Iceland** Class



Extra Help for Low Income Families – Pupil Premium/Free School Meals Eligibility Just a reminder to everyone that extra help could be available for families who receive certain benefits. This could help with assistance towards the cost of school trips, school uniform/shoes, and hot school meals. It could also mean extra funding for school. If you feel you might qualify, please speak in confidence to Christine Gilliam in the school office.

Online Payment System Our school continues to operate as a no cash environment, and we now use a payment system called ParentPay as the previous system sQuid has closed down its business. Most of you already have a ParentPay account set up as it is used to pay for school lunches with Chartwells. If you have yet to set up an account, Mrs Gilliam in the school office will be happy to help you.

Changes to Pick Up Arrangements Just a reminder that if you need to advise any changes to pick up, and it is **AFTER 12:00 noon**, please telephone the office, leaving a message on the answerphone if necessary, rather than sending an email, as we cannot always guarantee an email is seen after midday.



Music Tuition at School If your child is interested in learning to play an instrument, we offer the following lessons that take place here at school. Please contact the external instructors directly for further information, prices, and the availability of lesson places – see list below:

Guitar/Bass/Ukelele	Mr Anthony Barrett	anthony.barrett@westsussexmusic.co.uk
Piano and Violin	Miss Natasha White	natasha.c.white@outlook.com
Drums	Mr Blake Mostyn	blake.mostyn@googlemail.com
Recorder/Flute	Mr Dom Smith	dominic.smith@westsussexmusic.co.uk

West Sussex Music also have a teacher available now for Cello tuition. If this is something you would be interested in for your child (lessons would be here at school), please contact WSM direct on music@westsussexmusic.co.uk

Pre-Loved School Uniform The pre-loved uniform is stored in the Ditchling (green) and Roundhill (red) beach huts and will be available most days for your convenience – why not have a browse at drop off and pick up while you are waiting! All items are still just £1.00 each so there are bargains to be had. Items can be paid for by cash in the school office, or via your sQuid account.

We are always happy to take in donations of good condition, outgrown uniform to keep the shop full and the stock rotated – please hand into the office. **If anyone also has a spare clothing rail we could have too, that would be appreciated.**



Topic and Wow Day Costumes We are building up a supply of costumes that can be hired for a £1.00 for topics, Wow Days, World Book Days, nativities etc. These will be stored in the Truleigh (yellow) beach hut (eventually) and will be payable by cash or via ParentPay. Until then, please direct any questions about our stock to the office.



If you have any outgrown costumes in decent condition at home, we would be very happy to accept them for the costume store.

Pre-Loved Steyning Grammar Uniform During the Summer term we will have a small selection of Steyning Grammar uniform which may be of use if your child is due to move up in September. We are happy to take in donations of good condition, outgrown SGS uniform if you have any. Please hand into the office. **If anyone also has a spare clothing rail we could have too, that would be appreciated.**

Book and DVD Beach Hut This is now open in the Chanctonbury (blue) beach hut. We have a large selection of books and U category DVDs. Children and parents are welcome to pop in and borrow a book or film before and after school. Children can then keep the book/DVD, or read it/watch it and donate it back to school. As you know we love to encourage reading, and we hope the children will be as excited as we are for this new venture. And it's absolutely FREE, although if you would like to make a donation, we won't turn it down! Please do so via the pre-loved uniform section on ParentPay, or hand in to the office! If you have any children's books or U category DVDs in decent condition at home, we would be very happy to accept them for the our library, our classrooms, or the Chanctonbury beach hut. Please hand into the office, thank you.



Communication Box To save you queuing at the office at peak times, our red communication box is in the entrance hall if you just need to hand something in. This box is emptied late morning every day. It can be used for letters/forms/FUBS items etc.

FUBS News



Thank You FUBS thank you all for your ongoing support, helping them to raise much needed extra funding for the school. Details of FUBS events coming up will be issued nearer the time.

FUBS are always looking for new faces to join them, so if you would like to get involved, would like more information about what they do, or have some fundraising ideas to share, please message them on FUBScontact@gmail.com



The Mother's Day Gift Sale takes place on Tuesday – thank you to all the children who are taking part. Please don't peek at the pressies they will be bringing home and hiding up until the 30th!

Next week FUBS are sending out details of their Easter event for this year – it's the Smarties Challenge, so start collecting 20p coins! Children who are unable to have Smarties for dietary or allergy reasons will receive something suitable to eat plus an empty tube. Look out for the info on Monday.



UBPS School Lottery Don't forget to get your school lottery tickets! Tickets for the lottery cost £1 per week. There is a guaranteed cash winner for our school every week, and the chance to win a £25,000 jackpot. The draw takes place every Saturday, and winners are notified via email.

<https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/upper-beeding-primary-school>



Easyfundraising Friends of Upper Beeding School are registered with Easyfundraising, which means over 4,000 shops and sites will now donate to us for FREE every time you use Easyfundraising to shop with them. These donations will help **SO MUCH**, so please sign up to support us – it's completely FREE and doesn't take long <https://tinyurl.com/EFUBPS>



Governing Body News

Would you like to be a School Governor? Upper Beeding Primary School currently has vacancies for



Governors. This is an exciting opportunity to join our Governing Body and be part of a dynamic team helping to shape and facilitate the strategic future of our school. If you are interested in becoming a Governor of this school, please contact the Clerk via email on louise.brown@upperbeedingprimary.co.uk for further information, or pop into the school office. Applications will be accepted from community, parents, and grandparents. Please pass on this message to anyone you think you would like to join our team – we look forward to hearing from you!

Eco and Recycling News



Thank You Thank you so much for the amount of recycling you are sending in – the children love putting it in their special class bin in the hope that they will collect the most each term and win the prize! It is also good to know that these items are being kept from landfill, AND you are raising money for the school. Please keep a look out for updated details of what we can collect which will be coming out over the next few weeks. Please **only send in items that are on the lists** as we are unable to recycle other things for cash, and it just fills up our bins. Thank you for your continued support.

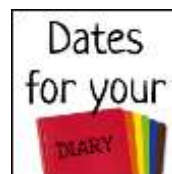
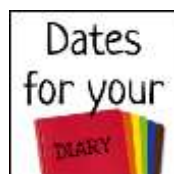
Clothing and Textile Recycling The clothing bank has already had lots of use since it appeared outside our school, and has to be emptied every week. Please think of this green bin when you have a Spring clean or a sort out in those wardrobes! Not only are we saving all these things from landfill, and fulfilling a need for second-hand clothing and textiles, we get paid by the kilo – win, win!



Please can items be bagged before being put in the green bin – thank you.

Acceptable items: all clothing; all shoes; bed linen; towels; accessories such as belts, hats, gloves, scarves, handbags; soft toys.

Not acceptable: duvets; cushions; off cuts; used underwear and socks; carpet; rugs; curtains.



Spring Term 2025

Mon 24th Mar

Fri 28th Mar

Mon 31st Mar to Fri 4th Apr

2:45 Mrs Duguid and Italy Class Assembly

1:00 Scotland and France Swimming

Year 5/6 Residential Visit to Isle of Wight



Fri 4th Apr
Fri 4th Apr

Year 5/6 Visit to Rampion Visitor Centre, Brighton
Last Day of Spring Term

Summer Term 2025

Tue 22nd Apr
Thu 24th Apr
Fri 25th Apr
Fri 2nd May
Mon 5th May
Fri 9th May
Fri 9th May
Mon 12th May to Thu 15th May
Wed 14th May to Fri 16th May
Fri 16th May
Wed 21st May
Fri 23rd May
Mon 26th May to Fri 30th May
Mon 2nd Jun
Fri 6th Jun
Mon 9th Jun
Sat 14th Jun
Mon 16th Jun
Mon 23rd Jun
Wed 25th Jun
Tue 1st Jul
Wed 2nd Jul
Fri 11th Jul
Fri 11th Jul
Fri 18th Jul
Mon 21st Jul
Tue 22nd Jul

First Day of Summer Term
Year 5 Taster Day at SGS Towers Campus
1:00 Scotland and France Swimming
1:00 Scotland and France Swimming
BANK HOLIDAY – SCHOOL CLOSED
Class Photos
1:00 Scotland and France Swimming
Year 6 SATs
Reception NCMP Screenings
1:00 Scotland and France Swimming
Choir at Chanctonbury Music Festival
1:00 Scotland and France Swimming
HALF TERM – SCHOOL CLOSED
INSET Day 3 – SCHOOL CLOSED
1:00 Scotland and France Swimming
2:45 Miss Underdown and Mexico Class Assembly
FUBS Summer Fair
2:45 Mr Hughes and Ecuador Class Assembly
2:45 Mrs McKay and Iceland Class Assembly
Sports Day
Back-up Sports Day
Year 6 Transition Day
China Red and Blue visit to Washbrooks Farm
1:00 Year 6 Leaver's Fun Swim
Last Day of Summer Term (for Children) normal finish time
INSET Day 4 – SCHOOL CLOSED
INSET Day 5 – SCHOOL CLOSED

Academic Year 2024 to 2025

Autumn Term 2024	Starts: Monday 2 nd September Half Term: Monday 28 th October to Friday 1 st November Ends: Friday 20 th December Bank Holidays: None INSET Days: Monday 2 nd September, Tuesday 3 rd September
Christmas Break	Monday 23 rd December to Friday 3 rd January
Spring Term 2025	Starts: Monday 6 th January Half Term: Monday 17 th February to Friday 21 st February Ends: Friday 4 th April INSET Days: None
Easter Break	Monday 7 th April to Monday 21 st April
Summer Term 2025	Starts: Tuesday 22 nd April Half Term: Monday 26 th May to Friday 30 th May



Ends: Tuesday 22nd July
Bank Holidays: Monday 5th May
INSET Days: Monday 2nd June, Monday 21st July, Tuesday 22nd July

Academic Year 2025 to 2026

Autumn Term 2025	Starts: Wednesday 3 rd September Half Term: Monday 27 th October to Friday 31 st October Ends: Friday 19 th December Bank Holidays: None INSET Days: Not yet known
Christmas Break	Monday 22 nd December to Friday 2 nd January
Spring Term 2026	Starts: Monday 5 th January Half Term: Monday 16 th February to Friday 20 th February Ends: Friday 27 th March INSET Days: Not yet known
Easter Break	Monday 7 th April to Monday 21 st April
Summer Term 2026	Starts: Monday 13 th April Half Term: Monday 25 th May to Friday 29 th May Ends: Wednesday 22 nd July Bank Holidays: Monday 4 th May INSET Days: Not yet known

