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*Headteacher: Mr S Parker* ***‘Growing Together. Empowered to be more’***

Welcome to Spring 2023!

Dear Parents and Carers,

May I first wish you a very happy new year, hope that you’ve had a restful and peaceful ‘break’, and welcome you all to a new term at UPS.

Our aim is to continue to be a positive and enthusiastic place for our children and families to be, but whilst we are, it is important for us to acknowledge the many challenges that our community and nation (and planet!) continues to face. There are numerous nasty bugs and viruses doing the rounds, the ‘cost of living crisis’ isn’t going away any time soon, and understandably many people in society still experience ongoing anxieties and concerns due to all manner of circumstances in our lives. I say this because I hope that our school may remain a safe and comforting place for our children, but also a place where you can come if you do happen to need support or some ‘signposting’ as families...with dwindling services elsewhere being an obvious worry.

We have spoken to our children about what our key focuses are for this term and it will be great if you could help us in helping them to realise this. First and foremost, we’ve told them to expect UPS to be a place where they can feel safe and loved, both because of the adults here to care for them, but also due to each other’s kindness and respect towards one another. We’ve told them to concentrate on being the very best version of themselves that they can be and whilst we want them to draw inspiration from others, they can do so positively rather than comparing and thinking about what they can’t do...yet!

You will also start to hear from us soon bits of language linked to our children becoming ‘meta-learners’ and us being a ‘thinking school’, becoming more self-aware of our own minds, our own feelings, our own behaviours, and being in touch with what helps us learn best. Watch this space for more info!

In the coming days you should receive an email from your child’s class teacher (if you haven’t already), offering information that you may need this term, as well as bits and pieces about what your children will be learning. Next week, junior parents will also be receiving attainment and target letters.

There will be opportunities for you to come into school this term too – we’ll be holding SEND, wellbeing and belonging meetings, as well as a writing workshop at some point. We’ll be celebrating Children’s Mental Health Week and Safer Internet Day in February, World Book Day in March, as well holding Parents Evening on 21st and 23rd March. We’ll get dates to you soon for all of these events and others, also.

As always, please keep talking to us should you have any queries or concerns, or just an update!

Yours sincerely and best wishes,

*Simon Parker*

Headteacher