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

**WELCOME!**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to a new school year at UPS!

We hope that you and your families have had an enjoyable and restful summer.

A special welcome to our new Reception and Nursery children and parents…we hope this is the start of a happy and positive relationship with you all.

You will soon receive a year group welcome email from your children’s teachers with all sorts of key information, including what your children will be learning, as well as being invited in to your child’s classroom next Thursday or Friday after school, to meet the teacher(s) should you so wish, and to take a look at their new classroom environment.

Please see the following Autumn dates, although some may be subject to change…

*Thursday 12th September 3.35-4pm(ish): Class and Curriculum Welcome – meet and greet the teachers (Classes i1 Mrs Byrom, i2 Ms Ahle, i3 Mr Nolan, J1 Mrs Vitkin/Mrs McNutt, J2 Miss Evans, J3 Miss Phelan and Mrs Helyar and J4 Mrs L Latham J5 Mrs Hunter, J6 Mrs Lawson and Mrs Hall, J8 Mrs Billingsley)*

*Friday 13th September 3.35-4pm(ish): Class and Curriculum Welcome – meet and greet the teachers (Classes i4 Mrs Cooper, i5 Mrs Marsland, J7 Mr Fisher)*

*Friday 13th September: Roald Dahl Day – children can bring in their favourite book if they wish – focus on love of storytelling*

*Wednesday 18th September 9.15am: Reception Parents Welcome, Coffee and Curriculum Morning*

*Thursday 26th September 6pm: Reception parents phonics meeting*

*Friday 27th September PTA Coffee Morning – TBC perhaps*

*Thursday 10th October – World Mental Health Day – everyone to wear yellow*

*Friday 11th October 3.45: SEND Parent/Staff/Govs Parent Partnership meeting*

*Friday 8th November: Diwali*

*WB Monday 11th November: Anti-Bullying Week/World Kindness Day*

*Thursday 14th and Tuesday 19th November: Parents Evening*

*Friday 15th November: Children In Need*

*(We’ll be in touch about workshops, including how we use the PLACE approach to relate to our children, as well as the Christmas festivities!)*

**School Culture, priorities and wellbeing: Growing Together. Empowered to be more.**

We remain proud of our school culture and how far we have come since our amalgamation back in 2017. But there are many things we still hope to develop and improve upon. One of our core goals this year will be to support our children with the expectations that they place on themselves with regard to their behaviours, learning (and the expectations that we have of them!) and enhancing their sense of challenge, independence and resilience, a word that we’ll help them to understand further with our Resilience Framework (see overleaf) that we really hope to get off the ground this year! Supporting our children holistically remains key. As they move through our school, we want to help to nurture them to be positive and reflective young people who are capable of helping themselves and one another. Of course, we will be there for them, to guide them, as they will likely only be able to grow their independence and resilience if they feel happy and safe. But helping them to grow together into collaborative and respectful young citizens is a goal that will also help our school community to grow in a way we all want mirrored in wider society. Our children will have different degrees of support in school as they move on from UPS and we want them to be self-aware and able to help themselves when they need to. Our ongoing work as a staff on thinking, metacognition and embedding learning behaviours and habits will aid this. It remains important that our motto, *Growing together. Empowered to be more,* rings true.

We are all aware of the challenges that our new government faces and it is essential that our mental health, wellbeing and resilience as a school community remains strong. It is something that we have discussed as a staff team and we hope that you’ll feel able to talk to us about your children’s needs and whether you might need support as a family. We continue to work closely with Trafford Team Together in order to make sure any help that any of our families may need is fully available and on offer, so please don’t feel that you can’t come and chat about any necessary support, for whatever reason that may be. Furthermore, if you feel that under such difficult circumstances, you may be eligible for the Pupil Premium Grant, or wish to find out more about this, please do feel free to throw an email my way ([s.parker@urmstonprimaryschool.com](mailto:s.parker@urmstonprimaryschool.com)) or contact the school office.

Whilst we are on the subject of the needs of our children, please talk to us about these. I am sure you are aware that there are reasonable adjustments that we are willing to make to help our children feel safe, comfortable and ready to learn in school, but some of them we may not always be aware of and it is important that you share your thoughts on this.

**Home-school agreement**

The above is alluded to in the **Home-School agreement** that is attached with this letter. We ask that you please read this through with your children as being consistent here will help hugely as we navigate our way through the school year. Being part of our school community means having common goals and values and we hope that you agree that the actions to be taken on the agreement, by all parties, are fair and aimed at giving our children the most wholesome experience possible at our school. Included in this is a note about attendance. You’ll be aware of updated expectations from the government and I’ll note here that whilst we’ll always listen to reasons for absence, it is our responsibility to remind you of the importance of every day in school and how it isn’t always easy to catch up on missed learning. I don’t say this to add unwanted pressure but to state the obvious really. If you disagree with anything in the home-school agreement, please do let me know and I’d welcome a conversation.

**PE kits**

Also to note is the expectation regarding PE kits that we mentioned last year. Since we have allowed children to come to school in PE kits on the days that they have PE (post-Covid), it has made things considerably easier, and children have been able to enjoy more minutes of PE! However, it has become clear that the expectations for PE kit and what is acceptable has slipped slightly and so in preparation for next year, can you please bear in mind the PE kit below:

- Trainers/pumps

- Black shorts/leggings or joggers (plain – or UPS logo)

- White t-shirt (not polo-neck) (plain – or UPS logo)

- Red school sweatshirt/cardigan (plain or UPS logo)

We have kept it to black and white for a couple of reasons – firstly, it is easy to buy, and usually relatively

cheap, and it is also very easy to remember and to manage!

Can we please remind you also that there is to be no branded clothing.

**Staff wellbeing!**

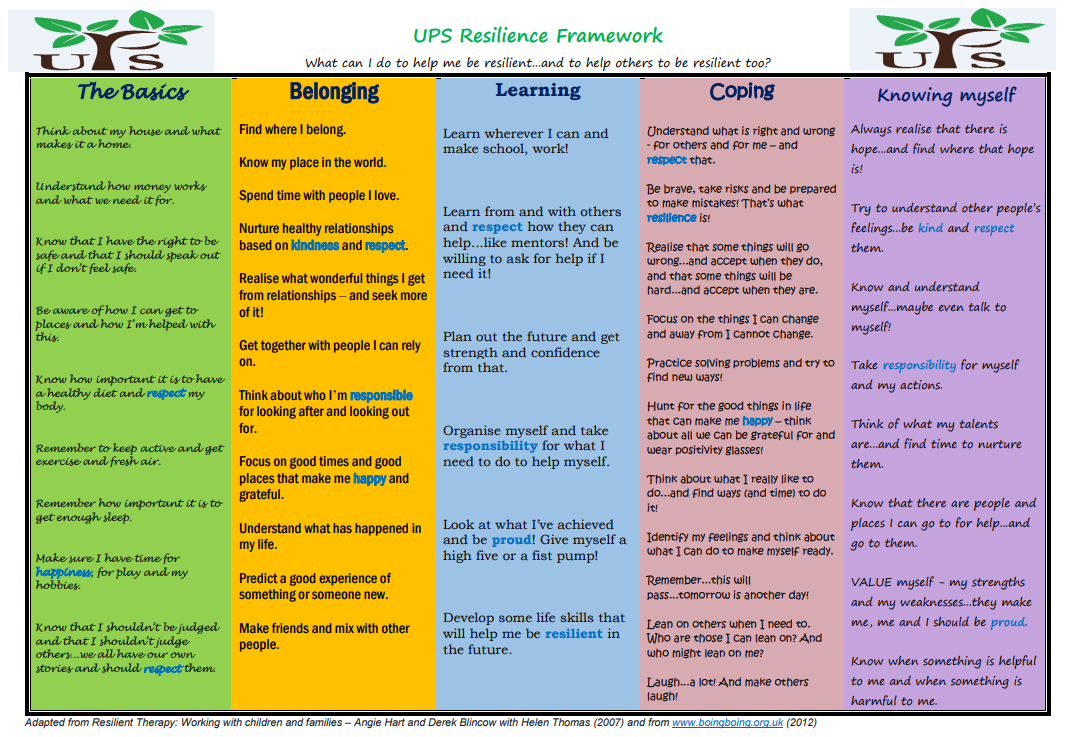
One final thing regarding wellbeing. Without exception, our teachers work tremendously hard in their roles, and have been, and will continue to be, open and communicative. They will still be at the doors at the start and end of the school day (and I’ll be on the gates too) for any quick chats that you may need, but if there needs to be a more lengthy conversation, please make an appointment. Furthermore, please do be mindful of teachers’ time when communicating via email or Seesaw (Seesaw codes will be with you shortly, by the way). Seesaw has its benefits, but please do not have the expectation that messages will be seen and responded to swiftly as checking Seesaw regularly is not an expectation for our staff. Emails should go through the school office and will always be passed on as soon as is possible. You can always email me too. Thank you so much for your understanding.

We care a great deal about the trust that you place in us to do our best for your children and we all thoroughly look forward to working with them (and all of you!) this year. See you tomorrow…or, to some of our newest members, in the coming days.

Yours sincerely,

***Mr Simon Parker***

Headteacher



A calendar with a few days of work

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