



WELCOME!

For all new parents and children that have joined the Picknalls family may I warmly welcome you to our school. We are very proud to have become part of a brand new multi-academy trust; Uttoxeter Learning Trust, which currently also includes Windsor Park Middle School and Thomas Alleyne's High School.

I firmly believe in teamwork and will be focusing on continuing to develop the very strong links that exist between the school and the parents. There are many ways that you can make contact with me if you have any worries, concerns, things to share with us, things to celebrate etc. I will be continuing the open door policy of the school, so pop in at any time and if I am free, I will see you straight away. By all means contact the office and make an appointment. I will be hovering at the gates at the bottom of school some mornings/afternoons. The number of the office in school is 01889 228700 and my e-mail address is headteacher@picknalls.staffs.sch.uk

I will be writing regular newsletters to keep you as updated as possible with current and future events. I will inform you when the newsletters are being sent out by text message.

Some changes to this year:

- Mrs H Roe left us in July and we are very pleased that Miss L Bedson has joined us permanently as Class 2's teacher.
- Mrs S Miller also ended her role as TA in Year 4 last week, we wish her the best for the future. Her role will be picked up by existing TA's within the school.
- Mrs N Jones began her maternity leave at the end of last term and we are very pleased to announce the safe arrival of Arthur Peter Jones, who weighed a healthy 8lb. While Mrs Jones enjoys the precious first few months with her new son Mrs C Owston has joined with Mrs S Fenton in the nursery.



PARKING

The following information has been provided by Staffordshire County Council:

With children back to school for the new term, parents are being urged to put safety first by parking responsibly during drop-off and pick-up times.

The Staffordshire County Council campaign is calling on people to park considerately and reminding drivers that Civil Enforcement Officers will be visiting roads near schools right across the county. Any vehicle observed parked on yellow lines or in a restricted area could be issued with a penalty notice, if not observed picking up or dropping off a passenger.

The campaign is also reminding drivers to switch off their engines when parked up, which is good for the environment and people's health, and helps reduce pollution.

It is hoped that the campaign will also urge parents to consider alternative modes of transport such as walking, cycling, scooting 'park and stride' or a walking bus. These all help to reduce congestion and pollution outside schools which is good for the environment, good for parents' pockets, and helps keep people active.

Also on the subject of parking:

We are very fortunate to be able to use the Uttoxeter Leisure Centre carpark for free at the beginning and end of school times. The agreed times for use are:

- 8.40am-9.00am
- 3.20pm-3.35pm

Please help us to maintain good relationships with our neighbours by parking only in official spaces and adhering to the agreed times of use. If you need to use the Leisure Centre carpark at any other time of day you must obtain a ticket from one of the machines.

Finally:

We would also ask that you do not park in Picknalls Lane, especially if you block one of the residents' driveways. This road is too narrow to turn around in without mounting the curb and causing danger to pedestrians. If you do have to drive into the school drive please remember that the speed limit is 5mph. We appeal to pedestrians to use the pavements at all times. Please help us to keep everyone safe on site.



GOVERNOR CORNER

On behalf of the Governors, welcome back to another school year. I am sure your child/children are settling in to their new year group and are enjoying learning.

For those unfamiliar with what the governing body of the school is, we are a number of volunteers responsible for holding the school to account. The governing body consists of both parent-elected and staff-elected Governors, along with a number of co-opted Governors, that can be appointed when vacancies in our skills occur. We need a skillset that covers all aspects of running what some days feels like a small business rather than a school(!); people management, finances, etc. Your governing body currently consists of:

Paul Johnson, James Russell, Clare Goodenough, George Holland, Tessa Clay, Heidi Elsmore and Charlotte Gallimore, all of whom have children throughout the school, from Nursery to Year 4.

Mrs Tapp, Mr Cope, Mrs Plant and Mrs A Jones as staff representatives.

As terms of office expire we look to fill vacancies and if you are interested in joining the governing body I am quite happy to have a chat about what the role and its responsibility entails, so please do get in touch. Whilst we don't have any Parent-Governor vacancies at the moment, we are looking to co-opt a Governor who has experiences in human resources and also co-opt a Governor who has legal knowledge. You don't need to be the parent of a child at the school to be a co-opted Governor, so if you know of anyone that would be interested in attending an early evening meeting once a half-term for a couple of hours, please do recommend that they get in touch.

If you ever have an issue with the school that you wish to discuss, then please don't delay in contacting your child's class teacher in the first instance or the headteacher if you would prefer, or, if you feel unable to do either, the governing body. Our e-mail address is governor@picknalls.co.uk – we will try to respond within 48 hours (but please remember that we do have 'proper' jobs and families that take up our time and so may sometimes take slightly longer to get back to you) and we aim to close out issues within 28 days.

Finally for now, although it's still a few weeks off, we are keen to ensure that, on parents' evenings, you have the opportunity to speak to a Governor. An appointment system will be in place alongside the teachers' appointments. However, don't feel that this is the only time you can contact us; if you are unable to e-mail, leave a message at the school office to arrange a time to meet, or for me (or one of my fellow Governors if you'd prefer) to call.

I look forward to seeing you around the school,

Paul Johnson

Chair of Governors



PRAM TO PRIMARY

Also from Staffordshire County Council's the Family Caring Trust are offering a free parenting program:

- Struggling with your child's behaviour; mealtimes and bedtimes becoming a challenge?
- If your child is aged between 0-8 years, then this programme could be for you.
- Learn new skills on how to manage challenging behaviour.
- Learn how to support a child's uniqueness.
- Identify how choices and consequences can support positive behaviour.

This is a FREE Adult and Community Learning funded course which will run for 8 weeks at:
Asda Supermarket (in the community room), Carter Square Unit 1, Carter St, Uttoxeter, ST14 7LG
Starts: Tuesday 19th Sep 2017 (not half term week)

Time: 1:00-3:00

If you are interested in attending, please ring Jenny Barnes on: 01283 233400 for more information.



NEW TRUSTEE NEEDED FOR THE UTTOXETER LEARNING TRUST

Want to give something back to help your local community? Have you the financial/audit experience and expertise required to lead the trustees in supporting and challenging the schools in the Uttoxeter Learning Trust? This is like the role of the chair of the finance committee of the school governors, but it covers all of the schools in the ULT multi-academy trust. The ULT Board of Trustees sits above the school Governing Bodies and holds all of the schools to account. Like a school governor, it is a voluntary, unpaid, but very responsible, role. You would be expected to chair the ULT Finance Committee at their half-termly meetings and to report back at the Board of Trustees meetings which are also half-termly. Both start at 5.30pm and last no longer than 2 hours. It's a challenging role, but very rewarding.

If you are interested in the role, please email the ULT Chief Executive, Mike Osborne-Town, on osbornetown@tahs.org.uk.



UTTOXETER
LEARNING TRUST
INSPIRED TEACHING
INSPIRING CHILDREN

NEW - DIGITAL 5 A DAY

The Children's Commissioner for England has launched a campaign aimed at parents and carers to help them to encourage their children to enjoy the online world without being totally consumed by it. The campaign, Digital 5 A Day, is based on the NHS's evidence-based five steps to mental well-being, and gives children and parents practical steps to achieve a balanced digital diet. The five elements of a good digital diet are: connect, be active, get creative, give to others, be mindful.



The address to access the resource is: <https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/2017/08/06/digital-5-a-day/>

PARENT VIEW

Since converting to an academy our Parent View questionnaires have been reset so we would really appreciate it if you could spare the time to complete the online survey.

Parent View gives you the chance to tell Ofsted what you think about your child's school, from the quality of teaching to dealing with bullying and poor behaviour. The survey can be completed at any time; you don't have to wait until the school is being inspected.

Ofsted use the information you provide when making decisions about which schools to inspect and when.

To access the page go to: <https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>

Click 'Give your views' to register and complete a survey to help your child's school improve.



PARENTS EVENING QUESTIONNAIRE

Mrs Tapp and some of the Governors will be on the main door during the October Parent's Evenings asking you to complete a questionnaire asking for your views about many aspects of Picknalls First School. This is something we ask parents to complete every year and just like the Parent View survey mentioned above we are use your feedback to help improve our practice.

PHONE NUMBER CHANGE

Just a reminder that our phone number changed in June.

Please update your records and let everyone on your pick ups and contact list aware that we can



now be contacted on **01889 228700.**

SCHOOL LUNCHES

Just a reminder that school lunches are £2.20 a day or £11 a week if your child/children are in Year 3 or 4, please be aware that should you fall behind with payments over £11 meals will be withdrawn until the debt is cleared. You are free to order daily or weekly. The menu is available on the school website, on the main reception door or ask at the office for a copy.

Since the introduction of the Universal Free School Meals (from September 2014) for pupils in Reception up to and including Year 2, you may be unaware that you can still claim for Free School Meals for families receiving certain benefits. These are:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit



This will generate Pupil Premium funding to the school and would mean that you would also receive financial help with school trips, school uniform and music tuition.

Our Ofsted inspection states that we use Pupil Premium money very effectively. We have used some of the money to provide focused teaching interventions which has improved progress and means that at Picknalls there is 'no attainment gap between disadvantaged pupils and other pupils' (Ofsted, April 2016).

Even if you don't want your child to take the meals we encourage you to claim.

An online application can be made through www.staffordshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmealsapplication (a paper form can be downloaded from here also). If you do not have access to the internet or need more advice please contact the school office.

MEDICINE IN SCHOOL

Please be aware of our policy regarding administering medicine in school.

We can only dispense certain medications to a child if:

- It has been prescribed by a GP/Consultant etc
- It is prescribed to be given 4 times a day

You will need to come to the office to fill in a medical form for us to issue this.

If your child needs pain killers, such as Calpol, during the day for a mild condition we can only allow them in sachet form which your child can self-administer. A similar principle applies to cream for skin conditions such as eczema if it is in a bottle with pump dispenser. If they need any other medication during the day you are welcome to come into school to give it to your child yourself.

Please ensure that any medication to be left in school is brought directly to the school office and is not left in your child's bag.



PUPIL VOICE

Over the next few weeks the majority of classes will hold elections for this years Eco Committee and School Council. Any child who would like to put themselves forward will tell their classmates why they think they should be voted for and then once all the candidates have had their say the rest of the class votes for their favourite.

The year 4 staff are responsible for choosing prefects from each class.

The results will be announced during Friday 22nd September's afternoon assembly and the children will be given their cap to identify them to their peers.



CONNECTED CURRICULUM

We are continuing to teach our connected curriculum topics throughout the year. The structure of the day will continue to consist of the mornings remaining as phonics sessions, English lessons, Maths lessons, guided reading activities etc with the afternoons being taught on a topic based approach. We are calling this a 'connected curriculum' as links will be made between the subjects whenever possible so that the learning is seamless and connects together. Links between the topic and the morning's English and Maths lessons will also be made. Topics for this half term include:

- Early Years – Amazing Machines
- Year 1 – Australia
- Year 2 – Katie Morag - An Island Home
- Year 3 – Groovy Greeks
- Year 4 – Canada



The topics throughout the school follow the same process. We start with a 'launch day' where a fascinator will be used to introduce the topic and hook the children into their topic. Fascinators may include: a trip, a visitor, a special object, a display etc. Each classroom throughout the school is building a special 'Learning Journey Tree.' The trunk of the tree includes the topic name, the roots of the tree show what the children already know about the topic and what they would like to know over their learning, and the leaves on the tree show what their new learning has been. Each year group works through their learning journey and finishes with an outcome day where they complete an assessment to show the progress they have made in their learning. Please ask your child about their new lessons and topic, and when you call into the classrooms have a look at their learning journey tree. Each topic you will receive a 'parent's information sheet' outlining the learning that will be covered so that you can support them at home. This will be sent home as a paper copy and can always be found on the website.

BEHAVIOUR

The new academic year is almost two weeks old and we are pleased to say that all the children have settled into their new routines very well. Mrs Tapp is currently updating the Behaviour Policy which will be published on our website. For your information the following procedure is used throughout the school:



- Any serious incidents of poor behaviour will result in a Headteacher's slip being sent home describing the behaviour and any sanctions to enable you to support your child at home.

Mrs Tapp is very pleased to have already given out lots of Headteachers stickers and merit certificates for good work.

ATTENDANCE

We aim to achieve 96% attendance across the whole school. This is something which is monitored and reviewed at the end of every half term and any child falling below 93% will initially be sent a letter. We endeavour to support all families struggling to keep up their attendance so please don't hesitate to ask for help or advice should this apply to you.



We also monitor persistent lateness as this can also have a detrimental effect on any child's education. Please ensure that your child arrives on time i.e. between 8.45am and 8.55am, as learning starts as soon as the school day begins.

MEALTIME SUPERVISOR VACANCY

We potentially have a vacancy for a Mealtime Supervisor. If you are interested in working either with our Nursery or main school children over the lunch time period as full time or casual please enquire at the office for more details.



PROUD TO BE PICKNALLS

Picknalls First School
Oldfields Road
Uttoxeter
Staffordshire
ST17 7QL

01889 228700
headteacher@picknalls.staffs.sch.uk
governor@picknalls.co.uk
www.picknalls.staffs.sch.uk

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SEPTEMBER 2017

Tuesday 19th	10.00am– Class 6 swimming
Wednesday 20th	9.30am—10 Year 4 girls going to Northwood Stadium – Girls Football
Thursday 21st	2.30pm– EYFS Phonic Workshop for parents
Friday 22nd	9.40am– Year 4 Singing Workshop with Georgina Baxter
Monday 25th	11.00am– Year 4 joining Dr Johnson’s birthday celebrations
Wednesday 27th	8.00am- Tempest photography –family and individuals
Friday 29th	3.30pm– Macmillan Coffee afternoon in school hall

**COME FOR
COFFEE AND
CAKE**

OCTOBER 2017

Wednesday 11th	2.30pm– Harvest Festival assembly (children only)
Mon 16th—Thurs 19th	Balance Bike training for EYFS
Monday 16th	3.30pm-7.00pm—Parent’s Evening
Wednesday 18th	3.30pm-7.00pm—Parent’s Evening
Friday 20th	Last day of half term
Mon 23rd—Fri 27th	Half-term Holiday
Monday 30th	INSET Day—no children in school
Tuesday 31st	Autumn term 2 begins

**Hello
PARENTS**

NOVEMBER 2017

Friday 10th	10.45am - Remembrance Day Assembly (children only)
Wednesday 15th	Children in Need Ramble Day
Thursday 16th	EYFS eye tests
Friday 17th	Children in Need Day
Wednesday 22nd	2.50pm-Class 2 assembly



DECEMBER 2017

Monday 4th	KS2 Christmas performance dress rehearsal
Tuesday 5th	2.00pm—KS2 Christmas performance to parents 6.00pm—KS2 Christmas performance to parents
Wednesday 6th	2.00pm—EYFS Christingle Service—parents are invited
Monday 11th	10.00am—EYFS Christmas performance dress rehearsal
Tuesday 12th	10.00am—EYFS Christmas performance to parents 2.00pm—EYFS Christmas performance to parents
Wednesday 13th	10.00am—KS1 Christmas dress rehearsal 5.30pm—KS1 Christmas Carol Concert at St Mary’s C.E. Church
Thursday 14th	1.00pm—EYFS Christmas party
Friday 18th	1.00pm—KS1 Christmas party Last day of term
Wed 20th Dec– Tue 2nd Jan	Christmas Holiday
Wed 3rd January 2018	INSET Day—no children in school

