

## Welcome Back to a New School Year

Dear Parents, Carers and Members of the Community,

As we begin the new academic year, I would like to extend a warm welcome back to all our families. It has been wonderful to see our pupils return to school looking so smart in their uniforms and full of enthusiasm for the exciting learning ahead. Their energy and positivity have been noticed by all staff, and it's clear they are ready to embrace the opportunities this year will bring.

## Staffing Updates and Fond Farewells

As with every new chapter, we also say goodbye to some valued members of our team. We bid a heartfelt farewell to:

- **Mrs Larway**, our SENDCo, whose dedication and care have made a lasting impact on our pupils with additional needs.
- **Mrs Nixon**, a much-loved Teaching Assistant who supported our younger children with warmth and patience.
- **Mrs Roberts**, who oversaw *The Hive* and worked tirelessly to nurture a love of reading in our Library.

We thank each of them for their contributions and the positive difference they have made to our children's lives. We wish them every success and happiness in the next step of their journey.

### Key Dates for your diary

**New Breakfast Club**  
**08 Sep 2025**

**Parents Eve**  
**06 & 07 Oct 2025**

**Photo Day**  
**15 Oct 2025**

Later this month, we will also say a special goodbye to **Mr Davis**, our Site Officer, who will be retiring after many years of service at Upwell Academy.

## New Roles and Continued Development

In response to these changes, we are pleased to share some staffing updates:

- **Mrs Clarke** will now lead The Hive, bringing extensive experience in supporting children with additional needs through her specialist training in autism, speech and language, behaviour, and trauma-informed practice. Her expertise in approaches such as ELKLAN, STEPs, Makaton, and Intensive Interaction ensures The Hive is a nurturing, inclusive space where every child can thrive.
- **Mrs Cullen** will take on the role of **SENDCo**, her wealth of expertise in the area of SEND is impressive and the Upwell children will all benefit from her skills, knowledge and focus on inclusion. In addition, Mrs Cullen will continue to teach the Year 5 class alongside **Mrs Fisher**, our Deputy Principal.

These changes reflect our commitment to adapting and developing our provision to meet the needs of all pupils.

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## Enhanced Wrap Around Care and Lunchtime Provision

We are excited to announce an expansion of our **Wrap Around Care** offer. In partnership with **Premier Education**, we now offer a **morning breakfast club from 7:30am**, complementing their successful after-school sessions. This extended provision offers greater flexibility for families and includes a healthy breakfast to start the day right.



Additionally, we have improved the quality of our lunchtime play by introducing a **specialist play leader** from Premier Education, ensuring that children can access an additional structured, and inclusive play experiences during lunchtimes



## Our Priorities for 2025–2026

As we look ahead, our academy remains focused on four key priorities that will benefit every child and family:

1. **Leadership that secures sustained improvement** across all areas of school life.
2. **Pupil outcomes that show a consistent upward trend**, ensuring every child achieves their potential.
3. **High-quality teaching, learning, and assessment** that supports strong progress for all pupils.
4. **Embedding high standards of personal development, behaviour, and wellbeing**, creating a safe and supportive environment for every child.

These priorities are designed to ensure that Upwell Academy continues to grow as a place of excellence, opportunity, and care.

## Stay up to date by subscribing to our website calendar

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### CALENDAR

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PHOTO GALLERY

LATEST NEWS

October 2025

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	
	29	30	1	2	3	4	5
		Y5 swimming	National Poe...				
	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Parents Even...	Y5 swimming	Parents' Even...					

To improve the way we communication with parents and carers, our website calendar is now automatically updated with current and future events.

You can subscribe to the calendar to add it to your mobile or digital device.



# Class Newsletters every half-term

Each class will send home a class newsletter for each half-term. This will include key dates, just for your child's class, details about some of their learning and information about PE Days and homework. In addition, Y1 to Y6 will have the full spelling list for the half-term. The children will get them week by week.

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## ClassDojo Update: House Points and Communication

At Upwell Academy, we continue to look for ways to celebrate and encourage positive behaviour and achievement. This year, we will be continuing to use ClassDojo as a platform for awarding house points, allowing pupils to be recognised for their efforts, kindness, and contributions to school life.



However, after careful consideration, we will no longer be using ClassDojo as a means of communication between parents and teachers.

Over time, it has become clear that while some staff were able to respond to messages promptly, others were receiving messages at all hours — including evenings, weekends, and holidays — which understandably impacted their wellbeing and workload. To ensure a consistent and fair standard of communication, and to protect the wellbeing of our staff, we kindly ask that all communication be directed through the school office or raised in person at the end of the school day when children are collected.

We appreciate your understanding and support in this matter. By centralising communication, we can ensure that all queries are handled efficiently and respectfully, while allowing our teachers to focus on what they do best — supporting and inspiring your children.

