



UPLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

December 2016 Newsletter

Weather warnings

Please check our school website or the LGFL Opencheck website for any notifications regarding weather conditions and possible school closures.

Your Voice

Thank you so much for returning the parent questionnaires; your views and opinions really do matter to us. The senior leadership team have analysed these in great depth and found that the two main themes you are concerned about relate to homework and parents evenings.

We will most definitely review our parents evening cycle and look at moving the dates to accommodate your requests. This was a very valid suggestion. Homework is an area that is always going to be contentious however we have taken on board your comments and a letter outlining the new expectations will go out in early January.

Attendance

We continue to monitor attendance very closely. We will always authorise genuine sickness as long as we have been given reasons. For longer periods of absence we may request medical evidence so that we can ensure your child receives the correct code on the registers. Please could I ask that where possible dentist and doctors appointments are made during the holidays, or at the beginning or end of a school day, to minimise disruption to your child's learning.

There have been a lot of term time holidays taken since September. These will not be authorised unless there is a very special circumstance.

Whole school attendance for the Autumn term is **96.2%** this is very average and Upland is not an average school.

Congratulations to **Earth class** for being this terms best attendance winners with **98.5%**.

Head Teacher's Message



As another year ends, and another one begins it is time to reflect on all the amazing things that have happened to Upland Primary School in the past year.

The pressures that have been put upon us from the Government this year have been very challenging for all, yet as a school we are still one step ahead and constantly revising, adapting and reassessing our practice to ensure that every child still receives a high quality education regardless. I applaud the children for keeping up with and rising to all the challenges that primary school life presents to them.

We became an academy on the 1st of October and Unity Academy Trust was born. I thank you all again for your continued support and feedback. In 2017 we will be looking for like minded schools to join our Trust and begin to establish effective collaborative working and sharing of resources. This will impact positively on the education we provide for all of the children. 2017 will undoubtedly bring more exciting opportunities for the children of Upland.



We have recently been in discussion with the local authority regarding possible expansion of our school. I will update you all on this matter in the new year. Please do keep an eye on the website for any news.

Recently our local School Improvement Advisor visited the school and commented on all the wonderful learning, behaviour, teaching and opportunities that are offered to our children. She was really impressed with the advancements that we continue to make and the way in which the children conduct themselves around the school and how they see themselves as learners.

I wish you all a wonderful holiday, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Kindest regards

Ms Vicky Sengupta

Headteacher



Dates for your Diary

21st Dec ~ Last day of term. Finish at 1.30pm

Tues 3rd January 2017 ~ School closed INSET DAY

Weds 4th January 2017 ~ Children back to school

20th January ~ Fern Class Assembly 9am
(parents welcome)

27th January ~ Bramble Class Assembly 9am
(parents welcome)

7th February ~ Safer Internet Day

9th February ~ 9am and 6pm ~ Outward Bound Meetings for Year 5 & 6 parents.

13th –17th February ~ half term break (school closed)

Goodbye

It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to Mrs Laughland. She has brought so much expertise to the Upland team over the past 3 and a half years; a truly wonderful teacher. We all wish her the best as she spends more time with her young family and begins some new projects.

We will also be saying goodbye to Mr Mark Smith our assistant caretaker. We all wish him all the best in his future projects and adventures.

Welcome

We welcome Mrs Mcfarland who has recently joined the office team. She will be working on a Thursday and Friday as the main front of office member. I'm sure you will all welcome her to the school team.

Parents Association

I'd like to congratulate the PA on such a wonderful term. They have all worked incredibly hard to raise money for our school. They are such a valued part of our community. The Christmas fair this year was organised so well and enabled more people to access the event. The PA have listened to your feedback and ensured that the whole community feels able to join in. We wouldn't be able to do so many things without the money that they raise. The new playground equipment looks wonderful and the children love playing on it. The PA are always looking for more volunteers so if you are able to spare any time to support at events, then please do get in touch with them via the school office.

Uniform

The children generally do come to school looking smart. Please could you ensure that all uniform is named. The lost property pile is beginning to grow. Thank you for your co operation.



Autumn term at Upland



The Autumn term has been an incredibly busy and rewarding term. It has been a delight to see all of the wonderful learning and events that have taken place. The new reception and nursery children settled so quickly into school life.

They have embraced the Upland way and have made so much progress already. The children are so confident and eager to embrace all of the opportunities that come their way. It was great to see so many of you at the Macmillan coffee morning; its such a lovely way to get to chat to you in an informal setting. Thank you to everyone who donated cakes; they were truly scrumptious. The PA did a wonderful job organising the spooky disco, the children had so much fun and really enjoyed dancing around in their costumes. We had 98% attendance to our autumn term parents evenings which is fantastic; again it's really nice to see the school so busy, and hearing and seeing the children share their work with you with such pride.

In October we had National Poetry Day. The poems produced across the school were stunning; the talent we have here is incredible. Three of our children also received special awards in the Bexley Poetry competition which was incredible.

Jobs week in November was truly inspirational; all of the children and adults gained such an insight into so many work sectors and what a job title actually means. The awe and wonder on the children's faces was such a delight to see. This week really did make the learning come to life and showed the children the real relevance of what we do in school today. Mrs Mckenzie did a fantastic job in organising this wonderful week.

Throughout the term it has been an absolute pleasure to go and observe all of the wonderful teaching and learning that takes place. Your children come to school every day ready and eager to learn. The children really do challenge themselves and want to be successful in all that they do. I can't thank you enough for all of the support and encouragement that you give your children.

The end of the term has been magical; the Foundation Stage plays were so lovely, seeing our confident 3, 4 and 5 year olds performing really did bring a tear to my eye. The Key Stage 1 Magical Christmas Journey production was beautiful and really seemed to bring Christmas at Upland to life this year. A highlight for me was the Key Stage 2 musical concert at Christchurch. I was truly inspired by the amount of talent we have in our school. To have all children playing an instrument, a school choir and orchestra is wonderful. Mr Gregory is amazing and a true asset to our school; I couldn't be a prouder Headteacher!

The children have been on some wonderful trips this term which have greatly enhanced the topics they are studying in class. The children are always so well behaved and enthused by the opportunities they are given. It has been a wonderful term.

Spring term will be all about embedding the learning and challenging ourselves to meet new goals. Year 5 and 6 will head off to Cumbria where they will have the experience of a lifetime. I'm sure we will continue to work together for the children. I thank you all.