



# UPLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

## July 2017 Newsletter

### Key dates

21st July—last day of term. 1.30 pm close

4th & 5th September—INSET DAYS SCHOOL CLOSED

6th Sept—children return to school

21st September—PA Inflatable evening 3.30-5.30pm

18th & 19th Oct— Parents Evenings (details to follow)

23rd to 27th October—Half term SCHOOL CLOSED

### School Meals

From September, the price of a school meal will be **£2.40 per meal** (£12 a week). Please ensure that the correct money is put into an envelope with your child's name and class written clearly on the front. Please ensure that all monies are paid in advance. Thank you for your co operation with this matter.

### ParentMail

Thank you to you all for your patience as we have been improving our communication systems. I hope you have found the weekly newsletters helpful and informative. It is vital that all families have a contact set up via our ParentMail system as we do send most of our correspondence via this method. You will receive both texts and emails. If you need to register and would like help, please email us at :

admin@upland.bexley.sch.uk

### Parent Evenings on line

I hope you found our new parents evening booking system easy to use. Your feedback would be most helpful. We will be continuing with this system next academic year.

### Lost property

Over the year we have collected a huge amount of lost property, the majority of it is unnamed clothing. This is such a shame as there is lots of lovely clothing going to waste. Please come and take a look at the lost property pile and reclaim.

On Friday 21st July all clothing and items left will be bagged and given to a charity.

### School Uniform

Please ensure that your children start school on the 6th September in the correct uniform and with all of the equipment they need. PLEASE NAME EVERYTHING! Trainers are fine for PE, but must not be worn for school uniform. Children must have their PE kit in school at all times, as occasionally timetables do change and other special events may be planned.

### Executive Head Teacher's Message

Where has this year gone? It has been so busy and full of great things, the saying "time flies when you're having fun" has been true for the most part.

The year has been extremely busy with so many memories to look back upon. For me in particular, what really stands out are the special themed weeks we have had. Jobs weeks was fantastic; it was so lovely to see the children inspired and enthused by all of the visitors we had in school. The children really got a sense of which skills they would need in the future, in the big wide world. Enterprise week was also fabulous; the children were so creative in their ideas, in order to make money for the school and charities. This year Outdoor Week was better than ever, with new activities that created more opportunities for challenge and teamwork. It was such a lovely week and the glorious weather added to this. The class assemblies have all been amazing; seeing the children shine and showcase all of their learning makes me immensely proud.

This has been another very challenging year for the staff with so many changes, increased expectations and the demands upon them in the spotlight. They have worked tirelessly this year and have embraced and risen to all of the challenges. I can't thank them enough for all of their hard work effort and dedication to the pupils of Upland. I would also like to thank you, the parent body, for continuing to support and work with the school through more changes in order to provide your children with the education they deserve.

I am very excited about the future for Upland and know that as I transition fully into the Executive Headteacher role, Upland remains as strong as ever and will continue to strive for outstanding status. I shall be working very closely with Mrs McKenzie and the senior team to ensure that the strong ethos and vision for the school remains. I will eventually be working across two schools but my main base will be at Upland. I am still available for parents to see me and I will most certainly still be visible around school for the children and staff. I look forward to monitoring all of their progress. It has been a privilege to lead Upland for the past 5 years and see the school go from strength to strength. This will continue under my strategic leadership.

Upland is such a wonderful place to work and already Mrs McKenzie and I are planning next year's events to ensure that things are bigger and better for all.

Sadly we are saying goodbye to the amazing staff that are leaving us this year. We wish you all the best and hope that your new ventures are all you dreamed of. You will be missed.

Finally it is farewell to our lovely year 6 cohort. It has been a pleasure working with you and your families for the last 5 years. I wish you all the luck in the world; please come and visit us sometime!

I wish you all a restful and peaceful summer break.

Kindest regards

Mrs Vicky Marsh



## Attendance

This year has been quite a turbulent year for attendance due to a number of factors. Of course we recognise that children do fall ill throughout the school year; this is unavoidable and will generally be authorised, however the number of unauthorised absences has risen significantly this year.

This year there have been a number of term time holidays, which have impacted greatly on our attendance. In accordance with our new attendance policy, from September 2017, families who take term time holidays will be issued with a fine. The fine is £60 per parent, per pupil (rising to £120 if not paid within 21 days). If you wish to discuss this please contact the school office who will put you in contact with SEAS, our attendance advisory service.

The overall school attendance figure for 2016/17 is 96.3%. This is an average figure which is rather disappointing given we are not an average school.

### **The award for the best class attendance this year goes to Earth Class with 97.7%.**

Wow!! Congratulations to all of these children who have achieved 100% attendance all year ... absolutely amazing!

Ivy L	Caterpillars
Max G	Caterpillars
Onyedikachi E	Caterpillars
Caitlin E	Caterpillars
Tochukwa U	Fern
Jamie F	Fern
Bonita R	Moss
Rosie W	Bramble
Alfie R	Bramble
Cedric M	Bramble
Ogechukwa U	Bramble
Amirah S	Thistle
Luke W	Pluto
Lizzy T	Pluto
Ariana L	Pluto
Liam B	Pluto
Dylan B	Mercury
Finlay C	Venus
Euan S	Venus
Jeanelle E	Earth
Sienna T	Earth
Zubayda A	Earth
Jamie B	Neptune
Iona S	Saturn
Leo	Saturn
Amy T	Jupiter

## Sports Day

We were blessed with the weather this year... it was a really lovely day. The children showed such enthusiasm and determination to do the best for their teams. It was wonderful to see so many people supporting the children and cheering them on. I know this made a real difference to those taking part.



## Academy News



As you will be aware, we have been working hard to expand our trust in a way that ensures UNITY stays true to its vision as well as maintaining the autonomy of Upland Primary School. I am pleased to announce that Gravel Hill Primary School will be joining our trust in the Autumn term. They are fully committed to the vision and aims of the trust and working in collaboration with Upland. We have been working with the senior leaders at Gravel Hill for some time now to organise strategies for effective working that will benefit both school communities. As Executive Headteacher I will be updating the communities regularly on this new partnership.

## Year 6 Production

This is one of my favourite events of the year as well as one of the most emotional. Year 6 put on a wonderful performance of the Wizard of Oz this year. It was brilliant for so many reasons... the acting, dancing, drama, humour, singing but most of all seeing the children really enjoy themselves. So many tears of laughter and sadness were shed. They are a year group that will be greatly missed at Upland ; such a talented bunch of pupils!



Thank you to Mrs Williams, Mrs Husband, Miss Roffey and Mrs Green and Mrs McClary for all of their hard work in making the production a success.

## Parents Association

I'd like to say a very big thank you to the PA for all of their hard work and effort in organising some lovely events again this year. They are about to donate £8,000 to the school, which is truly wonderful. Our curriculum is really going to benefit from the media equipment; we can really enhance the drama curriculum as well as teaching the children photography and filming skills. Once again thank you to everyone who has supported or volunteered at all of the PA events.



## Sporting Achievements

This year has been a great year for competitive sport. Both the boys' and girls' football teams have played incredibly well this year with a mix of results but really gelling together as a team. Our Gymnastics team have done exceptionally well this year, recently representing Bexley at the London Youth Games. They came 7th and 11th out of 31 teams. Truly brilliant. Thank you to Athena Gymnastics and all of the sports coaches who have worked with the children this year.



## Playground Screen

We are thrilled with our new playground communication screen. It will be linked to our website so that all of the information displayed is current and easy for you to access in the playground. There are also lots of important notices regarding health and education initiatives. Please do take a minute to have a look. Your feedback would be very much appreciated.



## Governor Roles and Board of Trustee Roles

We are still seeking to appoint Governors for the Upland Governing Board and also people who may be interested in becoming a Trustee for Unity. If you have skills in financial management, child development, business or health and safety and may be interested in one of these roles, please do get in contact via the school office admin@upland.bexley.sch.uk

Mrs Vicky Marsh

Executive Headteacher