



UPLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

June 2016 Newsletter

Key dates

18th June—Summer FETE 12-3pm

23rd June—EU referendum SCHOOL CLOSED

24th June—Royal Festival Hall Concert

1st July - BBQ Lunch Day

8th July—Sports Day

FSU & KS1 Morning 10am

KS2 Afternoon 1.45pm

15th July—Festival of Learning 2pm

15th July—Reports go home

22nd July—End of term

Please see our website for the diary dates letter for all other events.

Sporting News

Year 6 children took part in a swimming gala this week. They all did so well and were only just pipped to 1st place by one point. Congratulations to them all.

Well done to the boys' football team, who played a friendly against Old Bexley Primary School this week. Unfortunately we lost 3-0 but the team showed excellent team spirit and played well. We look forward to hearing the results from the next two games.

Parking

I am saddened that I have now been contacted by several residents who have reported to me that parents/family members have decided to park across their drives stopping access. Signs were used as a deterrent to stop people parking on the yellow lines so that it was safer for the children; however they were never intended to cause issues for the local residents. This is incredibly disrespectful and I have instructed residents to note down the car registration numbers and report them.

I have also been made aware of parents stopping in the middle of the road and letting children run across to the gates. Please allow enough time to park your car safely and walk your children into school. I would encourage those parents who can walk, to walk. Parents who need to drive could park in nearby roads and walk the final distance.

Donations

Thank you for all of the book and dressing up clothes donations. They are most certainly being put to good use.

Uniform

Please ensure that your children are wearing the correct uniform; it really does matter. Trainers are not school uniform.

Head Teacher's Message

I hope that you all had a lovely half term break. It was such a shame the weather wasn't brilliant, but hopefully the sun will start shining now.

I'd like to thank you all for welcoming our new staff members in the office area and being patient with them; they have hit the ground running and are working very hard to improve the efficiency of our school.

The next seven weeks of the school calendar are extremely busy with lots of events taking place. Please do ensure that you check the summer diary dates calendar that came home; also do check the website, as all letters are uploaded onto here.

Just before the half term we received our Academy Order document from the Department for Education. This now means that Upland Primary School will be looking to convert to a Multi Academy Trust within the Autumn term. We are now in the legal stages whereby a lot of work goes on behind the scenes.

As a school we are very excited and looking forward to controlling our own destiny and continuing to improve the education excellence that we have here at Upland. Thank you again to all of you who attended the meeting and gave your views and opinions.

I would once again like to congratulate all of our Year 6 and Year 2 children for working so hard; this year saw many changes and the tests were definitely more challenging. We are all immensely proud of them and look forward to seeing our results in July.

Year 1 children have been taking their statutory phonics test this week and have all done so well. Again they have worked incredibly hard.

Thank you to you all for supporting your children through a difficult transition year full of changes.

Finally, increasingly we have noticed that more children are arriving late for school. All children should be at school by 8.50 am in order to be registered and ready to start learning at 9am. The same children regularly arrive late and often miss the input for their first lesson. This is becoming increasingly disruptive for the whole class and very unsettling for the children.

Please can you also ensure that bikes and scooters are not ridden on the school premises. We have had some very near accidents recently.

As always, thank you for your continued support of our school.

Kindest regards

Ms Vicky Sengupta

For lots more information about school, including curriculum overviews, important dates, class information, photos, previous letters and newsletters, visit our website at

www.upland.bexley.sch.uk

Holidays

Since the high court ruling regarding term time holidays, I have seen a significant increase in the amount of parents now taking term time holidays, with some families taking two holidays a year. This is both detrimental to children's education and to the school, as poor attendance at a school can result in an impromptu OFSTED inspection. The school community would not deserve this as we all work incredibly hard to ensure the education we provide is of a high standard. I am very sympathetic regarding the increased cost of holidays during the peak season but I cannot authorise any term time holidays and will keep a record of the amount of time some families are removing their children from statutory education. The school will not provide you with any work to do with your children whilst on holiday as this is a parental choice.

Attendance

Due to the amount of holidays taken as well as other absences, our attendance figure is currently 96%, which is the lowest it has been in 4 years and is only just acceptable. We are not a school that drops below national figures and nor do we want to be; therefore I will continue to strive to increase attendance and prove the effects that low attendance can have on a child's education and wellbeing at school.

Communication

We will as a school be moving towards becoming 'paperless'. I really encourage you to sign up to parent mail as soon as possible so that you will receive all of the school letters and notifications.

In the foyer area there is a new letter stand; this has been organised so that each year group will have a slot and some spare letters will be placed in there. There will also be sections for clubs, groups, trips and other presentations. Should you need a paper copy, this is where you will now find them. If you miss a letter, you can also download it from the school website.

We appreciate your patience and cooperation whilst we begin many changes in the running of the school office and communication systems.

Snacks / Drinks

We have noticed that children are increasingly bringing in unhealthy snacks and drinks. Sports drinks, fizzy drinks, sweets and crisps are not permitted in school as a playtime snack. Please encourage your children to bring in fruit or another healthy snack for break time.

Charity Fundraisers

Congratulations to Poppy and Rosie Parker and Isabelle and Imogen Wyatt for raising £590 for Type 1 Diabetes Charity JDFR.

A fantastic achievement!



Staffing

I am very pleased to announce that **Mrs McKenzie** was successfully appointed as the new Deputy Head Teacher of Upland Primary School after a rigorous recruitment process. Mrs McKenzie takes up her post with immediate effect. She is an absolute asset to our school and will continue to work closely with me to improve the school.

It is also with great pleasure that I inform you that **Miss Smiles** will be the new Assistant Head Teacher from September 2016. Miss Smiles shone in her interview, demonstrating dedication and commitment to becoming a senior strategic leader within the school.

The Governing Board and I are delighted that our leadership team remains strong and committed to our school vision.

Goodbyes

This summer we will say goodbye to **Ms Nastase** who has been a wonderful teaching assistant in Years 4 and 6. We wish her well in her desire to become a teacher.



We also say goodbye to **Miss Heath** who has worked incredibly hard in Year 6 and is moving on to pursue other avenues in teaching. We wish her lots of luck.

Also farewell to **Mr Lynch** who has been an outstanding teacher for the past 3 years and has brought lots to Upland Primary School. He will be greatly missed. Mr Lynch is moving on his career to be a leader at Belmont Primary School. We wish him lots of luck and hope that he will keep in touch with us.

I'd like to thank them all for being a part of the Upland team and giving their all to the school and the children.

Welcome

We welcome to the Upland team some new teachers: **Miss Roffey** is an experienced teacher and is coming from a Greenwich School, **Mrs Husband** and **Miss Rafferty** are both experienced teachers, transferring from other Bexley schools, and **Mr Langley** who will be a newly qualified teacher and has been working at Upland Primary School in Year 4. These are all excellent appointments and will bring something new to Upland and continue to strengthen our existing team of excellent teachers.



Summer Fair

Our newly formed PA have worked incredibly hard this year. They have raised lots of money with all of your support and help. This Saturday, 18th June, from 12 to 3pm is the last big PA event of the year. There will be lots of lovely stalls and activities for all. I can even inform you that a certain Headteacher will be open to having wet sponges thrown at her! I do hope you will all come along and support this event. I really do look forward to seeing you all there.

Outdoor week

This year's Outdoor Week was such a success. The children really enjoyed the activities and excelled themselves in some of the challenges. It was a sheer delight seeing the children build upon skills from the previous years. Thank you to Mrs McKenzie for organising this week and thank you to all of you for supporting this event. We are already looking forward to next year and doing even more activities with the children and enhancing more skills.

Swimming next year

For the next academic year, it has been decided that Year 4 and Year 5 children will be going swimming as part of the PE curriculum. More details will follow regarding this.