



# UPLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

## March 2015 Newsletter

### Head Teacher's Message

*Spring term, where did that go?*

*Although a shorter term it has still been an incredibly busy one. The class assemblies from Year 4, 3 and 2 have been excellent they have really showcased some wonderful learning. Thank you so much to all of you who came and supported your children, it really does mean a great deal to them.*

*I thoroughly enjoyed accompanying the school forum to the Houses of Parliament. We had a wonderful day and the children learnt so much about Democracy and what it means to be British. We were so lucky that our local MP Mr Evennett joined us. We were able to put him on the spot and ask lots of questions.*

*Once again I have received some lovely feedback from members of the public complimenting our school whilst out on school trips. The children are always so respectful and well behaved.*

*I must thank you all again for your generosity when giving donations for school events. It really is appreciated and the children and other charities will most certainly benefit.*

*I hope you all have a wonderful Easter Holiday.*

*Don't eat too much chocolate !!*

Best Wishes

**Ms Vicky Sengupta**

### Facebook

Social media is a huge forum for people to chat, gossip and share experiences. I am all for all of these elements.

As the Headteacher of this school I am responsible for all members of the school community including staff, I have been made aware of comments on social media which could be construed at best unkind and at worst slanderous. I have always welcomed feedback and been clear that my door is open to discuss parental concerns or questions. I have advised my staff to seek advice from their unions where comments have in my opinion crossed the line. I must inform you of this. Please direct constructive criticism through the new UPP or contact me directly.

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### Parentmail

Increasingly more communication is being sent via parent mail as this service is proving to be cost effective for the school and efficient. Please do ensure that you sign up to parentmail to ensure that you receive all letters and texts from the school. If you have any problems then please do contact the school office. (71% of our parents have registered already).

### Absence

It is my duty of care as Headteacher to monitor pupil attendance. I am aware that letters inviting you to discuss your child's attendance may be upsetting. However from my point of view it is a supportive measure to ensure that your children are well and happy in school. If you do have any questions about this matter then please do contact me

### Goodbyes

It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to Mr Thompson. Mr Thompson has been a real asset to our school and we wish him all the luck in the world as he moves onto new adventures. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank him for all that he has brought to Upland Primary School. We will all miss him.

## **Dates for your Diary this half term**

*13th April return to school*

*23rd April PA Sponsored Bounce*

*24th April Bramble class assembly*

*1st May Moss class assembly*

*4th May Bank Holiday school closed*

*7th May school closed INSET day.*

*8th May class photographs*

*11-15th May SATS week*

*22nd May Fern Class assembly*

## **Uniform**

As the warmer weather approaches please can I remind you that uniform rules do still apply. Please refer to the website regarding uniform. I have noticed many children wearing trainers to school, brightly coloured ones at that. Please ensure that your children are wearing black shoes. Children may also bring sun hats to school but please ensure they are all named.

## **Parents Evenings**

It was lovely to see so many of you at parents evening. 97% of parents attended which is fantastic. I hope that the new mid year report feedback enabled you to see how well your children are doing and what they need to do in order to progress further. I would really appreciate feedback on the new format so please do contact the school or email me directly.

## **Book Swaps**

The book swap morning was a huge success and the children really enjoyed being able to read some new material. We would really like to make this a regular event. If you do have books at home that are unwanted or have been over read please do save them for our book swap events. Thank you in advance.

## **Volunteers**

As a school we are always looking for volunteers to help us support children across the school. Thank you to all of you who responded to the Reading Volunteers request. In the Early Years we are running Forest school sessions for the children but really need volunteers to support these wonderful outdoor sessions. If you are able to help on a Wednesday for a couple of hours then please do contact the school.

## **Comic Relief**

Thank you so much for donating to this world-wide cause. The children looked great in their Red/Funny dress. We raised £360.26. Well done everyone.

## **Curriculum Week**

This week saw an amazing week of learning whereby the children were able to engage in lots of cross curricular tasks. Please ensure you take a look at the amazing displays around the school that really showcase all of the children's work. I was blown away by the story box competition, the creations were amazing. Well done to all the families that took part. I'm quite jealous that I haven't made one myself.

## **Outward Bound**

After nearly 2 years of planning, Year 5 went on our first Outward Bound trip in the first week of March. They took a 1st class train up to Ullswater in Cumbria. This was an outdoor learning week where the children learnt how to challenge themselves, work in a team, as well as understand the skills of determination, perseverance and resilience. A fantastic time was had by all. Please do look at the website and the slide show in the school foyer. As a school we are aiming to take Year 5 & 6 each year on this outdoor adventure. I would like to thank Mr Twyman for all his dedication to this project, the organisation of this trip was quite immense. He did an amazing job. I look forward to seeing lots of next year's year 5 & 6 parents at the meetings in April to discuss next year's trips.

## **Website**

Our website is updated daily with all correspondence that is sent home. Please do access the website regularly to keep up to date with school events and the children's learning blogs. Unfortunately the website does not have the capacity to hold large videos. We are looking into rectifying this. Again any feedback regarding our website would be greatly received.

## **Trips**

I am fully aware of the financial pressures families are facing, as a school we do try hard to book really cost effective school trips that still engage children in curriculum learning. However increasingly parents are not making any contributions towards trips and the school are paying the difference. Unfortunately due to budget cuts in education the school will not be able to subsidise schools trips or visitors into school. This may result in trips and school events being cancelled. If you are unable to pay for trips or events in one lump sum then please speak to myself about arranging a payment plan. I am always willing to accommodate this and help as much as I can. We really don't want the children missing out.