



UPLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

November 2014 Newsletter

Head Teacher's Message

It was lovely to see so many of you during the two parent's evenings last half term. The children have really settled well into a new term and are challenging themselves to meet their targets.

I thoroughly enjoyed Family Week and was blown away by the amount of parents and family members that came in to support the children and to see how Upland Primary School runs on a daily basis. I do hope that you all enjoyed coming into school and sharing the learning journey with us. The children thoroughly enjoyed having lots of adults in the room. One child said to me

“Thanks Mrs Sengupta my Mum is now challenging me more at home because she wasn't taught like we are, cos it was so long ago”

This is what we had hoped to achieve. It was lovely to see so many people coming to workshops which I know were really beneficial. Please do re-sign up for the rescheduled workshops taking place in January. I would really like to thank Mrs McKenzie for all her hard work and dedication in putting this wonderful event together. A feedback form was sent home please do take a few minutes to fill this in so we can improve upon this event next year and also gauge what you feel went well.

Christmas Concert Friday 12th December

Our Christmas concert will be held at 2pm at Christchurch in Bexleyheath we hope to see many of you there. As we have looked at the feedback from parents who requested an afternoon concert this does have implications for space in the church. On this day we are asking that if your child would normally have a packed lunch, could they please bring it in a disposable bag. This way the children will only need to bring themselves to Church and no other belongings. Homework will go home on Thursday so that no bags will need to be taken to the Church. Parents will have the option to take their children home straight from the Church once the service has finished. They must not be taken without a member of staff knowing.

I'm afraid cameras and I pads will not be permitted in the Church. Staff are aiming to film the children doing their performance and we will put these onto the website for you to download. Again this is in response to feedback from last year where many parents felt that their view was blocked and that children were distracted by parents roaming around the Church to take photos. I would very much appreciate your co operation and respect regarding this matter.

Ms Vicky Sengupta

Sickness Absence

It is inevitable that in a school this size that children do get sick and that once a bug gets hold it does affect many children. Often children do have small accidents in the playground that sometimes do warrant further medical attention beyond the first aid that we do in school. It has been brought to my attention that when the school is phoning home to inform parents of their child's sickness or accident that some parents have refused to pick up their children due to other commitments. Whilst we totally appreciate that it is difficult to leave the work place we do ensure that we only phone parents when we deem a child too unwell to be in school or feel they need to see a medical professional. Please could I ask that if you do get a call from us that every effort is made to pick up your children by an adult in the quickest time possible, in order to prevent any further spread of germs or to get your child the attention they need. Your co-operation would be much appreciated.

School Trips

Over the last 2 years we have worked very hard to source and take the children on more fun, stimulating trips that will engage the children in their learning. We are making every effort to reduce the cost of trips by using public transport and by only taking children to places that are relevant and beneficial. We do ask for a voluntary contribution towards these trips in order to facilitate them going ahead. It is unfortunate that increasingly we are not receiving enough contributions to continue with some trips and we may be forced to cancel. I very much appreciate that times can be hard but the school is no longer in a position where we can use school funds to pay the majority of trip money. Please do speak to the class teacher or myself regarding paying for trips, we will support you as much as we can. We really don't want the children to miss out on the opportunities we are trying to provide.

Dates for your Diary

Foundation stage Christmas shows Thursday
11th Dec at 9.00am Caterpillars & B/Bees AM
11th Dec at 2.30pm Ladybirds & B/Bees PM
Friday 12th Dec at 2.00pm Christ Church Christmas Service for Year 1—Year 6

Mon 15th Dec at 1.30pm Foundation Stage party
Tues 16th Dec at 1.30pm Key Stage 1 party
Wed 17th Dec at 1.30pm Key Stage 2 party
Thurs 18th CRIBS Panto / Staff Panto to children
Fri 19th Dec Talent Shows

Break up Friday 19th December 2014

Donations to School

I'm sure many of you are having a clear out before the new Christmas presents arrive. If you do come across any unwanted books or puzzles that your children no longer play with; we are really looking to source new books and puzzles to use within school. If you are able to donate any we would be really grateful.

Rock up in Red

Thank you to all of you who donated money to the plea from the pupils from Year 6 to support Cancer Research. The school looked wonderful all in Red and Pink. £433.79 was raised. I am immensely proud of the children.

Christmas Fayre

Friday 5th December is our annual Christmas Fayre run by the Parents Association. It will be from 3.30 pm – 5.30pm if there is anyone who is able to volunteer to help run a stall even for a short period of time the PA would be very grateful.

The PA continue to work very hard to raise money that will go towards some new playground equipment.

I very much look forward to seeing lots of you at the Christmas Fayre. There are lots of wonderful stalls this year with a winter theme outside and of course the jolly fella himself will be visiting the children of Upland.

I thank you in advance for your continued support.

Christmas Lunch

The school's Christmas Lunch will be on Thursday 11th of December. Due to the vast number of children that now have a hot school dinner we must ensure that the catering company has exact numbers to cater for this day. If you have not filled in the Christmas Lunch slip then unfortunately your child will not be able to have a Christmas Lunch. **If your child is a regular school dinner recipient or a one off Christmas lunch recipient then unfortunately if your child is off sick on this day we are unable to refund the money due to the catering companies very tight allocation of costing.**

School Meal Patterns

Despite several reminders we are still receiving requests for a change of meal pattern throughout each half term. This is becoming unmanageable therefore no changes to meal patterns will be honoured during each half term. You must set the meal pattern you require within the first week of each half term. The first deadline for this will be Friday 9th January 2015.

Also if your child has a medical appointment scheduled for a morning you must let the school know in advance if your child will be back for a school meal. If we do not hear from you by 10am on the day of the appointment then your child will not receive a school meal and will have to be provided with a packed lunch.

Children in Need

Friday 14th November was an incredible day at Upland Primary School. The children looked wonderful all dressed in spotty clothes. Thank you once again to the PA for working with the children on decorating cakes. They all really enjoyed it. The cake sale was so overwhelming, the volume and the sheer effort that went into making the cakes was amazing. Thank you all so much for your dedication and enthusiasm in supporting this event. We raised £811 which will be split between Children in Need and the PA fundraising pot.

Lost property

The lost property pile is slowly making its way up to the ceiling in the area by the front office. Please could you come and retrieve some of your children's lost items. If they are not collected by the end of term we will be taking them to a local charity.

Again a gentle reminder please name all children's belongings.