



UPLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

October 2014 Newsletter

Head Teacher's Message

Our first half term is over and what a fantastic half term it has been. Finally OFSTED came and recognised what an amazing school we have. The team were incredibly complimentary about your children and acknowledged what polite, enthusiastic, ready to learn children we have here at Upland. The school has been on a journey now for the past 2 years in order to improve all aspects of the school. I would like to thank you as parents/carers for all of your support, feedback and time that you have given in order to help us achieve our fantastic result. The staff and Governing Body have worked tirelessly to ensure that there are better outcomes for all of your children. I cannot commend them highly enough.

Again, thank you to all of you who took the time to complete the online survey and speak to the Inspectors. This was very much appreciated.

Outstanding does not mean perfect and we as a school are now driven more than ever to ensure that we work towards becoming Outstanding in all areas and build upon all of our successes to date. We were so very nearly there. There will be more changes in the next academic year to the curriculum and the way that we assess your children. There will be many opportunities for you to see how much progress your children really do make whilst being educated here. The outcomes for your children will remain very high and we will continue to challenge all.

Please do come to the many parent meetings that will be on offer.

Onwards and Upwards for Upland

Have a restful Half term

Ms Vicky Sengupta

Dates for your Diary

Half term 27th—31st October

Family Week 10th –14th November (details to follow)

Foundation stage Christmas shows Thursday 11th December (Details to follow)

12th December Christmas Service at 2.00pm

Break up Friday 19th December

Communication

I do hope that many of you have now signed up to the email and text system we have in school. From now, the school will only be sending one letter per family home. All letters will be sent via email whether it be for a specific class, year group or a whole school letter. All letters are also put onto the school website.

Please ensure that the office does have a family email and mobile number in order to avoid not receiving school communications.

School Trips

All school trips that are booked have been highly risk assessed and all staff are competent at ensuring that there are high safety controls in place for your children. Trips are a vital part of our school curriculum and are used to stimulate work within the classroom. If you do have any questions about trips please speak to the class teacher rather than just not attending as we really don't want your children missing out on some amazing opportunities.

Please be rest assured that your children are very safe when on school trips.

Balls in the playground

Unfortunately, we have had a number of incidents involving balls hitting people in the playground. From now on, balls brought from home will **not** be allowed in school. The school will be providing an allocation of softer balls per class that can be used during play and lunchtimes.

Pen Licences

We continue to raise standards in our school. Part of the work that Ms Hemmings will be introducing is pen licences for children who excel in presenting their work neatly and carefully in all of their books. Children who do this will receive a Handwriting Pen Licence that will be awarded to them in assembly. Initially, this will be for years 3-6. We want to ensure that children are really proud of their work and challenge themselves to present it beautifully.

Scooters/ Bikes

It is fantastic that more children are now coming to school on their bikes or scooters. We will be purchasing new units for them to be parked. However, I must ask that bikes and scooters are not ridden on the premises. They must dismount as soon as they arrive for school and not get on until they leave the site. This is for Health and Safety reasons.

Church Road Gate

Unfortunately, the gate peg had to be removed due to many parents and visitors holding the gate open to unwanted visitors. Please may I remind you that the gate must never be held open for anyone. All visitors to the school site during the day must report to the office.

Maths Meetings

Thank you to all of you who have been attending the Year group Maths meetings. These sessions are very informative and Mr King has worked tirelessly to bring the parent body up to date with the Government changes to Mathematics and the way in which we will be teaching Maths at Upland. Please do come along to any of the other meetings and see what is now expected of children in the new National Curriculum. Please see website for dates.

Dinner Money Debt

It saddens me greatly that this item has to be put onto a newsletter. From April 2014 the school now controls the handling of monies for school dinner money. This means that any debt and monies owed by parents gets taken out of the school budget. Taking away curriculum resources from the children. As a school we have been able to be flexible in the way that we offer school meals to children. However unfortunately many parents are requesting a school meal for their children and not paying the debt. This would not be the case if, as a family, you took your children to a restaurant, you would have to pay for the meal there and then. The school will no longer issue a school meal if the account is in debt. A packed lunch will have to be provided for your child until the debt is cleared. Letters will be sent home informing parents of this. It is with regret that I also inform you that court proceedings will be issued should the debt not be paid. Please if you have received a letter Informing you of debt please do pay immediately or speak to Mrs Fitzgerald to arrange a payment plan.

Trips News

This half term has already got off to a great start with children visiting fantastic places in order to broaden their experiences. Year 6 had an amazing time at Firepower in Woolwich, they thoroughly enjoyed their trench experience. Year 6 also visited the Poppies at the Tower of London. The children came back rather humbled by the experience. Year 2 had an amazing time at the Barbican watching Dogs Don't do Ballet. Again the children were blown away by the ambience of being in such a wonderful venue. I have recently received some wonderful feedback from members of the public complimenting our school on the wonderful conduct and behaviour of your children when on school trips. They really are a credit to you and the school.