



UPLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

September 2014 Newsletter

Head Teacher's Message

Welcome back everybody. I do hope you all had a restful summer and enjoyed the sun, when it did decide to make an appearance.

We at Upland are all very excited to be back with what we know is going to be another busy, eventful, full of new initiatives and exciting opportunities year for the children; As well as some changes that will further improve our school.

The children all came in very enthusiastically, looking smart and ready to learn. All have responded very positively to their new classes and staff.

This new academic year is really about ensuring that we continue to ensure that our approach is consistent and that all stakeholders of the school are considered in all of our decisions.

Over the summer I was overwhelmed by some of the comments on the parental questionnaire and have fully embraced all of the suggestions as to how we can improve further. The questionnaire results will soon be published on the schools website for your reference. Thank you for taking the time to fill these in.

HOME WORK FOR ALL.

In the next few weeks a musician is coming in to work with groups of children to write, score and perform an anthem for Upland. I would really like the lyrics to be written by the children about our lovely school. As a mini, additional piece of homework. I would like to ask families to research Upland Primary School and make a list of words or phrases that represent our school past and present. These could then build the basis of our song. The children can present these words as they choose. The deadline for this mini project is **Friday 19th September 2014.**

I very much look forward to working with you all again this year.

Please do remember to log onto **parentview.ofsted.gov.uk**

And give your feedback about the school.

Kindest regards

Ms Vicky Sengupta

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Attendance

The school times have been made very clear on various amounts of communication. Children are still arriving late for school. Just to remind you that school actually starts for Yrs 3-6 at 8.50 am and the register is taken by 8.55am. For Nursery 8.45am and Reception to Year 2 school starts at 8.55 and the register is taken by 9am.

Selection Tests

The selection tests for Secondary Grammar school places will be sat by the children on the morning of **17th September 2014**. The school will remain OPEN for ALL other pupils on this day.

Health and Safety in the Playground.

Due to the volume of people in the playground at the beginning and end of day, please ensure that your children do not ride their bikes or scooters whilst in the playground. Also the equipment is not to be used at the beginning or end of the day, this is to preserve the equipment but also to prevent accidents occurring .

We do also have a litter problem at the end of the day. Please if you are giving your children treats ensure that any rubbish is disposed of or taken home. Your co operation is greatly appreciated.

Dates for your Diary

Selection test morning 17th September 2014.

Meet the teacher, week beginning 8th Sep (see separate letter)

Phonics meeting for Reception Parents Thursday 18th September 9-10am

Harvest Assembly Friday 10th October
(Children only)

Parents Evenings Tuesday 21st October & Thursday 23rd October.

Half term 27th—31st October

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

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

Break up Friday 19th Dec

Communication

We are trying really hard to improve communication between home and school. We are going to be using a text and email system to ensure that all correspondence reaches home. Please ensure that the school has your email address and mobile phone numbers. Please collect a form from the office if you have not done so already.

Being Equipped for School

Please ensure that your children are well equipped for school and that all of their belongings are **clearly named**. We have so much lost property in school but it is all unnamed and unclaimed. The school cannot be held responsible if items are unnamed.

PE is a statutory subject with the curriculum so having PE kits in schools is crucial to the healthy development of your children. Last year on average 4 children per class did not bring their kit into school. This is a huge number of children missing out on National Curriculum expectations. Please ensure your children have them in school.

Please refer to the school website for school uniform expectations. Please note that trainers, jewellery, hair designs are not a part of the uniform policy.

The Curriculum

I'm sure that you will have seen in the National News that from September 2014 the new National Curriculum is compulsory in Primary Schools. Last year we already starting making good headway in preparing for this. Many new resources have been bought especially for the new computing curriculum. It is now compulsory for all children from Years 3 to 6 to learn a Modern Foreign Language. At Upland the children will be learning Mandarin. The children will be engaging in blocks of knowledge focused sessions, being taught many new skills along the way. The children will then apply their knowledge and skills into producing a project to share with all. We will be having 3 festival of learnings throughout the school year.

Play and Lunch time changes.

We are working very hard to improve playtime and lunchtimes for the children. As a parent body you have also made suggestions regarding these times in the school day. From September 2014 all children from Year 1 to 6 will have playtime at the same time and all children will be able to access all of the equipment and facilities within the playground. Playtime is now from 10.35 to 10.50 am. The children have responded very well to this and are thoroughly enjoying playing all together. We now have more staff on duty so that all children can be seen in all areas.

Due to the recent Universal Infant Free School Meals Initiative we have had to slightly change the timings of the lunch break so that we can accommodate more children having a school meal. Reception children will have lunch from 11.45 to 1pm. Year 1 & 2 Lunch is 12pm –1pm. Years 3-6 Lunchtime is now 12.30-1.30pm. The children so far have settled into this routine very well.

Throughout the year we will be holding events to raise money to buy new equipment for the playground. It will be equipment that all children are able to access and use. Through the children's voice and through your feedback it is only fair that all children can use the equipment. This will be a gradual project as it is funding related.

As Key stage 2 children do have to wait a little longer for their lunch break, please do send the children to school with a healthy snack to have during morning playtime.

Achievement at Upland Primary School

Foundation Stage

By the time your children leave their Reception class they should have a Good Level of Development. The children achieve points if your child achieves 24 points or more across all areas of the curriculum they will achieve this. As you can see this year we have 90% leaving with a Good level of Development. Well done to all the children and thank you to the Outstanding foundation stage staff team

Area of Development	2013	2014	National
Good level of Development Children who scored over 24 in all 5 areas)	60%	90%	78% (TBC)

Key Stage 1 Results

By the time your child leaves Year 2 we expect the children to leave with a L2+. At Upland Primary School we aim very high. An average year 2 child would be a 2b but as you can see most children are leaving above age related expectations. This is an amazing two year picture. Well done to all the children and staff.

	L1		L2+		L2C		L2B		L2A		L3+	
	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014
Reading	3%	0%	97%	100%	7%	2%	11%	17%	33%	37%	46%	45%
Writing	3%	0%	97%	100%	14%	17%	18%	20%	31%	28%	31%	35%
Maths	3%	0%	97%	100%	9%	3%	14%	22%	25%	33%	46%	42%

Key Stage 2 Results

By the time your child leaves Year 6 an average child will leave with a Level 4b however once again you can see that a large % of children leave Upland with Level 5+ . These results are absolutely amazing. As a school we carefully monitor the progress your children make from Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 2. This year 98.5% children made their 2 levels progress with over 40% making exceeding progress in Reading, Writing and Maths. Congratulations to all of the children and to the most incredible Year 6 staff team.

	L3		L4+		L4		L5+		L6	
	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014
Reading	2%	5%	98%	95%	42%	34%	53%	53%	2%	0%
Writing	0%	7%	100%	93%	80%	55%	20%	38%	0%	3%
Maths	0%	7%	100%	93%	43%	25%	45%	63%	12%	13%
Spag spelling, punctuation and gram- mar	8%		92%		15%		66%		0%	11%