



UPLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

September 2015 Newsletter

Head Teacher's Message

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

All at Upland are very excited to be back with what we know is going to be another busy, eventful year full of new initiatives and exciting opportunities 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. They have all responded very positively to their new classes and staff.

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

We are working very hard to ensure that the new curriculum is engaging, exciting, enabling the children build upon the skills they need across all subjects. There will be more trips for the children as we see this as a crucial way to enable children to experience first hand some of their learning. As we are aware, assessing children in primary schools has changed dramatically. As a school we are working within a system that now works for us and enables us to effectively monitor the progress your children make. There will be a parents meeting to go through this on the **13th October 2015 9.00 –10.00am.**

Last academic year saw the Parents Association raise £10,000. With the children's help we will be installing some new play-ground equipment over the coming months. This may cause a little disruption to playtimes for a maximum of 2 weeks, I will endeavour to keep you informed of this.

I'd like to say a big thank you from myself as well as all of the staff for your support and understanding as we continue to work very hard to improve our school, putting your children's needs first in every decision we make. We continue to Work, Learn and Achieve together.

Please do remember to log onto parentview.ofsted.gov.uk to give your feedback about the school.

Kindest regards Ms V Sengupta

In this Issue

Attendance

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

Selection Tests

The selection tests for Secondary Grammar school places will be sat by the children on the morning of **16th September 2015**. The school will remain **OPEN** for ALL other pupils on this day.

Parent mail

I would like to apologise for the problems we are currently having with our Parent mail system.

Unfortunately due to some technical errors, the system isn't generating texts and emails for all to receive.

We are trying to get this resolved very quickly. In the meantime we will be sending out paper copies of all letters. Please do check you child's bags. All letters are also put onto the school website for all to access.

Thank you in advance for your patience and understanding.

Dates for your Diary

Secondary selection tests Year 6 16th Sep

Inflatable evening PA event 3.30-5.30pm 17th Sep

Reception Parent Phonics Meeting 22nd Sep

School Photographer in 5th Oct

Year 5 Harvest Assembly 9th Oct

Assessment meeting for parents 9.00-10.00am 13th Oct

Parents evenings 20th and 21st Oct

Half term 26th—30th Oct

Back to school Monday 2nd Nov

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 and hair designs are not a part of the uniform policy.

Children who have their ears pierced must be able to remove these themselves before PE lessons. If they are unable to do so then please remove them before they come into school. Legally staff are not able to remove these for children.

Health and Safety

Unfortunately, children sometimes have accidents that do result in broken bones. Over the last 6 months we have had a rise in children coming to school with broken bones. If your child does have a broken bone they will not be allowed back into school until it is in a cast. Parents must also request a meeting with a senior leader, who will carry out a risk assessment for your child. If you have any questions, please do ask at the school office.

Volunteers in School

We appeal to you as the parent body, we are in great need of volunteers to help within our Foundation Stage Unit. As the children are so young and in their first 2 years of being at school we aim to give them as much support as possible to enable them to thrive. If you are able to give a couple of hours of your time to come into school and support our children that would be amazing! As a school, we would support you in working with children and ensure that you feel rewarded by seeing the children progress. We are especially looking for volunteers to help on a **Wednesday in our Forest school classes. This is an outdoor class where children get to explore and be creative**. Again, if you love being outdoors and have a little time to spare then please do get in touch. Many thanks.

Photography in School

There is still no photography permitted by parents/carers at school events until further notice.

We are currently reviewing policy and practice so that we can re-instate the ability to take photography and videos of your children at school events. We totally understand that media can supply you with wonderful memories of your children. May I please ask for your patience and understanding in this matter whilst we work hard to get it right, ensuring that all children's safety and well-being is not compromised at all.

New school pupil leadership team

This year brings a slight change to the pupil voice that we have in school. Previously we had a school forum whereby classmates vote for a boy and girl in each class to work with the head teacher and teachers to improve aspects of the school. This year all children have been invited to write a small paragraph to sell themselves to their classmates as to why they should be a part of the new pupil leadership team. What can they bring to the school in order to make it better for all? Classes will vote next week for the people who they feel will do a great job. The children will meet with senior leaders half termly, work with Mrs Jordan on promoting pupil voice, and be taken on trips to embed their understanding of what it is to be a leader. I do hope you will encourage your children to be confident and put themselves forward for this wonderful opportunity.

Trips Staff are working very hard to source relevant trips for the children in order to enhance their learning. We will always try to keep the cost as low as possible. However if there is a payment required in order for the trip to go ahead, please do speak to staff regarding payments as we are always willing to support and help those in need. We really don't want the children missing out. We do have to rely on donations for trips to take place.

Achievement at Upland Primary School

Another fantastic year, the results again are incredible!

This is the last year that you will see levels. Please do come to the Assessment meeting on 13th Oct.

Foundation Stage

By the time your children leave their Reception class they should have a Good Level of Development. Over the course of the year 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 83% 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 | 2014 | 2015 | National |
|--|------|------|--------------|
| Good Level of Development Chn who scored over 24 in all 5 areas) | 90% | 83% | 78% (TBC) |

Key Stage 1 Results

By the time your child leaves Year 2, we expect them to leave with a L2+. At Upland Primary School we aim very high. An average Year 2 child achieves 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+ | |
|---------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| | 2014 | 2015 | 2014 | 2014 | 2014 | 2015 | 2014 | 2015 | 2014 | 2015 | 2014 | 2015 |
| Reading | 0% | 2% | 100% | 98% | 2% | 5% | 17% | 22% | 37% | 33% | 45% | 38% |
| Writing | 0% | 5% | 100% | 95% | 17% | 16% | 20% | 28% | 28% | 26% | 35% | 23% |
| Maths | 0% | 2% | 100% | 98% | 3% | 8% | 22% | 23% | 33% | 36% | 42% | 30% |

Key Stage 2 Results

By the time your child leaves Year 6 an average child achieves 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 | |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| | 2014 | 2015 | 2014 | 2015 | 2014 | 2015 | 2014 | 2015 | 2014 | 2015 |
| Reading | 5% | 2% | 95% | 98% | 34% | 33% | 53% | 65% | 0% | 0% |
| Writing | 7% | 11% | 93% | 89% | 55% | 44% | 38% | 45% | 3% | 0% |
| Maths | 7% | 6% | 93% | 94% | 25% | 9% | 63% | 58% | 13% | 27% |
| Spag spelling, punctuation and gram- mar | 8% | 15% | 92% | 85% | 15% | 20% | 66% | 60% | 11% | 5% |