



UPLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

March 2016 Newsletter

Head Teacher's Message



14th –18th March Year 6 Outward Bound

15th March Year 5 Celebration Assembly

Parents evenings 22nd and 23rd March

23rd March Easter Lunch Day

24th March Easter Bonnet Parade 8.55am in the playground.

24th March Earth class Assembly 9.30 parents welcome.

Monday 11th April INSET DAY SCHOOL CLOSED.

Back to school Tuesday 12th April.

Friday 29th April Moss Class assembly 9am parents welcome.

Spitting

I'm really sorry to be having to write this, however it has been brought to my attention that a number of adults have been seen spitting on the school site. Could I please ask that all individuals refrain from doing this as it is a Health and Safety breach. Thank you in advance.

Water is good for the brain

Please make sure that your child has a water bottle every day. Water really does keep the brain hydrated and enable your children to focus.

Parking

Once again many parents are parking on the yellow zig zags outside the school gates. Again this is a breach of Health and Safety for our families. Mr Dawson and myself will be taking down number plates from now on and reporting to the parking authorities. I will not have people put at risk.

Fundraising Brilliance from one of our pupils.

5 year old Alice Minahan from Ladybird class raised over £1300 for children who have lost their hair due to cancer. Thank you to everyone who donated. Such a selfless thing to do.

Another term is nearly over, the school year really is going so quickly. We continue to strive forward despite pressures upon us.

You will have all received a letter informing you of the decision to move forward with an academy application. We are still at the very early stages and will keep the parent body fully informed as the process progresses.

I would like to stress that this decision was not taken lightly and that the children's education was at the forefront this decision. Early in the summer term there will be two meetings where we will welcome your views on this subject.

Upland Primary School this term has been a very busy place, with lots of wonderful activities taking place to enrich our curriculum.

Every day brings new challenges to your children yet they are all performing so well and putting their all into their work. I look forward to seeing lots of smiling faces as you share your children's books with them at parents evening.

Upland Primary School is a flagship school within the local authority championing great teaching and learning and leading the way with our curriculum and assessment. I'd like to thank the amazing staff for all of their continued dedication but also the parents/carers for your continued support through what are very tough times in education.

I hope you all have a wonderful Easter break.

Kindest regards

Ms Vicky Sengupta

Important Dates

Due to an announcement from the EU Referendum elections last week; unfortunately **the school will be closed on 23rd June 2016 to become a polling station.** I do sincerely apologise for the inconvenience this may cause but I hope this will be enough notice to make alternative arrangements for this day. This was not foreseen, otherwise I would have made it an official INSET day like 5th May.

Dinner Money

Again I'm sorry but we must ask that dinner money is handed in on a Monday only. We cannot be handling cash everyday of the week in the office. Please abide by this rule. It will also stop some debt letters being sent out. Many thanks.

Goodbye

It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to Mr Twyman at the end of this term. He has played such an important role in the success and the developments within our school. Personally I am going to miss his support and knowledge greatly. We are very proud of Mr Twyman and his new appointment and wish him all the best as the new Headteacher of Holy Trinity Primary School. There is a leaving card and donation box in the main office if you wish to contribute.

Mrs Mckenzie will be the Acting Deputy Headteacher for the summer term. We will keep you up to date with any recruitments in the school.

Free School Eligibility

Has there been a change in your family financial circumstances? If so your child may be eligible for free school meals. If you are unsure please do contact the school office or Mrs Mckenzie

If your child does not have Free School Meals, but may be eligible because of your family's income level, please contact the school office (in confidence) to register them. Even if you do not wish them to have the meals, this would mean the school could still claim Pupil Premium Funding that will be used to help your child in school.

Harry Potter Night

On the 12th February, 50 year 4 children stayed at school over night to celebrate the Harry Potter Novel series. It was a fantastic night with potion making, wand making, spells, games and a spooky villain hunt around the school. The children were all wonderful; we had so much fun. Thank you for letting your children take part in this activity it was a big challenge for some children to stay away from home for a night.

Again thank you to all of the staff who supported and gave up their time. Although a little sleep deprived we all thoroughly enjoyed it.

Attendance

Attendance figures for Spring term have dipped quite significantly. We recognise that there has been a lot of nasty viruses around school and of course this is a genuine authorised absence, however we have had an increase in unauthorised absence. Please make sure that you always inform the school if your child is going to be absent and provide us with a reason. If a child's record shows persistent unauthorised absence then you will be required to attend an official meeting with the Educational Welfare Officer. We are currently noticing a pattern in children who are persistently late for school every day. Please do ensure that your child arrives at school on time.

We have had several requests for holiday in term time. We cannot authorise this unless it is exceptional circumstances.

Curriculum Week.

Curriculum week really did start off with an almighty bang. Taking over 400 children to Greenwich Park for the day was truly incredible. The staff worked really hard to ensure we all arrived safely and engaged in all of the activities. I would like to thank all of the parents and helpers who gave up their time on the day to support. The children were so well behaved and it was an absolute delight looking down on Greenwich park from the Observatory and seeing a sea of yellow HI-Vis jackets all enjoying themselves. A lovely day for all.

Tuesday was a Maths day and all of the children engaged in activities relating to money and enterprise. I do hope they will be of great use to you now when shopping. Please ask your children to calculate totals and change when you are out and about.

The school looked wonderful on Thursday with all of the amazing Shakespearean costumes. The children have all been learning a different Shakespearean text. Please make sure you look at this work during parents evening.

Outward Bound

Year 5 had a wonderful time last week in Aberdovey Wales, it was a challenging yet extremely fun week. The children coped incredibly well with all of the activities. Please look out for some of the photos on the website next week. I'm very proud of them all. Thank you to the staff who again accompanied the children. Well done to Ms Laughland and Mr Gregory for doing the jog and dip activity. It sounded very cold.

Next week Year 6 will be going to Ullswater in Cumbria.

Mrs Sengupta and Mrs Mckenzie will be accompanying the children and staff. If you have any concerns next week please do speak to your class teacher in the first instance and then the phase leader. Mr Twyman will be leading the school for the this week.

Sporting Achievements.

On Friday 4th March, eight children from years 3, 4 and 6 competed in the Key Steps 2 and 3 Gymnastics Competition at the impressive Europa Gymnastics Centre in Crayford. Our year 3/4 team were overall winners which is amazing. The Year 6 team worked incredibly hard but unfortunately didn't medal place this time. Thank you so much to Athena Gym Club for all of their hard work and support with the chil-