



Upton Westlea Primary School Parents Newsletter January 2017



Welcome

A very warm welcome to the fifth newsletter of the new academic year for the parents and families of Upton Westlea Primary School. I would like to start this newsletter by wishing you all a belated 'Happy New Year' from all the staff at the school. Let us hope that 2017 sees us all healthy, prosperous and successful and sees our school continue to go from strength to strength.

With the Christmas festivities well and truly behind us the children and staff have been working very hard in school. Learning is our core business and we have been fully focussed on making some real learning gains since the New Year. I am in the very privileged position of being able to see the amazing learning that takes place in our school on a daily basis. And believe me it is a privilege. We have fantastic children here, super staff and with the support of our brilliant parents we are moving towards being a fantastic school.

Carols by Candlelight



As promised in December's newsletter I said I would report back on the Carols by Candlelight. Well what can I say it was a 'magical' night enjoyed by all. Congratulations must go to Mrs Wright, Miss Dalton and Mr Ellinson for organising such a spectacular night.

A few quotes from parents and grandparents:

'Well where do I start the Carols by Candlelight was just beautiful just so what Christmas is all about. We came to watch our grandson sing, was just expecting the choir to sing in the playground but it was just so more than that, what really did it for me was when the children came out carrying lanterns, brought tears to my eyes. Well done to the teachers - must of took a lot of their time but they must be very proud of what they achieved. I really feel like Christmas has arrived now.'

'I thought the Carols by Candlelight was superb. The whole evening was a delight with fantastic singing, just the right level of background music which didn't down the

children's voices. Lovely finish to end up with mince pies and mulled wine. Thank you and well done to Mrs Carruthers and team'.

'I thought the Carols by Candlelight was magical. A lovely experience for the children to sing in the dark. The children sang really well'

Panto



Huge thanks must go to the 'Friends of Upton Westlea' for providing a pantomime on the last day of term for all the children. They really did have an amazing time especially when Peter Pan and Wendy actually flew out into the audience. It really was a great end to the term – Thank you, Friends of Upton Westlea.

Punctuality and Attendance

We have had a lot of sickness recently and despite our aim to get above 96% attendance it is imperative that if your child is physically sick they CAN NOT return to school within 48 hours. This is a County directive and we will adhere to it and will send children home if they have been sent back to school too early.

Our current percentage is 95.5% which is just below our minimum target of 96%. Mrs Grimshaw and I analyse the attendance data fortnightly and letters will be sent out if we feel attendance is a cause for concern. Can I please remind parents that holidays will NOT be authorized during term time unless there are extenuating circumstances.

Following on from the above I have noticed that children are still arriving late in the morning. The doors will be closed promptly at 8.45a.m. and any children arriving after this time need to be signed in via the front entrance.

New members of the School Council and Learning Champions

I am delighted to announce Freya Pinna-Chapman has become a member of our School Council representing Year 2 and Donte Somers has joined our Learning Champions again representing Year 2. We wish them well in their respective roles.

Parent Questionnaire

Please find below the results of the parent questionnaire we gave to parents following the parents evenings in the Autumn Term. Thank you very much for all your responses, some were extremely detailed. We have taken on board any additional comments and are working on them to once again make Upton Westlea an 'Outstanding' school.

	(Please tick)	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1	My child enjoys school	56.4%	38.7%	4.3%	0.6%
2	The school keeps my child safe	69.3%	29.4%	1.2%	
3	The school informs me about my child's progress	53.3%	42.3%	2.6%	1.2%
4	My child is making enough progress at this school	43.5%	53.4%	3.1%	
5	The teaching is good at this school	60.7%	37.4%	1.8%	
6	The school helps me to support my child's learning	55.8%	41.7%	2.6%	
7	The school helps my child to have a healthy lifestyle	53.4%	44.8%	1.8%	
8	The school makes sure that my child is well prepared for the future(e.g. changing year group, changing school etc)	52.1%	46.0%	1.8%	
9	The school meets my child's particular needs	51.5%	46.0%	2.6%	
10	The school deals effectively with unacceptable behaviour	47.2%	50.3%	2.6%	
11	The school takes account of my suggestions and concerns	52.1%	44.8%	2.6%	0.6%
12	The school is led and managed effectively	60.1%	38.7%	1.2%	
13	Overall, I am happy with my child's experience at this school	62.6%	35.6%	0.6%	1.2%

Hate Crime Competition

You may remember in the December newsletter I shared photographs of our Year 6 pupils working with our PCSO, Jenna Tapley and her colleague Mike Henry on Hate Crime. Following the sessions the Year 6 children were asked to produce posters depicting Hate Crime, what it is and how to prevent it. I am delighted to inform you that Poppy Bryant won the competition within the Chester area. We are extremely proud of Poppy; she was presented with her certificate and trophy on the 25th January – Well done Poppy.

Asda Green Tokens

If you shop at Asda on Sealand Road can I please encourage you to ask for some 'green tokens' once you've paid for your shopping. For the months of January, February and March these tokens can be put in a slot at the front of the store to help school pay for a 'Buddy bench' (as suggested by Holly Palmer) – Thank you for your support – Happy Shopping!!!!

Healthy School Snacks

The school tries extremely hard to promote healthy lifestyles and healthy eating. Therefore, could I please ask parents to be mindful of this when providing a snack for their child/children for break times. It would be preferable if children could bring a piece of fruit or fruit based snacks instead of crisps, biscuits or chocolate. Your support with this would be very much appreciated. Reha is still providing a snack at a small charge – the snack now consists of either toast or bagels and a drink if required.

JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS

E-Safety Day



On the 12th January, Jenna Tapley our PCSO came in and worked with all the Key Stage 2 classes on E-Safety. Jenna was very impressed with the children. She said they clearly demonstrated how to stay safe on line. Following the sessions the children produced E-Safety posters that are now displayed around school.

Football matches v Bishop BlueCoats and Dee Point

Our Year 5 and 6 footballers have been extremely busy playing matches against both Bishop Blue Coats and Dee Point. All the matches were extremely close with Westlea only

losing by 1 goal in each match. The team have a really good 'fighting spirit' and never give up. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Hall, Mr Ellison and Mr Christian for their continued support from the side lines i.e. their shouting and constructive advice!! – they get ever so excited!!!!

Year 1 Multi-Skills

Year 1 enjoyed an afternoon at the Sports Village in Ellesmere Port. They had the opportunity to do karate, dance, team games and even had the chance to take part in Forest school activities.



Year 2 Parents Lunch



On the 19th January the Year 2 children invited their parents to join them for lunch. The parents had the opportunity to enjoy our Chinese New Year celebrations by tucking into spring rolls, prawn crackers and a variety of noodle dishes. Huge thanks must go to Reha and her team for preparing such a delicious meal.

Year 3 walk around the Local Area

Year 3 enjoyed a very long walk (well that's what they said!!!!) around the local area. They were able to locate features on a map such as the old water pump, the cockpit and the windmill amongst others. I was fortunate enough to join them on the walk and they were very well behaved and very interested in their surroundings. Well done Year 3.



COMING UP IN FEBRUARY

Year 5 – 'Play in a Day' – British Values, Roles and Responsibilities

On 6th February our Year 5 children will be spending the day with Altru Drama looking at British Values. They will spend the majority of the day participating in a workshop culminating in a whole school assembly at the end of the day – we can't wait!

Mental Health Week

Mrs D Woollen is leading the schools awareness of Mental Health. During the week beginning the 6th February she will be organising events to raise awareness of Mental Health issues beginning initially with an assembly and then talking to the children and staff about 'Friendship jars'. We will feed back in the next newsletter.

Internet Safer Day

On Tuesday 7th February we will be supporting Internet Safer Day. As Computing lead, Mrs McCracken will be sharing activities with the children and promoting 'How to stay safe on-line'.



Young Voices

Some members of the choir will be participating in Young Voices at the MEN Arena in Manchester on Thursday 9th February. This is an amazing opportunity to sing with other schools from all over the North West area.



Year 1 and 2 visit to Chester Zoo

On Thursday 16th February Year 1 and 2 will be visiting Chester Zoo to support their History and Science topics – I'm sure it will be a fun day out for all.



School Disco



On Thursday 16th February the children have got their latest chance to impress on the dance floor with another 'school disco'. As usual this will be a two part event with the Infant Disco starting at 5.00p.m. and finishing at 6.00p.m. The Junior Disco then starts at 6.15p.m. and finishes at 7.15p.m. Tickets are £2.00 and include a hot dog and a drink.

EARLY NOTICE!!

World Book Day Fun

On Thursday 2nd March school will be celebrating World Book Day. As part of the fun we would like all the children (and adults!) to come dressed in their pyjamas or onesies and bring with them their favourite bedtime story or book.

Parents Evenings

The Spring Term parents evenings will take place on Monday 20th and Wednesday 22nd March – more details to follow.

Dads to School Week

This year's 'Dad's to School Week' is scheduled for 27th till 31st March. More details will be available nearer the time.

Thank you for your continued support.

K Carruthers

To: Upton Westlea Primary School

I am in receipt of the January 2017 Newsletter. We value your comments:

Although the school is not able to respond to every comment, all comments are read. Please feel free to comment on any aspect with regard to school life.

Signed:

Child's Name: Class:

Comments:

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