



Upton Westlea Primary School Parents' Newsletter March 2017



Welcome

A very warm welcome to the seventh newsletter of the new academic year for the parents and families of Upton Westlea Primary School.

Free School Meal Entitlement

The Government has said that schools will receive extra funding for every pupil eligible for free school meals.

As a school we want to encourage as many parents as possible to apply for free school meals as any additional funding will be essential in maintaining the standards we expect for our children.

Registering does not mean your child has to swap from their packed lunch if that is preferred, but school will not receive the extra funding if your child is not registered.

This money is used by school to pay for a whole range of things that enable your children to fulfil their potential. That includes everything from extra teaching staff, personal tuition, money towards visits and visitors, extra equipment, specialist teaching, free extra curricular school clubs etc.

If you think you may be eligible, please phone CWAC on 0300 123 7039 or call into the office where the staff will be happy to guide you through the simple process.

Attendance Awards

Attendance continues to feature high on the schools agenda. I am pleased to tell you that the winners of the attendance awards for the Spring 2 half-term were:

96%+ winners – Benjamin Calvert (Y3), Jayden Reilly (Y3), Jay Johnston (Y6),

They receive a £10 book token.

Woody the therapy dog visits Westlea

Woody the buddy dog enjoyed his trip to Westlea. He was very relaxed throughout his walk round and spent plenty of time in each class. The children in Eden were so confident, stroking Woody and even had a go at brushing him. Matt, his handler, explained how Woody hadn't quite passed his training to be a dog for the visually impaired. Can the children remember why? (Because

he didn't like the special harness). Some children asked some really interesting questions. Matt was really impressed with Westlea and commented on how all the children were calm and friendly. He has offered to bring Woody in again.



Upton Westlea link with the Countess of Chester Hospital

Upton Westlea helped the Countess of Chester with their No Smoking campaign. The children designed posters which are now part of the screen savers used on every single computer in the hospital. The hospital chose two winning posters that are now on display in the main entrance of



the hospital. Huge congratulations to Janae Thomas (Year 6) and Issabelle Wheeler (Year 5).

Reading books

Please remember to give your children the opportunity to read every night whether it's on their own or to an adult. Staff in Years 1 to 6 will now be checking book bags three times a week (Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays) to make sure reading is done. It is so important to foster the enjoyment of reading – Thank you for your support.

MARCH HIGHLIGHTS

Health box work with Year 5

Mark, Holly and Stuart from Healthbox came to visit Y5 to talk to the children about 'Growing Up'. They were looking specifically at the changes that occur during puberty. The children very much enjoyed the session and were able to ask questions in a safe environment.

World Book Day Fun



On Thursday 2nd March school celebrated World Book Day. As part of the fun the children (and adults!) came to school dressed in their pyjamas or onesies and brought with them their favourite bedtime story or book. A fantastic £86.00 was raised to increase the funds Upton Westlea has already raised for Claire House.

Police talk about 'Anti-Social' Behaviour to Years 5 and 6

Last Monday, Year 5 and 6 had some very important visitors, the police, to talk to us about a very serious issue – anti-social behaviour. We learned a lot about what anti-social behaviour is and what are the consequences of displaying such behaviour. More importantly, we learned about how to be better people and better citizens by thinking about how our actions can impact others.

Choir singing at Wealstone Lane Residential Home

Our wonderful Singing Group sang at the Care Home on Wealstone Lane on Wednesday 8th March. The residents were well entertained with a mix of singing and dancing!!



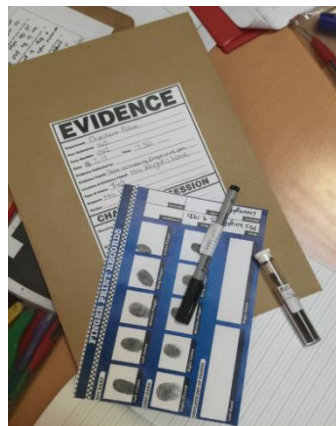
Year 3 residential to Kingswood

Year 3 thoroughly enjoyed their two-night residential trip to Kingswood Peak Venture. They loved a multitude of activities, such as archery, problem solving, bouldering, zip wires, abseiling and a scrap-heap challenge! The children (and staff) all showed lots of resilience and perseverance – well done to everyone. Huge thanks must go to Mrs Jones, Mr Ellison, Mrs Carline, Mrs Holmes and Miss McPherson-Hill for taking the children.



Year 4 Crime Scene!!!

Year 4 have been investigating and reporting on the crime that took place in their classroom on Tuesday 14th March. They used the evidence collected, shoe scraping, pens and analysed finger prints all to reveal the guilty party. They have used this event to inspire their newspaper writing in English. The children will be publishing these and sending them home to share with parents.



Y6 footballers play at the LFC Academy



I thought I'd ask some of the children to tell you about their amazing experience at the LFC Academy:

'I liked the pitches and the big space. I liked playing against different people' – Alfie

'I enjoyed the matches and being at the Liverpool Academy, it was good' – Alex

'I enjoyed it because it was fun against lots of competitive opponents. It was quite challenging' – Rohan

'We got to play different schools. The ground was good but I got a carpet burn!' – Keira P

Cross Country

Six of our children took part in a local Cross Country event. They were absolutely amazing. Mr Hall and Mrs Davies were so impressed they both sent me e-mails and I wanted to share them with you:

Mr Hall: *'The children were fantastic. It was a gruelling race and they represented the school amazingly. I think they definitely need a special mention in assembly (especially Preston Y5)'*

Mrs Davies: *'I know Mr Hall is emailing you but I wanted to forward how proud our children made Mr Hall, Mr Christian and I tonight at the competition. They had to run so far and their determination, resilience and just attitude to not give up was amazing! Pearl, Izzy, Poppy, Nelson and particularly Harvey and Preston who struggled but refused to give up. We were all so thrilled with such positive attitudes on such a difficult competition against other schools such as the King's...*

Just wanted to share with you what little troopers we have and if only OFSTED could grade on the attitude of our children, we'd be more than outstanding'

How proud did I feel when I read these?! Huge congratulations to Pearl, Nelson, Izzy, Preston, Poppy and Harvey.

Year 4 and Eden working with 'Wildlife Connections' from Chester Zoo

Year 4 and Eden took part in a community project, organised by Chester Zoo Wildlife Connections. The aim was to improve a local piece of land for the wildlife to thrive in and the people of Upton to enjoy. The children cleared land and planted some plants, at the site on the corner of Flag Lane North. They also encountered lots of creepy crawlies along the way too! The children really enjoyed the day and were given a packet of seeds to plant themselves at home. We hope the children will start to see the fruits of their labour as the months go by.

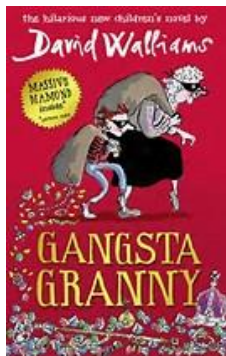
COMING UP IN APRIL

Year 4 residential to Condover

Year 4 are excitedly awaiting their residential to Condover. They have an action packed three days ahead of them. They will begin their trip at the Anderton Boat Lift. Once they've arrived at Condover the action begins. The children will take part in archery, buggy building, aerial trek, wet and Wacky, body zorbing, and conquest. Their evenings will be filled with nocturnal safari and disco. Exciting times ahead!!



Year 5 trip to 'Gangsta Granny'



On the first week back after Easter, Year 5 will be heading to Liverpool Empire Theatre to watch the stage adaptation of David Walliams's book - Gangsta Granny. As you may remember, during our London residential, we were unable to watch The Lion King and we're not going to let the children miss out on their chance to visit the theatre. The children are really looking forward to it and I'm sure it will be a great experience for everyone!

Class Photos

Class Photos will be taking place on Thursday 27th April.

Thank you for your continued support.

K Carruthers

To: Upton Westlea Primary School

I am in receipt of the March 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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