



Welcome

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

OFSTED

As you are all aware we had an OFSTED inspection on the 21st and 22nd November. Our lead inspector was Elizabeth Stevens (HMI) and she was supported by Elizabeth Clarke (Inspector) and Ian Hardman (HMI). During the inspection they spent time observing lessons, looking in books, speaking to the children, observing playtimes and lunchtimes, discussing data, safeguarding, behaviour, our curriculum and much, much more. It was a very intense two days for all staff. We will hopefully find out our judgement before Christmas – I will let you know as soon as the result has been confirmed and validated. Can I please thank all those parents who spoke to the inspectors and completed the on-line questionnaire – your support was very much appreciated 😊

Free School Meals Reminder

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.

Results of Pupil Questionnaire – October 2017

	Always	Mostly	Sometimes	Never
1. Do you enjoy school?	51%	22%	23%	4%
2. Do you learn new things in lessons?	52%	25%	22%	
3. Are your lessons interesting and fun?	40%	30%	25%	5%
4. If you get stuck with your work in class do you get help?	70%	20%	9%	1%
5. Are you expected to work hard?	76%	20%	4%	
6. Do teachers show you how to make your work better?	70%	22%	6%	2%
7. Are you doing well in school?	54%	30%	16%	
8. Do you feel safe in school?	70%	18%	10%	3%
9. Do you know the school rules?	80%	14%	1%	
10. Do you think the school cares about you?	75%	14%	9%	2%
11. Do you like the school trips we have?	85%	12%	2%	
12. Do you behave well?	60%	26%	14%	
13. Do most children in the class behave well?	23%	48%	30%	
14. Do most children in the playground behave well?	21%	39%	39%	1%
15. Are other children friendly?	49%	29%	22%	
16. If there was ever anything you were worried about, do you know how to get help if you needed it? Is there an adult to go to in school?	80%	14%	7%	
17. Are teachers fair to you?	70%	28%	9%	2%
18. Do teachers listen to your ideas?	66%	21%	12%	
19. Do you like the after school clubs / activities?	71%	15%	8%	
20. Are you proud to go to this school?	67%	12%	19%	2%

122 pupils from Years 2 to 6 completed the questionnaire. Staff are currently speaking to the children about their individual class results.

Attendance

Please can I remind all parents that holidays will not be authorised during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. Since September 2017 the law has changed and schools will be issuing 'Fixed Penalty Notices'. The following is a quote from the Cheshire West and Chester website:

'From September 2017 the Authority will be resuming the issuing of FPN's for any unauthorised absence, for 5 consecutive school days (10 sessions) or more, unless there are any exceptional circumstances.'

Please can I also request that wherever possible hospital / doctors / dental appointments are taken after school or after the registers are taken in the morning or afternoon. I know

this can be very difficult, but we are trying to reduce the amount of time children are absent from school. Thank you for your support.

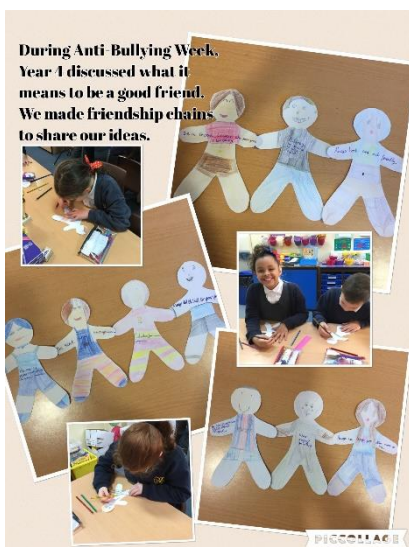
NOVEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Year 2 Residential to Delamere

On Wednesday 8th and Thursday 9th November Year 2 went on their residential for one night to Delamere Forest. They all had a fantastic muddy time! The children learnt how to build dens using the natural materials in the forest and found lots of different animal homes in the forest. The children also took part in team games and orienteering and were amazing at working together as a team. At night time the children and staff had a good old sing song around the camp fire and roasted marshmallows. They came back to school with a fantastic knowledge of the habitat in the forest. All children were a fantastic credit to our school with the ranger commenting on how well behaved and well-mannered they all were. Well done Year 2!



Anti bullying week



The school council were very busy discussing this issue for weeks before the actual 'national event week' took place between the 13th - 17th November. Speaking with children, during the event, they were very positive about the work we have been, and will be, doing to promote Anti Bullying. They really enjoyed the performance by Altru Drama on 'Superheros' and the follow up work shops, on Thursday morning. Since then, the children have been busy producing work for a display and this will be put up in our school corridor, for all to see, very soon. It will, just like last years display, act as a constant reminder that Anti

Bullying is not just addressed for one week of the year – but is in fact a life long commitment we make to everyone we meet.

I would like to especially thank the parents who responded to the questionnaire we sent out and assure everyone that all issues will be looked at so we can stop them happening again. We will take on board any additional comments and try to incorporate them into what we do to tackle this issue.

Mrs Jones wrote: Year 3 have been enjoying reading books about Anti-bullying week and coming up with ways to prevent bullying as well as stop it. They have even given advice to a very special puppet visitor, Hazel, to help her understand what bullying is and how to put an end to it. Hazel enjoyed it so much in Hazel class and the friendship Year 3 showed her that she is now a frequent visitor! They have also been working on some multi-media artwork to "Say NO to hate!"

Parents Evenings

The first parents evenings of this academic year took place on Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th November for all year groups.

Mums to School Week



The end of November saw our 'Mums to School' event. What a great week we had. In total we had ninety-six mums come into school to share some learning fun with their children. This shows what supportive parents we have in our school and is another reason why we continue to make progress as a school. Of the ninety-six mums who joined us 100% judged the event as 'Good'

'Very Good' or 'Outstanding'.

Some quotes included:

'A lovely time, really enjoyed it'

'A fantastic afternoon, really enjoyed it. Thank you for the opportunity'

'Lovely teachers and assistants makes a lovely happy class'

'Really enjoy having the chance to come into school and learn



with the children'

'Really enjoyed spending time seeing how fun the crafts can be in class'

'Really enjoyed coming to school, brilliant communication between staff and parents'

Some of the classes have shared what they did:

Mrs Jones wrote 'Hazel class enjoyed a visit from Chester Zoo as well as a PE lesson for mums to school on Thursday. Chester Zoo discussed how we could reduce, reuse and recycle our rubbish as well as how long it takes to break down into the ground if we throw it away. Did you know that bananas take 2 days to biodegrade but glass bottles take a whopping 1 million years? We also practiced our coordination and control in PE by aiming beanbags at cricket stumps, whilst avoiding the adults trying to stop us. Great defending ladies!'



Mr Newman wrote 'Birch Y4 had the pleasure of welcoming parents to Upton Westlea for 'Mums to School'. The afternoon activity involved making Viking longboats and helmets out of recycled objects such as cardboard and plastic. As this related to Year 4's topic on 'The Vikings', the children thoroughly enjoyed developing their understanding and spending time with adults to create wonderful designs and creations.'

Miss Woods wrote 'On Thursday, Holly Class' Mums visited. We all made some Christmas bird feeders which was messy but really good fun (a manicure and a bird feeder in one). We used coconut oil to bind the seeds and great fun was had by all. Holly Class have recently been writing a non-chronological report so we spent some time with our Mums making the front covers and drawing diagrams inside for our reports. Thank you to all of the Mums and Gran's who came, the children had a brilliant afternoon.'

Mrs Clements wrote 'On Wednesday the reception Mums (and a Dad) came to school to spend the afternoon with us. We had visitors from Healthbox who showed us how to wash our hands. We talked about germs and why we need to wash our hands. They gave us all a goody bag to take home! We then showed them around our class and had a play with them before we went home.'

Tag Rugby Competition

On a very cold day, 8 children from Year 5 and 6 braved the conditions and competed in a quicksticks hockey tournament at the County Offices! This was the first time the team

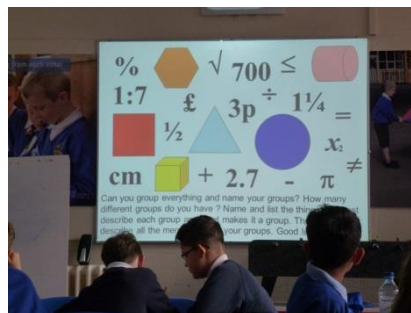


had played together and did incredibly well considering they were competing against some of the best players in the area – the gum shields some were wearing showed us the fierce competition! We played some fantastic hockey and scored some brilliant goals along the way. The children represented the school

fabulously and are looking forward to the next hockey challenge. Well done team!!

Year 6 Mathematicians 'shine!!

Mrs Wellings wrote 'I had the privilege of taking four year six children, who show a good knowledge of Maths to Newton Primary School for a day with Anne Fieldhouse, a mathematics specialist. The children worked in pairs with other schools on many different problems, they were so busy that they didn't even realise that it was dinner time and home time. The children showed great knowledge with one member of our school working out a problem in double quick time. This was a problem given to older children and college students to work out and she could see the answer within five minutes. The children were shown how to answer questions fully and not leave out any detail. It was an exciting and rewarding day for all of us!'



'Amasing'

The school choir went to Catholic High School, along with 900 other children from various schools, to sing their hearts out in aid of Macmillan. The song, 'Live my life to



the full' was performed so well, it is being entered into Britain's Got Talent - how exciting! The children had a very enjoyable morning and were taught dance moves to accompany the song from the House of Dance team.

Year 5 music performance

Year 5 have been having music sessions delivered by Mr Barry and Mrs Barraclough this term and the children wowed the school and parents with a delightful concert. The children have shown enjoyment and commitment with the instruments and we hope to provide them with opportunities to take their interest further in the future.



If you are interested in your child continuing to play an instrument and would be willing to pay for individual tuition, please let school know and we will contact Mr Barry and Mrs Barraclough for you.

'StoryHouse' Public Speaking Event



Three children from Holly Class, Lily, Millie and George, were selected to take part in the first annual speech competition in Storyhouse. The children had been practicing for the last month and it all came together on Tuesday 28th November. They competed against 12 other children from across Chester and they were amazing! It was so much fun taking part and sharing their views on the theme "life is a journey not a destination". The Mayor of Chester as well as two other judges were there asking the children questions and they commented on how confident and well written their speeches were. Well done to all involved, how exciting to have taken part in the first ever speech competition in Chester.

'Out of this world' news!!!

Year 5 are over the moon! They reached their 'Peake' when they opened twitter on Friday morning to see Astronaut Tim Peake had responded to one of their tweets. Feeling star struck, they immediately tweeted him back to invite him to Science week. Watch this 'space'!

COMING UP IN DECEMBER

Xmas Fair

The 'Friends of Upton Westlea' will be holding their annual Christmas Fair on Friday 1st December at 3.15p.m. There will be all the usual favourites with stalls, raffles, tombolas, refreshments and of course the chance for the children to visit Santa. Please come along and support the school. Remember 100% of the money raised will be ploughed back into activities for the children of Upton Westlea.



School Xmas Dinner



This year's Christmas dinner will take place on Wednesday 13th December. This is always a lovely occasion and one that the staff and children enjoy immensely. If you would like your child to have a Christmas dinner then please keep your eyes open for the flyer coming out soon which will contain full details.

KS1 perform 'Prickly Hay'

This year's Infant Nativity is entitled 'Prickly Hay' and promises to live up to the usual high standard. The children have just started to practice for the production. There are two performances for friends and family to attend. They are as follows:

- 10.00a.m. on Thursday 14th December
- 6.00p.m. On Thursday 14th December

Eden Christmas Performance

This years Eden Christmas performance will be taking place on Monday 18th December at 1.30p.m. I'm sure the production will be up to Mrs Wright's usual standard with all the children participating – it is going to be a magical performance.

Early Years perform the 'Wriggly Nativity'

At 10.00a.m. on Tuesday 19th December the Nursery and Reception will be performing their 'Wriggly Nativity'. This is always one of the highlights of the festive period and is well worth popping along to.

Tissues at the ready!!!

Xmas parties

The traditional Christmas parties are planned for the final Wednesday and Thursday of the term. Foundation Stage and Infants will be having their party on the afternoon of Wednesday 20th December with the juniors having theirs on the afternoon of Thursday 21st December.



Carols by Candlelight



Our Carols by Candlelight event will take place on Wednesday 20th December at 5.00p.m. We would like to invite all the children to return to school to join in Key Stage 2's Christmas celebrations. The KS2 children will be led outside by the choir to sing a selection of old and new festive songs holding festive lanterns (LED light, no candles involved, don't worry!!). Mulled wine and mince pies will be available in the hall afterwards.

End of term Pantomime – 'Rapunzel'

To celebrate the end of this 'very' long term!! The 'Friends of Upton Westlea' have kindly paid for a production of Rapunzel to come and perform in front of the whole school. I am sure it will prove to be an amazing experience to end a very profitable and hard-working term.

EARLY WARNING!!

Year 2 parents will be invited to join their child for **lunch on 18th January** – more details to follow nearer the time.

School will finish at **1.00p.m.** on Friday 22nd December and re-open on Monday 8th January.

Thank you for your continued support.

K Carruthers

To: Upton Westlea Primary School

I am in receipt of the November 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 regards to school life.

Signed:

Child's Name: Class:

Comments:

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December dates at a glance:

Date	Class	Event
1 st December	All classes	Christmas Fair @ 3.10p.m.
13 th December	All classes	Christmas Dinner
14 th December	Willow and Ash classes	'Prickly Hay' Christmas Performances @ 10.00a.m. and 6.00p.m.
18 th December	Eden	Christmas Performance
19 th December	Apple and Blossom classes	'Wiggly Nativity' @ 9.30a.m.
20 th December	Apple, Blossom, Willow and Ash	Christmas Party
20 th December	Hazel, Birch, Holly and Oak classes plus the KS1 choir	Carols by Candlelight @ 5.00p.m.
21 st December	Hazel, Birch, Holly and Oak classes	Christmas Party
22 nd December	All classes	'Rapunzel' Pantomime

