



Upton Westlea Primary School Parents' Newsletter December 2017



Welcome

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

Fantastic News

I'm sure you would all like to join me in congratulating Mrs McCracken and her husband on the birth of their beautiful baby girl, Esme Carol on 02.12.17 at 9.42a.m. weighing in at 8lbs 5ozs. I am sure Mrs McCracken will be popping in to see us in the new year.



More Fantastic News

I am delighted to inform you that two of our Year 2 pupils are due to be published. Honey Carline and Nikita Koshy from Year 2 are having their poems 'Pop, Pop, Pop' and 'Tail Power' published in the 'Little Riddlers – Poetry Explorers' book on 31st March 2018. We are very excited to see the poems in print and congratulate both Honey and Nikita on their fantastic achievement – Well done.

Yet more Fantastic News



Well we've been waiting for just over two years and finally our OFSTED inspection took place on the 21st and 22nd November. I am over the moon to tell you that we have been judged as a GOOD school. The full report can now be found on our school website and on the OFSTED website. Enjoy – it really is a good read!!!

Huge thanks must go to the children and parents who have supported the staff and governors on this journey – we will continue to improve and work hard to provide the children with the education they deserve. Thank you 😊

A message from our Chair of Governors, Dr Adrian Thorp:

'It has been as usual, a very full half term with the run up to Christmas but also with the inspection by Ofsted. Before I continue with my usual blog of what the Governing Body has been involved with since my last update. I want to take the opportunity to thank all the staff (including teachers, teaching assistants, welfare, cleaning and kitchen staff) for their continued hard work. An Ofsted inspection is a very gruelling two days and it's a culmination of two years of exceptionally hard work, so on behalf of the Governing Body a massive thank you.

The Governing Body this term have continued to hold regular meetings and have included updating policy and procedures to uphold the educational value of the teaching and safeguarding of the children. We have assessed on the Teaching and Learning Committee, the quality of the teaching not just in the core subjects (English and Maths) but also the non-core subjects. We have held a budget meeting showing that although very stretched we are within budget and able to maintain the high quality of teaching that we are striving for. In essence currently the school's Governing Body are very happy with the quality of teaching and the attainment of the children although we have pointed some further areas of development.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.'

Attendance Awards

Attendance continues to feature high on the school agenda. I am pleased to tell you that the winners of the attendance awards for the Autumn 2 half term are:

96%+ winners – Jessica Smith (Y2), Ayyub Uddin (Y4), Shannon Unwin (Y5)

They receive a £10 book token.

The class with the best attendance this term was Year 4 – well done!

CLASS CHAMPIONS



Huge Congratulations to our 'Class Champions' for this half term. The children received an invitation to lunch through the post plus a small gift from Mrs Carruthers to celebrate their achievement – Well Done 😊 (We had a great time with lots of Party poppers, crackers and food. The children shared some very funny jokes with Mrs Carruthers particularly George!! 😊 😊)

Reception – George Hope

Year 1 – Florence Baldock

Year 2 – Maćie Wąkeling

Year 3 – Kira Smith

Year 4 – Evie Sparke

Year 5 – Euan Morgan

Year 6 – Habibah Masquood

Eden – Ram Saladi



RESULTS OF PARENT QUESTIONNAIRE

144 Questionnaires were returned.

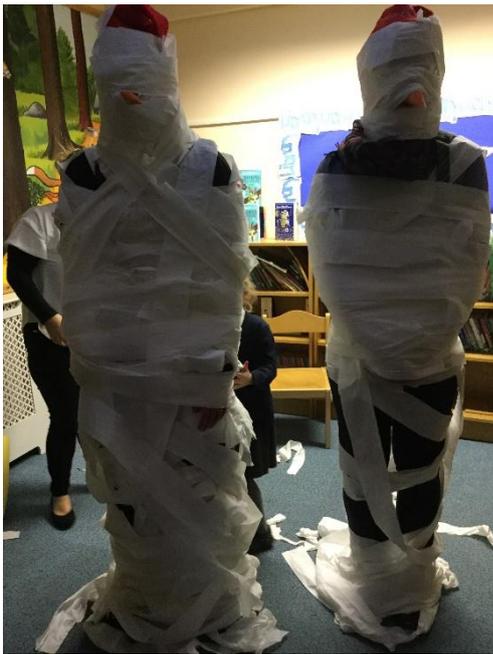
	(Please tick)	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1	My child enjoys school	65%	31%	2%	2%	
2	The school keeps my child safe	70%	28%	2%		
3	The school informs me about my child's progress	49%	47%	3%	1%	
4	My child is making enough progress at this school	48%	46%	5%	1%	
5	The teaching is good at this school	60%	38%	2%		
6	The school helps me to support my child's learning	56%	40%	4%		
7	The school helps my child to have a healthy lifestyle	56%	38%	6%		
8	The school makes sure that my child is well prepared for the future(e.g. changing year group, changing school etc)	49%	41%	10%		
9	The school meets my child's particular needs	53%	45%	2%		
10	The school deals effectively with unacceptable behaviour	51%	42%	4%	2.5%	0.5%
11	The school takes account of my suggestions and concerns	50%	41%	9%		
12	The school is led and managed effectively	57%	38%	5%		

13	Overall, I am happy with my child's experience at this school	65%	33%	2%		
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Thank you so much for all your responses- we are working hard on any comments / suggestions made.

DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Xmas Fair



Huge thanks must go to the PTA particularly Mrs L McCluskey for organising such a fantastic Xmas fair. I am delighted to inform you that over £700 was raised. It was amazing to have a visit from Father Christmas (ably supported by two part-time elves Miss Dalton and Mrs Hunt!!). Mr Moss and Mr Newman really got into the festive spirit and agreed to be dressed up as 'snowmen' – they were real sports, they got incredibly hot (despite being snowmen!!!!). Eden was transformed into a beauty parlour with hair braiding, face painting, tattoos and even a nail painting bar! Lots of new games were introduced including 'Poke the Tree' and throwing snowballs at Mrs Lennon and Mr Christian.

Finally, huge congratulations to those of you who recognised some of the staff as babies – weren't we cute?!!!!

Samaritans work with Year 5 and 6



On Tuesday 12th December Year 5 and 6 had a visit from some representatives from the Samaritans. Both year groups had a very interesting morning. Year 6 discussed worries and who we talk to for help and Year 5 discussed how to be a good listener and why we should listen to others.

Zach wrote all the people he could trust to talk to on an outline of his hand.

School Xmas Dinner



Wow what can I say – the Christmas dinner this year was absolutely fantastic. Huge thanks must go to Reha and her team for dishing up (with a bit of help – or hinderance from the teachers and TAs!!!) a superb meal. The children enjoyed being served by the staff, pulling crackers and listening to music as they ate. A fantastic meal enjoyed by all.

KS1 perform 'Prickly Hay'



This year's Infant Nativity was entitled 'Prickly Hay'.

The singing and dancing was absolutely superb. I've never seen a nativity with cowboys and a hoedown in it before!!!



The acting from all the characters particularly the 'Sams' and 'Shrews' was second to none – so many lines to learn – Well done!!

Eden Christmas Performance



Eden's Christmas performance 'Elf on the Shelf' took place on Monday 18th December. I have to say we have some VERY talented children in Eden particularly Brandon who sang his very own solo – it truly was magical. Well done to ALL the children and staff in Eden it really was superb. 😊

Early Years perform the 'Wriggly Nativity'



Oh, how cute were Nursery and Reception?!?! And what amazing singing and dancing!!

What a superb production of the 'Wriggly Nativity'. Considering the age of the children they did remarkably well to perform in front of such a large audience. All the children made the teachers and TAs incredibly proud – Well Done 😊

I will feed back on our 'Carols by Candlelight' and Pantomime in our first parent newsletter of 2018!!

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

Finally, I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all staff.

K Carruthers

To: Upton Westlea Primary School

I am in receipt of the December 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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