



Upton Westlea Primary School Parents' Newsletter January 2019



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 2019 sees us all healthy, prosperous and successful and sees our school continue to go from strength to strength. The staff and I would also like to thank you for all your generous gifts and cards at Xmas it was very thoughtful –

Thank you.

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 we will send children home if they have been sent back to school too early.

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 and fixed penalties are now being issued for holidays taken in term time – again this is a Government directive to ensure children attend school.

Following on from the above I have noticed that children are still arriving late in the morning. The gates and 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.

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.

Please can you also be aware that if sweets or an excessive amount of chocolate are put in lunch boxes the children will not be allowed to eat them and they will be returned home in the lunch box. Thank you for your support in this matter.

A message from our Cheshire West and Chester Road Safety Officers:

Many thanks for signing up to our Parent Parking Charter last term and promising to keep our children safe. Our New Year Road Safety message is about:

Phone Smart

It's never clever to use a mobile phone while driving. Driving is a highly unpredictable and a risky activity, so it requires full concentration at all times. Drivers who divide their attention between their phone and the road are significantly increasing their risk of causing a devastating crash.

New research from psychologists at the University of Sussex has found that driving while talking on a hands-free phone can be just as distracting as talking on a hand-held mobile. The study, published in the Transportation Research Journal, shows that drivers who are engaged in conversations that spark their visual imagination are much less able to spot and react to potential hazards. When the drivers involved in the study were asked about a subject that required them to visualise it, they focused on a smaller area of the road ahead of them and failed to see hazards, even when they looked directly at them.

The researchers claim their evidence shows conversations may use more of the brain's visual processing. Having a conversation which requires a driver to use their visual imagination creates competition for the brain's processing capacity that is also focusing on driving, this results in drivers missing road hazards that they might otherwise have spotted.

Never use your phone near our school.

And do not forget you can use the phone while you are walking but when you are on the road then you must put it in your pocket. That's all you need to do.

Carols by Candlelight

It seems like so long ago now but although our Carols by Candlelight had to be held inside due to the cold weather it was still a very magical experience. The hall looked spectacular with the sparkling lights and lanterns and the singing was amazing. The children who read, did with expression and confidence and our soloists were absolutely fantastic. Special mention should go to Evaeh, Alisha, Sophie and Evie who sang an amazing song and I'm sure brought a 'tear to many an eye'!!! Huge thanks must go to Miss Dalton, Mrs Carline and Mr Moss for organising such a wonderful event – Thank you!

Panto

Huge thanks must go to the PTA for providing our end of year treat. The children all watched a special production of 'Elves and the Shoemaker'. It was incredible, we actually had a cheeky elf 'flying' in our school hall!!! It was a very creative and impressive production.

JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS

Amazing Activities

Miss Dalton wrote 'Westlea's choir have been very busy learning all the songs for this years Amasing showcase in March! Some of our children have been and represented our choir at a range of workshops to produce pieces for the showcase. Pearl attended a dance workshop, Millie attended a drama workshop and four children went along to a filming session for Britain's Got Talent, singing one of the songs. They have all been extremely busy!!'

Reception Parents Lunch



On Thursday 17th January we welcomed some of our Reception parents in for lunch, they enjoyed an 'All Around the World' menu. Thank you for joining us.

Choir sing at Upton Village Hall



Westlea's choir have also performed at Upton Village Hall! They sang a range of songs to their audience including a sneak preview of the songs for the Amasing showcase, a well-loved Greatest Showman tune and our very own Westlea Anthem.

Football v Tarporley



Mr Newman wrote 'On Monday 21st January, children from Year 5 and 6 took part in a league football match against Tarporley. The boys displayed maturity and support throughout the match, representing our school so positively. Although we ended up losing the game, the team put in so much effort, had a number of opportunities to change the score line and made Upton Westlea very proud.'

In-house Dodgeball Competition

Competing against one another as they represented their school houses, children across both key stages took part in an intra-school dodgeball tournament. This was led brilliantly by our Key Stage 2 Sports Ambassadors who had the opportunity to explain the rules clearly and referee the games fairly. All children throughout school thoroughly enjoyed taking part, displaying fantastic teamwork and attitude.



Y5 Public Speaking Competition



Mrs McCracken wrote 'On Tuesday 22nd January, three pupils from Year 5 competed in a public speaking competition against 3 other school at The Storyhouse, Chester. They all did a fantastic speech about outsiders, sharing their experience, showing a good understanding of what being an outsider is and advice on how we can prevent this. Evaeh came third on the day and went through to the final.'

Mrs Carruthers wrote 'I took Evaeh to the final on Friday 25th January – she was the last to speak and answer questions from the three judges who included Andrew Moffat who wrote 'No Outsiders'. All 12 finalists were incredible, the confidence, professionalism and talent from all 12 was a joy to watch. I had the pleasure of sitting with Evaeh's Gran and

she was brimming with pride. I am delighted to inform you that Evaeh came 4th overall – Well done, we are ALL hugely proud of you!!



E-Safety Officer Training

Sonnie and Sienna from Year 6 attended E-Safety officer training with Mrs Barratt on Thursday 24th January at Police HQ in Winsford. Here is what they had to say:

'We looked at videos about keeping our passwords safe, we played a counter game about what is right and what is wrong. We played 'people' bingo and had a word search race. Most importantly we discussed what we like and don't like on the internet and watched videos about E-Safety. We got certificates, a badge and had our photograph taken with a police officer. It was fun!'

Year 3 attend a workshop on Oral Hygiene with Healthbox



Mr Moss wrote 'On Thursday 24th, Hazel Class had a visit from a lady called Sarah. Sarah works at a company called Healthbox CIC, who provide health and wellbeing services. Sarah is a Qualified Oral Health Practitioner and came to talk to us about how we can keep our teeth healthy and well. During our oral hygiene session we talked about cavities and how to stop them from happening. Sarah said that we need to use a pea-size amount of toothpaste on our brush and brush for two minutes (one minute for the top and one minute for the bottom). One top tip that she gave us was to spit but never rinse because rinsing would get rid of all the fluoride which needs to stay in our mouths. Flossing is also really important (flossing your teeth, not the dance move – this will not give you a healthy mouth). Another top tip from Sarah was to only eat sugar at meal times; this will stop us from consuming too much sugar and rotting our teeth. If we do get hungry or thirsty in between meals, then a piece of fruit and some water is a good idea! Lots of our favourite snacks



and drinks contain lots of added sugar which can be bad for our teeth, so like Sarah said, we need to keep them to meal times.

February dates at a glance:

Date	Class	Event
4 th February 2019	Holly Class	Altru-Drama Workshop – British Values – Democracy
5 th February	Hazel, Birch, Holly and Oak classes	Internet Safety Workshops with PCSO Jenna Tapley
6 th February	All classes	School Photographs
11 th February	Holly Class	'Into the Woods' Play Performance at Upton High
13 th & 14 th February	All classes	Sculpture Days (non-uniform)
14 th February	All classes: Blossom, Apple, Willow and Ash 5.15p.m. – 6.00p.m. Hazel, Birch, Holly and Oak 6.15p.m. – 7.15p.m.	School Disco
18 th – 22 nd February	HALF TERM	
26 th February	Representatives from Holly and Oak Classes	Quick Sticks Hockey at Chester Uni
28 th February	Representatives from Birch and Hazel Classes	Athletics at Chester Uni

Thank you for your continued support.

K Carruthers

To: Upton Westlea Primary School

I am in receipt of the January 2019 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: