



Upton Westlea Primary School Parents' Newsletter March 2023



We have had another very busy month at Upton Westlea. The children have worked extremely hard and been very busy doing lots of interesting things throughout March.

World Book Day

Birch Class had a fantastic World Book Day! We created some 'World Book Day Bunting' featuring some of our favourite books and their characters. Thank you to all the children for dressing up. We had some fabulous costumes ranging from footballers, to Hermione Granger! We had a booktastic day!



Blossom (Nursery) had a wonderful day celebrating WBD. They all made a fantastic effort dressing up in their PJs or as a book character! They had a special treat when Year 4 children came to visit us in nursery to share some of their own books. Some of the Nursery children even returned the favour and read to them! They also enjoyed making character puppets of the 3 little pigs and the big, bad wolf to then retell the story.

Ash class had an amazing world book day earlier in March! We came to school in our pjs or book character costumes and brought in our favourite books. We spent the morning making our world book day bunting, drawing our favourite book characters, writing why we like reading or writing about our favourite stories. In the afternoon, we welcomed year six to share stories with us, some of us even read to them!



We read the book 'Our Tower' where the children leave their tower block on an adventure to see what is in the trees. We used this story to inspire us to write questions to the Tree Grown Man and then using clay we went to the forest school area and created our own Tree Grown Men. We finished off our day by sharing books with the children in Year 5.



Year 3 put in a lot of effort by dressing up as their favourite book characters. They looked amazing!!! The highlight of the day was reading our books to the Reception children. They also took part in a live reading event and designed some World Book Day bunting to put up around school. We also launched a new reading-themed Monopoly game in class where reading at home gives you a chance to win extra dojos or take a chance card to complete a reading challenge.



We thoroughly enjoyed World Book day in Eden and even had a special delivery of Dragon Eggs and a special story to share. The dragon left us an egg each to take home to look after. We were then visited by our friends in Year 6 and we shared our favourite stories. What a fabulous day celebrating our love of reading.



Cricket Taster Day

Despite the snow, we still had a great time practising our cricket skills during our cricket taster session with Chance2Shine. Year 6 had a great time playing the different games and learning new skills.



Year 1 had a fantastic time during their cricket session. They developed lots of their skills, throwing, catching and balancing. Ash class really enjoyed the cricket taster session! We took part in different activities that improved all the skills we would need to play. LOTS of us wanted to sign up!



During our session, Year 5 practised throwing different sized balls at the targets. The best part was trying to balance different objects on a cricket bat. It started off easy but then got hard when we had to balance a big tennis ball on the cricket bat.



Hazel Class definitely proved they are superstar cricketers with their balancing, batting, bowling and catching skills during our superb cricket day. Thank you Dynamos Cricket for such a memorable session!



Year 2 Health box session



Ash class loved their visit from Healthbox! We talked about the importance of having breakfast and good things we could have. We then made our very own crunchy monkeys! Yummy!



Year 5 Residential Trip to Conway



Some of the year 5 children spent two nights away at Conway centres for a residential trip. Whilst we were there, the children had the opportunity to do lots of new but fun activities. These ranged from canoeing to learning about how the tides are effected, raft building to further improve our teamwork, a blindfolded activity where the children rely on their peers and senses to complete the challenge and finally creating a planetarium before heading home. The children excelled my expectations and were a joy to have!

Family member to school



The children in Willow class had a great time sharing their science learning with family members. We completed different challenges to explore and identify the use of our senses.

Birch Class loved having their family members attend a science lesson during British Science Week! We engaged with the theme of 'Connections' by discussing the STEM fields and which job roles fit into each. We've got lots of budding scientists, engineers, mathematicians and children who want to work with technology in our class! We then connected this exploration to a building activity. We used our scientific investigational skills to experiment with different shapes to see which would make the best paper bridge! The bridge had to stand between two dictionaries, twenty centimetres apart and hold some weights. The children and their parents came up with some fantastic bridge designs. Thank you to all of the family members who attended!



Oak Class had a brilliant afternoon during family member to school day. Fantastic discussions on our tables with lots of family members there to support the discussion about fossils and what they might tell us about various animals and plants. The children enjoyed being fossil hunters and palaeontologists - granted it was searching for whole chocolate chips in cookies but great fun all the same! Thank you to everyone who came!



Ash class had a very exciting science themed family member to school afternoon! We started with different activities that followed a British Science Week theme- connections. We had food chains, matching animals to their habitats, design an invention, an information station and our confusing cans experiment. After an explore, we took advantage of all our extra adults and made our science week posters.

In Year 5, we had a very busy afternoon when parents and adults came to school. We completed tasks around the theme for the week which was science week. We looked in depth at what a scientist may look like and discussed the idea of stereotyping people and jobs. We then completed a task related to the moon. The children and their adults created a moon dial before competing in a quiz. The children finished the day by planning and creating a connections poster which was related to the science week theme. The children really enjoyed having the adults in the room and this was a great opportunity for us to display how hard we work in Year 5.

Art Days



This half term, Ash class focused on our printing skills during our art day. We looked at the Victorian artist and designer, William Morris, and talked about why his work was so popular and exciting. We looked at his famous patterns that we used to make wallpaper before using string and foam or cardboard to make our own collagraphs. In the afternoon, we used our home made collagraph to make our own wallpaper prints.



Year 3 kick-started the Spring 2 half term with a Matisse-inspired collage. They practised using warm and cold colours when cutting out and creating either a whole scene or a specific animal. Matisse described his work as 'drawing with scissors' and Hazel Class banished their pencils to imitate this method. What great motor skills they demonstrated in order to free-style their creations!





Birch Class had some lovely Art Days in the last half term of Spring. Our focus for this half term was sculpture. In our topic lessons, we've been exploring volcanoes so we recreated some through art! We used paper cups, newspaper and mod roc to create our sculptures and oh my, weren't they amazing! The mod roc gave our sculptures an amazing, rocky texture which we painted to make them really stand out. Finally, orange and yellow tissue paper was stuck in the top to show lava erupting out of the crater. Mod roc is really messy which the children loved exploring with, but I have to say, the clean-up effort from all children was outstanding. We can't wait for our next Art Days!



In Year 5 this half term, we looked at the artist Alexander Calder. We looked at what type of artist he was and tried to create a piece in his style. We successfully created mobile solar systems and the children showed brilliant resilience to get these completed. Well done Year 5!

Great art day in Year 6 - we worked on collages based on ourselves! The classroom looked a bit of a mess with all the different materials but the artwork was amazing. We explored different themes first so looked at monochrome, shades of favourite colour, writing and images.





The children in Eden have been using the book 'The Dragon Machine' as inspiration for their Art this half term. They have designed their dragons and used papier mache to create the scaly skin, which they then painted and glazed. They also used clay to create their own Dragons and dragon eyes and inserted sparkly green gems to make them look realistic.

Year 3 Blue Planet Aquarium

Year 3 deepened their understanding of the sea this half term during a trip to Blue Planet Aquarium. From the excitement of the tanks to being surrounded by sharks in the tunnel, their squeals of delight were infectious. Hazel Class also thoroughly impressed the Blue Planet teachers with their enthusiasm and engagement during their classroom session on the 5 Rs....how to reduce, reuse, recycle, refuse and repair plastic products.



Book Fair

A huge thank you to everyone who supported our book fair. With your purchases, we have now got just over £400 worth of rewards to spend on books for our classrooms. We can't wait to get the new books into the classrooms during the Summer Term!



Easter raffle and Easter Bonnet Competition



What an amazing and colourful assembly we had on Wednesday afternoon. The children's bonnets were amazing! It was so hard to choose winners as all the bonnets were fantastic. Thanks to all your support the Easter Egg Raffle and the Easter Bonnet Competition raised just over £150 for school. Congratulations to everyone who took part and our winners!



Our Easter Bonnet winners!

Year 2 Grosvenor Museum Trip

Ash class had an amazing day at the Grosvenor Museum with our toys through time workshop! We explored the toys, made our own kaleidoscope and viewed the period house! We loved reading all the interesting information and asked a LOT of questions!



What's been happening in Club?

This term in the Treehouse, we have been busy making chocolate crispy cakes and making yummy pizzas for snack. We also enjoyed a few fun evenings celebrating Easter- we had a picture hunt which children had a tasty treat afterwards, and some games with an Easter twist. Duck, Duck goose became Bunny Bunny hop and we had egg and spoon races.



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 Spring 2 half term are:

96%+ winners – Luke (Yr 4), Reuben (Yr 1) and Khalid (Yr 3) – Well done!

They all received a £10 token.

April dates at a glance:

Date	Class	Event
17 th April 2023	All classes	School reopens after Easter Holidays
18 th April 2023	Year 3 and Year 4	Condoover Residential Parent meeting
20 th April 2023	All classes	PTA Coffee Afternoon @ 2:30pm
27 th April 2023	Year 3	Nature Day with Passion for Learning

Thank you for your continued support.

V Field

To: Upton Westlea Primary School

I am in receipt of the January 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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