



Upton Westlea Primary School Parents' Newsletter December 2023



Message from Mrs Carruthers:

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

Huge Congratulations to our Attendance winners for Autumn 2:

Violet (Y4), Sophia (Y2) and Poppy (R)

Message from Public Health:

As we go into winter, common illnesses can keep children and teenagers away from their classmates and studies. One of the best things we can all do to avoid illness is to practice good hand hygiene.

Good hand hygiene helps stop infections from spreading, which means less disrupted learning time.

Teach your child to wash hands properly for 20 seconds and stay away from others when sick. The [e-bug resources](#) for all ages can help you to explain and discuss hygiene habits – and why they are important – to your child or teenager.

To avoid catching bugs or passing it on to others wash your hands frequently and thoroughly with soap and warm water. This is most important following an episode of diarrhoea or vomiting, after using the toilet, before eating or preparing food, after changing nappies, as well as cleaning up vomit or diarrhoea. Alcohol-based hand sanitisers are not effective against some infections.

Anyone who has diarrhoea and/or vomiting should stay at home. Do not return to work or send children to school until 48 hours after the symptoms have stopped and do not visit your GP or hospital while symptomatic. If you are concerned about your symptoms, talk to your GP by phone, contact NHS 111 or visit the [NHS web pages](#). For useful handwashing tips please have a look at the [following NHS video](#)

Class News:

Nursery: Blossom Class have been very busy making the classroom Christmassy! They made a fabulous effort decorating our tree and the role play kitchen! They also did an amazing performance at our Christmas sing along – With some great moves and actions too!

Reception: Apple Class have had a very busy December learning the songs and actions for our Christmas play. The children were very pleased with themselves as were we, it takes confidence to get up on stage in front of everyone! We have had a fantastic party, everyone joined in and won a prize for taking part in all the games!

Year 1: Willow Class worked hard putting their Christmas Performance together and they did 3 fantastic shows. We wrote our own diary as if we were Nibbles the book monster. We finished off our half term with art days about Mondrian and DT making healthy festive fruit skewers.

Year 2: December in KS1 is always a very busy time! The beginning of the month saw us begin to rehearse the songs for our Christmas Play in our music lessons. By the end of the term we were rehearsing on the stage, preparing for our performances! The children did so well and we are all very proud of them!

As well as the play, Year 2 have continued their learning about Owls in preparation for their fact-file to be written in English. The children collected all of their facts and sorted them into the four sections before writing and sharing their fact files. In Science, the children learnt about animals including humans and explored things such as life cycles and keeping clean. The children have really enjoyed their History work all about The Gunpowder plot and had A LOT of very interesting questions! We can't wait to see what the new year brings.

Year 3: Hazel Class have been writing some exciting character and setting descriptions this month to start a sequel to our book, 'The Winter's Child'. We have also had a lot of wintery fun by creating Christmas/Winter cards in the style of Andy Warhol for our Art Days by using repeated patterns, bright colours, bold lines and basing our designs on what we see in popular culture (Pop Art).

Year 4: We have had a busy month in Birch class. We have been going to our weekly swimming lessons and all of the children are trying really hard. The children have done some amazing writing in English about our text, 'Leon and the Place Between' and wrote a diary entry from the perspective of Leon. We have also done lots of festive activities, including our Christmas party!

Year 5: Another busy period where the children have worked extremely hard on producing their bridges in our DT. We also looked at collage in art and the children produced some fantastic pieces of work. What a successful term we have had in year 5! All the children have worked extremely hard and have impressed me in all areas especially in retaining their knowledge about the Anglo-Saxons. Keep it up next term year 5!

Year 6: Oak Class had a very busy but productive art day last week. They created some effective Christmas / winter prints using inks - some could easily be made into Christmas cards!

Eden: Eden had their final Horse Riding session of the year and was treated by a visit from Santa, along with lots of fun and games. The festive theme continued when they helped to create their own Christmas show - The Eden Express. The children were absolutely amazing performing for the parents and were all superstars.

School News:

A huge thank you to all those parents and children who attended our Xmas Fair. I'm delighted to inform you that we raised over £700. This money plus the money raised from Movie Night will go towards a practitioner, Jess from the Storyhouse working with our children on a weekly basis. In January Jess will be working with Year 5 on their Viking topic.

The children enjoyed their annual Xmas dinner on Wednesday 6th December - a huge thanks to the Edsential team for such a delicious meal.

The play and sing-a-long performances from Nursery Eden, Reception and KS1 were outstanding - the children sang, danced and acted their little hearts out. There was lots of unpredictability which resulted in a lot of smiles and laughter from the staff and audience - as always your children were amazing.

It was disappointing that we had to cancel the KS2 'Carols by Candlelight' due to lack of attendance - as a staff we have already looked at a different idea for next year where events will take place during the school day.

The majority of school also enjoyed a trip to see 'Cinderella' at the Storyhouse. The children behaved impeccably and really enjoyed the pantomime joining in with lots of the songs and dancing in their seats.

Headteacher Awards this month have been awarded to...

Murray (Y6), Nathan (Y3), Mahdi (R)

Dates for January 2024:

Date	Class	Event
Tues 2 nd Jan 2024	Whole School	New term begins
Tues 9 th Jan 2024	Birch Class (Year 4)	Forest School begins
Mon 15 th Jan 2024	Whole School	Poetry Day
Wed 17 th Jan 2024	Eden	Horse Riding begins for some children
Thurs 18 th Jan 2024	Whole School	Pizza Pasta Fantasia Day
Mon 22 nd Jan 2024	Holly Class (Year 5)	Puberty Workshops with Healthbox

On behalf of the staff and governors, I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas. Stay Safe and I look forward to seeing you all in 2024.

K Carruthers

