



Upton Westlea Primary School Parents' Newsletter January 2024



Message from Mrs Carruthers:

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 and governors at the school. Let us hope that 2024 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.

Thank You!

Class News:

Nursery: In Blossom Class, we tried to take part in the RSPB garden birdwatch but the weather was so windy it was very difficult! We made our own bird feeders and actually did our own birdwatch around the classroom! The children marked off the birds they found such as robins, blackbirds and starlings (darlings some called them!) Towards the end of the week we did manage to hang our bird feeders in nursery garden and saw a squirrel, blackbirds and Great Tits.

Reception: Apple Class have had a fun few weeks, we've been exploring what's in the woods! We read Goldilocks and the 3 Bears and tried porridge for snack. We have created observational drawings of the squirrel with pastels and written fact booklets. The snowy day was great fun, we even managed to build a snowman, we warmed up afterwards with hot bagels!

Year 1: Willow Class have been enjoying their new theme 'At the Zoo' this month. We have been learning about the history of Chester Zoo and what inspired George Mottershead to open the zoo. This has linked into our science learning about animals and their features. In writing, we have been looking at using the prefix un- and have begun to use our redraft red to check our work for capital letters and full stops. In maths we have been learning to add and subtract up to 20 using different methods.

Year 2: January has been another busy month in Ash Class! We've really enjoyed the beginning of our book in English- The Dragon Machine! This began with a mysterious egg arriving! We have also begun our new Geography unit on maps and have enjoyed looking at a range of maps and even drawing our own. The children have continued to work really hard with their Maths work, completing their chapters on multiplication and division. We are really working hard on addition and subtraction with renaming in morning maths and love it when the children are practising at home!

Year 3: Hazel Class have been delving into the past this month as they have explored how people lived in the Stone Age. Ask us about what people ate, wore and where they lived. We have also been using column method multiplication and bus stop method to divide in our Maths lessons. In English, we have been using prefixes and speech to make our writing more interesting. Well done Year 3!

Year 4: We have had a great start to the new year in Birch Class. The children have really enjoyed reading our English book 'Escape from Pompeii' and learning the history behind the story. In Maths, we have continued with our multiplication and division topic and have learnt how to divide 3-digit numbers. We have also continued with our weekly swimming lessons and everybody has been trying really hard.

Year 5: This half term Holly Class have been working extremely hard looking at relative clauses in English and beginning our fraction work in Maths. Also, we have been extremely fortunate to have Jess from the Story house come in and deliver our Viking lessons. The children have looked at lots of interesting things including how and where The Vikings lived, how they travelled to Britain and how they approached battle. The children have loved this and enjoy the different types of learning such as role play, crafts and much more!

Year 6: Oak Class got fully involved in Poetry Day this half term. They studied the poem 'Wind' by Ted Hughes and did some excellent performances in class and to the whole school using expression and actions to support their understanding.

Eden: A wonderful start to the new year with lots of hard work from Eden children. We started our term looking at the retelling of the famous story 'The Snowman.' The children engaged in some fabulous speaking and listening activities which built up lots of opportunities to write. Our super snowy writing must have encouraged all that snow fall, which made our weekly forest school session even more fun. We even built our own snowman. A different group have started their Horse Riding sessions and have made an excellent start to their block sessions. A fantastic start to 2024 for the Eden Superstars.

School News:

I am sure a few of you are wondering where Gary, our site maintenance officer has been. After a short illness Gary has decided to take Early Retirement and subsequently left on the 31st December 2023. I'm pleased to inform you that he is now fighting fit and ready to enjoy his well-earned retirement. I'm sure you will join me in thanking him for his support and dedication to Upton Westlea over the last 10 years and we wish him all the best for the future. As a result of Gary's departure I am delighted to inform you that we have appointed Mr Keith Conlan as our new Site Maintenance Officer. He will take up his post on Thursday 1st February.

Headteacher Awards this month have been awarded to...

Jacob (Y1), Zubaidah (Y6), Yassin (Y1), Buba (Y4), Imogen (Y6)

Dates for February 2024:

Date	Class	Event
1 st Feb 2024	Birch Class (Y4)	Roman Experience in Chester
1 st Feb 2024	Blossom (Nursery) and Apple (Reception) classes	Oral Hygiene Workshops with Healthbox
5 th Feb – 9 th Feb 2024	Whole School	Mental Health Week

5 th Feb & 8 th Feb 2024	Oak Class (Y6) – 12 children	Bikeability
5 th Feb 2024	Oak Class (Y6) & Holly Class (Y5)	Internet Safety talks from our local PCSO
6 th Feb 2024	Oak Class (Y6)	Trip to Chester and Storyhouse
6 th Feb 2024	Whole School	Internet Safety Day
6 th Feb 2024 p.m.	Oak Class (Y6) & Holly Class (Y5)	Mental Health Talk on Dementia & Alzheimer @ 2.00p.m. Parents are invited to attend.
7 th Feb 2024	Whole School	School Photographs
8 th Feb 2024	Eden	Parents Coffee Afternoon @ 2.00p.m.
9 th Feb 2024	Whole School	'Express Yourself' Non-Uniform Day (£1.00 donation for Place2Be)
15 th Feb 2024	Years 1 to 6	Visit to Chester Zoo
16 th Feb 2024	Whole School	Finish at 3.00p.m. for Half Term
26 th Feb 2024	Whole School	Return to School

Thank you for your continued support.

K Carruthers