



Upton Westlea Primary School Parents' Newsletter February 2024



Message from Mrs Carruthers:

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

Reminder from Public Health:

Due to an increase in measles cases across the country this year, we are encouraging everyone to check that they and their children have had 2 doses of the MMR vaccine. The MMR vaccine is a free, safe and effective way to protect against measles, mumps and rubella. We need you to help spread this message throughout your early years/education community to help increase vaccine uptake as measles can have serious and sometimes fatal consequences. We would be grateful if you could share the attached letter with parents, carers and staff in your setting to help raise awareness. Also attached are some images and wording which we would encourage you to use on your social media channels to help raise awareness.

If anyone is unsure about their vaccination status, or if they need to book a vaccine, they should be advised to contact their GP practice to check and book an appointment. There is no upper age limit for vaccination.

To find out more about childhood vaccinations, please visit the NHS website:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/nhs-vaccinations-and-when-to-have-them/>

Class News:

Nursery: Blossom Class have been decorating, making and tasting Chinese food, decorations and puppets to see how some people celebrate the Luna/Chinese New Year. The children were brilliant at trying the different foods on offer. The prawn crackers and noodles seemed to be the favourite with the crispy seaweed being "yuck!" and "disgusting!"

Reception: For Mental Health Week, Apple Class read a book called 'Happy'. We tried some 'Hot Chocolate Breathing'. We also had a great day following a recipe from the 'Gruffalo Cookbook' – we made 'Knobbly Knee' cakes.

Year 1: Willow Class have had a fantastic February. We had a great trip to the zoo looking at the animals and seeing all the places we had learnt about in our history lessons. They learnt all about collage and then produced some fantastic pieces. The children also enjoyed Mental Health and Internet Safety day.

Year 2: February has been another busy month in Ash Class! We really enjoyed our book in English, The Dragon Machine and LOVED writing our own versions! We had The Alien Machine, The Octopus Machine, The Night Fairy Machine and many more! Miss Dalton was really proud of our writing at the end of the unit! In Geography, we learnt about maps including symbols, compass points and directional language. We really enjoyed using the atlases to locate places around the world. The end of the half term brought our art days where we focused on mark making. We explored different marks we could make, different media we could use and what happened when we marked on different surfaces. Chester Zoo trip was the highlight of the month for Year 2! We had a brilliant time and loved seeing all the animals. We did have to go into the realm of the red ape twice as Miss Dalton missed the red pandas the first time!

Year 3: Hazel Class have had an enjoyable and busy month...from writing our own Stone Age stories to junk modelling to pancake making to a trip to Chester Zoo! It's been all go and a very well deserved half term rest. Well done Hazel Class!

Year 4: We have had a busy month in Birch class and we have been on 2 trips!

We started off the month with a trip to the Deva Roman Experience in Chester where we spent the morning learning about Chester during the Roman times. In the afternoon, we marched through the streets of Chester and took part in a battle equipped with swords and shields!

We also went on a trip to Chester Zoo. We enjoyed a full day looking at the animals with the bat cave definitely being a favourite!

In maths, we have finished our topic of multiplication and division and we have now moved on to fractions. We have learnt how to simplify fractions and add them together.

Year 5: Holly Class had a fantastic day at the zoo where we got to see lots of amazing animals. The children had a great time and kept themselves and each other safe as we walked around. In Art, we focussed our attention to Thomas Telford and started to understand the impact he had on modern day Britain. The children created fact files on Thomas Telford which included lots of information and facts about his life and his achievements. Lastly, we had a fantastic 'who wants to be a millionaire' style quiz on the Vikings where we discussed all the things we had learnt over the past 5 weeks.

Year 6: Oak Class thoroughly enjoyed their trip to the zoo. We patiently waited by the tiger enclosure and got a close up view of 'Dash' the male tiger. It was incredible! The children had an amazing day.

We were also lucky enough to get a tour of Storyhouse as part of our Geography fieldwork in early February. We also did a land use survey before the rain came!

Eden: Our Year 3 children started their swimming sessions this month and impressed us with their independence getting ready and listening throughout their session. In Art, our children produced some amazing cave designs inspired by our class text 'Stone age boy'. Eden joined the rest of the school and enjoyed a wonderful trip to Chester Zoo. We had planned our route together and each chosen our favourite animal to go and visit. The children were completely exhausted after such an active day, but it was a thoroughly enjoyable way to end a super half term.

School News:

All the schools in Upton including the High School have established a 'Pupils Forum' with representatives from Year 4 looking at a variety of issues from a pupil's perspective. Congratulations to Abigail and Jasmine from Year 4 who are our representatives. The first meeting was before half term where the children discussed a project looking at tidying our local area and improving nature within that area specifically looking at the construction of 'bug hotels'. The Pupil Forum are very lucky to be working alongside Chester FC Community Trust – we will keep you updated, our next meeting is on the 12th March 2024.

Polite Reminder:

Our PE kit is a white T-shirt, black/blue jogging bottoms or tracksuit bottoms and a black/blue hoodie – no other colours are allowed. Football shirts are also not allowed. Please make sure trainers are only worn on PE days and at no other times. Class teachers will now be sending messages to parents if the kit worn is incorrect – Thank you for your support in this matter.

Attendance Awards last half term were awarded to...

Elisa (Y4), Poppy (Y5) and Nali (R) – Congratulations to you all 😊

Dates for March 2024:

Date	Class	Event
7 th March 2024	Whole School	World Book Day
11 th March 2024	Hazel (Y3) & Birch (Y4)	PSHE sessions from Young Carers
13 th March 2024	Whole School	Family Member to School afternoon
14 th March 2024	Holly (Y5) & Oak (Y6)	PSHE sessions from Young Carers
15 th March 2024	Willow (Y1) & Ash (Y2)	PSHE sessions from Young Carers
19 th & 20 th March 2024	Whole School	Parents Evenings
21 st March 2024	Holly (Y5) & Oak (Y6)	SNAP TRAP Internet Safety Presentation
27 th March 2024	Whole School	Easter Lunch
27 th March 2024	Hazel (Y3)	Trip to the Blue Planet
28 th March 2024	Whole School	School finishes for the Easter break @ 1.00p.m.

Thank you for your continued support.

K Carruthers