



# Upton Westlea Primary and Nursery School Parents' Newsletter December 2024



## 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 and Nursery School.

Don't forget to check out our website filled with lots of information about school and what your child is learning:

[Upton Westlea Primary and Nursery School: A Warm Welcome to Upton Westlea](#)

## 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 busier than ever this term! Learning new vocabulary of under, on top, inside, in front and behind. The big boxes were loved to show and demonstrate their understanding! We certainly have NOT been put off being outside during these damp, cold weeks. Our waterproof trousers and coats have been well used by the children, who are getting much quicker putting them on and taking them off! They have enjoyed playing 'hide and seek', finding ways to climb up the ramp when a bit slippery and finding out ways to roll the balls down the guttering without flying off the end! And of course the favourite activity of decorating our class tree... it looks beautiful.

**Reception:** These last few weeks, Apple Class have kept going with our phonics and are trying now to write short words. Healthbox helped us to think about germs and showed us how to wash our hands. The children and hopefully grown ups enjoyed the Stay and Play.

We have also been learning all about Christmas, learning our songs and reading some lovely Winter stories like The Snow Lambs

**Year 1:** Willow Class have been working hard with numbers to 20. They have been recognising, counting and beginning to add with numbers to 20. Nibbles has left the classroom and has gone on holiday, the children enjoyed drawing and writing what mischievous things he might get up to while he is away. We have also been working hard on our Nativity performance, I'm sure you could tell when you watched it!

**Year 2:** Ash Class have LOVED learning all about the Gunpowder Plot! They were fascinated with how and what and especially why! The children have really loved writing their owl reports as their final write in English. They were able to recall all sorts of facts and include them in their writing. This half term has also brought the Christmas Play! The children have worked so hard to learn their lines, the songs and all the instructions on stage. They have done an amazing job and we are so proud of them!  
Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from all in Ash Class, year 2

**Year 3:** Hazel Class have enjoyed Forest School this month - topped with our final session where they made decorations, bird feeders, had toasted marshmallows around the campfire and a sing-a-long with Mr Ellinson. They have also written some lovely character and setting descriptions for a sequel to our Winter's Child book...Spring's Child! We have also been working hard on our carol concert and enjoyed our Art day where we printed cards and wrapping paper in the style of Andy Warhol.

**Year 4:** This month Birch Class have continued enjoying our English book 'Leon and The Place Between'. The children have all written a diary entry for Leon describing all of the magical things he saw in The Place Between. We also enjoyed learning about Sir Terry Frost in our Art lessons and making collages in the style of his work. We have also had fun learning Christmas songs to perform to our family members.

**Year 5:** This half term, the children have worked so hard and have completed some fantastic writing in English. We recreated the story with an alternative ending and the children's ideas are very impressive. In Maths, the children have continued to work extremely hard on their knowledge of fractions. We have learnt how to find equivalent fractions and can also order and compare. Lastly, I just want to say I am so impressed with the start to Year 5 that the class has made. We are all working really hard and I look forward to the next couple of term. Well done and have a wonderful break! Mr Rimmer.

**Year 6:** Oak Class had a fantastic Art day and all successfully made a festive printing template and created some amazing prints using printing ink. We hope to make a few Christmas cards and gift tags in the final week of term. The children have also enjoyed learning all the songs for the Christmas Carol Concert - what a sound when all the children from Key Stage Two get together on the stage to sing!

**Eden:** December brought a lot of Eden Christmas show preparation and what a treat it was. The Mini and Mighty Oak children helped to create the script and characters and were superb at learning their lines and dancing. Our younger children had worked hard learning the action songs and dancing and had lots of fun. On show day, it was wonderful to see them all on stage at the same time singing and dancing like shining stars!

### Attendance Awards this half term have been awarded to...

Elvis (R), Sophia (Y3), Bryn (Y5)

Congratulations to you all ☺

### Dates for January 2025:

Date	Class	Event
6 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2025	Whole School	INSET Day

7 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2025	Whole School	Children begin after the Xmas break – doors will close at 8.40a.m. prompt!
9 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2025	Holly Class (Year 5)	Working with our Storyhouse Practitioner (every Thurs until half term on the 'Vikings').
13 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2025	Whole School	Poetry Day
16 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2025	Whole School	'Wild, Wild West' Themed Lunch
21 <sup>st</sup> Jan 2025	Reception to Year 6	Production of 'Sleeping Beauty' from M & M Theatre Productions
27 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2025	Holly Class (Year 5)	Puberty Workshops
28 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2025	Whole School	Chinese New Year Lunch



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 2025.

K Carruthers