

Uplands Junior School Newsletter

Diary Dates:

Monday 17th July: New Year 3 parents evening 6pm

Thursday 20th July: 9:15am Yr6 Leavers assembly

Thursday 20th July: Year 6 disco (pm during school time)

Friday 21st July: School breaks up for Summer 3:15pm

These are the INSET days booked for the next academic year which are all linked to our School Improvement plan and Ofsted report

Monday 4th September: Safeguarding and SEN

Friday 20th October: Exciting opportunities to engage children in writing

Tuesday 2nd January: Assessing writing at Greater depth (external provider)

Monday 26th February: The Literacy Shed: using film and visual images to stimulate engagement in Reading and Writing (external provider)

Friday 20th July: Assessment of Foundation subjects

You will receive a purse/wallet sized card showing all term dates and INSET days for next year

Many congratulations to Year 6 on organising their first Summer Fair afternoon and thank you to everyone who was able to attend. Over £1300 was raised which will be added to other fundraising totals from this year

Mr Booth will be leaving us at the end of the Summer term to take up a new position in another school. We wish him well in his new venture. I am in the process of recruiting a new TA for Year 4 and will inform you of this in the new school year.

Respect For All



Catering news

We have been going through the process of putting our catering contract out to tender. As I write we have offered the contract to Chartwells who plan to be in school ready for the start of the new year. We will be sending literature and menus out to you before the end of term and there will be opportunities for food tasting for parents in the Autumn term.

Wishing you all a very happy Summer break-I hope the sun shines! Thank you for all your support and cooperation over the last year.



**Summer
Term 2017
Edition 3**

Class attendance

3AS	97.5%
3KD	97.1%
3NJH	97.1%
4OD	97.1%
4GD	97.1%
4SW	96.2%
5NH	96.9%
5FG	98.1%
5LR	97.6%
6NR	97.8%
6SB	97.1%
6GB	96.7%

Overall school Attendance
as at 12.07.17



**School re-opens on
Tuesday 5th September at
8:50am following the summer
break. We have an INSET day
on Monday 4th September.**

Well done to the following
children in Year 5 who
were nominated for a Digi
award and received a book
and a medal for their work
on the school ICT Boom-
writer project:

Adam Costin

Angali Banga

Phoebie Morgan-Smith

Matthew Grieg

School trips and visits

Please find below some helpful information re school trips that I
have recently been asked about.

Questions and Answers

Q. Why do parents have to pay for trips and workshops?

School receives no direct funding for trips and workshops and relies totally on the voluntary contributions made by parents. If there are not enough contributions to cover the cost of a visit/workshop then the money either has to be paid from the school finance pot reserved for pupil resources or the trip may have to be cancelled. You will have seen in the press that school budgets are becoming even tighter and more difficult to balance.

Q. Does the cost that a parent pays cover the shortfall for any non-paying pupils?

No. On the letter that goes home there is always a breakdown included to show how the cost of the trip has been calculated. This is calculated from entrance fees and coach costs and divided by the number of pupils in a year group. A parent only ever pays for the cost of their own child and never towards that of another.

Q. My child receives free school meals. Does this entitle me to any discount?

Yes it does. If you register for FSM then school receives some funding that goes towards the cost of a visit and also contributes significantly to the cost of the Yr6 residential.

Q. My child would be eligible for FSM but wants to bring a packed lunch?

It is still worth you registering your child for FSM so that school can get the funding that will help with a trip and residential cost. We get a list of all the pupils whom we have received funding for.

We are grateful for all the contributions that come in towards visits and workshops. When I first became Headteacher at Uplands parents/carers asked via the parent questionnaire if more visits could be arranged and we addressed this. We aim to find experiences that will enhance learning and topic work but sadly there is nothing in budgets that allows us to fund these. I'm sure you would agree that it would be a real shame if trips had to go from the curriculum.



Term time holidays

I have been asked by the Local Authority to inform you of changes to the rules regarding term time holidays which will come into effect from 1st September 2017. This is due to the Isle of Wight case that went to the High court. **All term time holiday requests will be “unauthorised” irrespective of attendance levels unless there are exceptional circumstances. Requests of 5 days or more will incur a penalty notice from the LA. All requests for leave must be completed on the correct form which is available from the school office.**

In addition from September the Local Authority Educational Welfare Officers will be monitoring any **attendance that falls below 95%**. Medical evidence is required to be shown for any GP and dental appointments etc.

Congratulations



Well done to Year 5 who

West Midlands table tennis squad which came out on top in a field of 10 teams. After winning their group they faced East Midlands in the final of the under 11's girls' category and Jyothi's two singles victories were instrumental in the 3-1 score-line to clinch Gold. Jyothi practises at Woodfield Table Tennis club under the guidance of coach Chris Tarr. The photo is taken from the feature in the Express and Star.

Jyothi Ghanta in was part of the

Geography quiz winners

Every year group holds an end of year quiz based on the geographical learning for that year. Prizes are given to the winning team in each year.

Year 3 team: Aaron Pugh, Bertie Ingleby, Charlie Lawranec and Zack Watkins

Year 4 team: Alice Groves, Serena Verma, Millie Owens and Daljeet Baran

Year 5 team: joint winners even after a tie break: Phallan Wakely, Sophia Bennett, Arjun Gautam, Jack Hale, Malachi Campbell and Rishabh Khanna

Year 6 team: Lyla Edwards, Cyla Basran, Morgan Grainger and Isaac Deans

Sports

Well done to the house team “Royce” who won the upper school sports morning .



Thank you to everyone who completed the Parent questionnaire. 35 completed questionnaires were returned compared with 102 last year. There were very few issues raised other than the current catering arrangements which as you are aware we are addressing. Here are some of the positive comments made:

“Really like the carousel style of sports day”

“Love the project homework”

“The support given to pupil progress is positive”

“The safety in school is much better”

“The salad bar is great”

“Pleased with the amount of sporting opportunities”

“Great to have Newsletters on the website”

Sporting success

Black Country Games Gymnastics

After great success at the City Gymnastics Competition, Uplands made it through to represent Wolverhampton at the Black Country Gymnastics Games where 12 other schools from around the borough competed.

We entered both a year 3/4 team and a year 5/6 team. All pupils attend the gymnastics club on a Wednesday with Pat Swindells and have worked hard to perfect their routines.

Results

Year 3/4 – 1st (Gold medal)

Year 5/6 – 1st (Gold Medal)

A massive congratulations to all those who took part. All children worked and performed brilliantly.

Team: Ella Smith, Adam Costin, Karyce Johnson, Kylah Johnson, Megan Mann, Phoebe Clarke, Millie Cox, Ellen Groves, Poppy Davies, and T'Yarnna Johnson.

Congratulations!

I would like to congratulate all the Uplands gymnasts and Mrs Swindells for their hard work and dedication this year. The Uplands gymnastics team have had the most successful year in Uplands history with all their gold success. Well done!

Wolves in Wolves 2017

Wolves in Wolves (www.wolvesinwolves.co.uk) is a city wide art extravaganza of 30 x 1.5 metre high decoratively designed Wolves sculptures. These will be on display in venues and on the streets of Wolverhampton from July until September 2017.

Alongside this, there is a parallel exhibition, in Wolverhampton Art Gallery, of the Mini Wolves decorated by local primary schools across the city from 7th July until the end of September 2017.

Uplands have participated in the Mini Wolves project, with Year 4 children designing their ideas to reflect the 'Respect For All' ethos and then using their ideas to decorate the mini wolf. Our Uplands wolf will be on display in Wolverhampton Art Gallery if you would like to go and take a look!

Thank you for all the returned comment slips about school reports which have been overwhelmingly positive. Some parents have commented about only seeing the English and Maths "set" teachers in a year rather than a class teacher. This was introduced in 2015 as a result of parent requests who felt seeing the "set" teacher in both the Autumn and Spring term was more beneficial. Prior to 2015 parents met with the class teacher in the Autumn and "set" teacher in the Spring. We are looking at how we can address this issue for the next school year.



