

Governor Newsletter

July 2018

End of Term Farewell and Thanks

We are now at the end of another busy and exciting term at Uplands. It is time once again to say goodbye to our year 6 pupils, their families and members of staff. We hope all our children leave with happy memories of their time at Uplands and, despite all the hard work and SAT tests, have had fun in their last few weeks at school.

Staff Changes

This year we are losing one of our long-standing members of staff. Sadly, Mrs Bryan retires from her current teaching post at Uplands Junior School. Mrs Bryan started her teaching career in 1993 with the Local Authority and joined the Uplands team in 2000. In addition to her class teaching role Mrs Bryan has championed Design Technology throughout the school. She has tirelessly initiated and led a variety of clubs, challenges and competitions both locally and nationally. She will be greatly missed by pupils, staff and governors. We wish Mrs Bryan a happy and healthy retirement and look forward to her return a few hours each week to support specific groups of children.

Mrs Edwards also retires this year. She has worked for a number of years as at Uplands providing additional support to children across the school. Once again, she will be missed. We wish her well.

In September we welcome back both Mrs Gaunt and Mrs Dattani to Uplands following their maternity leave. They will be taking on a job share role in Year 3. We are also joined by two new Teaching Assistants. Mrs J Smith who will support Year 5 and Mrs S Southall who will be working in Year 4. We hope they enjoy their new role at Uplands Junior School.

Governor changes

Governors would like to thank Mrs Pat Perry who has volunteered as a Co-opted Governor for many years having previously been Upland's Office Manager and a Staff Governor. Her expertise and dedication to the role of Governor will greatly missed. She has made a valuable contribution to the board with her financial experience and in her work focusing on Special Educational Needs and Disability and the impact of Pupil Premium funding in the school. Our best wishes to Mrs Perry and her family.

We would like to thank all the staff, children, families and friends of the school who have supported Uplands Junior School this year. A big thank you to the PTA who continue to organise events and purchase equipment and resources for the children. A special thank you to the PTA parents of Year 6 children who are leaving us this year. Your dedicated support over the last few years is very much appreciated.

THANK YOU

Our School Vision

This year governors have spent time considering our vision for the future of Uplands Junior School. To ensure we have a collective view we have talked to parents, staff and pupils and looked at priorities for the school long term.

We have asked lots of questions. *What do we want our school to feel like...What sort of experience do we want our pupils and staff to have at Uplands ...What do we aspire to offer to both pupils and staff...How do we make it happen...What do we need to adapt or change...How will we know the impact...?*

From our research we identified some key words and themes and created a new vision statement for the school. We have looked at what this vision statement means on a day to day basis in school and we are ensuring that the school improvement plan priorities for the next academic year reflects our new vision.

Our School Vision

our aspirations

At Uplands Junior School, our vision is to create a safe, positive and stimulating environment in which all members of the school community learn and grow in confidence, knowledge and skills.

Working together, we want to nurture personal talents, discover new ones and encourage everyone to be the best they can be.

We want to build a culture of respect for each other, for our environment and for ourselves.

We want our children to leave with a sense of personal achievement and pride in their school and community, equipped with the emotional, social and practical life skills for their next challenge.

Our School Motto

our over-arching school ethos

RESPECT FOR ALL

Year 6 SAT Results 2018

Congratulations

As ever our staff and pupils have worked very hard this year, and with the support of parents, we have had another successful year in terms of academic achievement and SAT results. Several new initiatives have been introduced this year and others have been reviewed, adapted where necessary and reinforced. As a result, our pupils attainment remains significantly higher than national averages. We are particularly pleased with our reading results this year and the percentage of children meeting the expected standard in all three subjects,

	Uplands 2018 % pupils who 'met expected standard' (2017 in brackets)	2018 National % pupils who 'met expected standard' (2017 in brackets)
Combined (Reading, Writing and Maths)	80% (72%)	64% (61%)
Reading	91% (80%)	75% (71%)
Writing	92% (90%)	78% (76%)
SPAG (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar)	94% (89%)	78% (77%)
Maths	85% (80%)	76% (75%)

Above are the results for the Uplands' Year 6 and the National results. The combined results are the percentage of children who have 'met expected standard' in all three subjects - maths, reading and writing. The Department of Education say that the two years combined results are not strictly comparable because of changes in the Teachers Assessment framework for Writing. However, the gap between Uplands' results and National figures has clearly increased.

As governors, we work with the Senior Leadership Team to interpret the test results data. The next stage is to look at the progress made by pupils from when they joined until they left in year 6. We will also look at attainment and progress made by different groups of children. In addition to SAT results we also review the in-school tests for all year groups. This helps us to identify opportunities to further improve children's progress and attainment. We are currently working with the Senior Leadership Team to identify school priorities for the next academic year and these results, the Teacher Assessments and the development points identified as part of our ongoing self-review help to determine our school strategy for the next few years.

We feel very proud of the results achieved. **Well done to you all.**

Uplands School Governors

- Mrs Debbie Anslow (Chair)
- Mrs Juli Forrest (Vice Chair)

Parent Governors

- Dr Wen Wang
- Mrs Sabeena Khanna
- Mr Joel Maybury

Co-opted Governors

- Mr Ramesh Kumar QPM
- Ms Rebecca Pick

Staff Governors

- Mrs Webster-Smith (Headteacher)
- Mrs Bull
- Miss Richards

Local Authority Governor

- Mr Dave Hughes (Chair)

Associate Governors

- Mrs Shakesheave
- Mrs Walker
- Miss Davis

Vacancies: Two Co-opted Governors appointed from the wider community.

You are welcome to contact governors through the school office

Parent View

A link to Ofsted's parent questionnaire 'Parent View' can be found on 'Parent' section of the school's website.

www.uplandsjuniorschool.org.uk

School Bungalow - Can you help?

You may be aware that our Caretaker bungalow is no longer in use and hasn't been for some time. We would like to develop the space as part of the school's educational premises. Governors and the staff have plenty of ideas as how we could use this space: The Breakfast and After School clubs, a specialist Design Technology and Science Space, Sensory area, meeting room, community room etc. Unfortunately, we do not have the funds to do the necessary work and the Local Authority are unable to help us finance a renovation project. The building is at risk of falling in to disrepair.

Can you help with any of the following?

- Looking at the feasibility of our ideas and potential costs - perhaps experience in construction or architecture
- Sourcing or applying for Grants, fundraising
- Project management
- Company sponsorship - perhaps your business or employer can help
- Community organisations - do you know of an organisation that might be able to help fund and share the space.

We welcome your ideas on how we might fund and develop the bungalow. If you can help with any of the above or perhaps put us in touch with someone who can please contact Debbie Anslow, Chair of Governors via school or email: Governors@uplandsjuniorschool.co.uk

Wishing you all a relaxing summer break