



# UPTON JUNIOR SCHOOL

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## Newsletter 1

Dear Parents

"All Aboard the Upton Ship" for an exciting and successful new school year...The first newsletter of the year is a 'bumper addition' containing vital information for parents regarding school routines and expectations. Please take the time to read this (not just today but fortnightly) and if you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask! Either email, telephone, send us a message on FB or failing that, good old fashioned face to face conversation with any member of the Upton staff team!



I welcome families old and new into our 'Upton Community' and look forward to continuing to build upon the positive home / school relationships that Upton is immensely proud of.

The most simple and effective way to do this will be through regular communication and the newsletter is the main means of communication between home and school. It provides me with a regular platform to share with you my vision and values for Upton. It also allows me to reinforce my expectations upon parents and pupils and most importantly celebrate the variety of talents the children of Upton undoubtedly have! It contains news and updates regarding upcoming events in the school and it will be sent out by email fortnightly on a Wednesday (not only does this help in our bid to become 'Upton Eco Warriors' it also means important school information and dates aren't found festering at the bottom of a school bag!) The newsletter can also be found on our school website along with other relevant information and letters: [www.upton.kent.sch.uk](http://www.upton.kent.sch.uk). A link will be sent to your mobile phone and can also be found on our Facebook and Twitter page:

**Facebook:** Upton Junior School, Broadstairs - Official

**Twitter:** @uptonjuniors



Electronic communication can only be successful if the contact details we have for parents are correct so please ensure any changes made to your email address and mobile phone number are shared with the office. This is also imperative if we are to celebrate your child's behaviour rewards with you as Miss Arthur will text and email congratulatory messages.

**Communicating with Upton Staff:** Fundamental to your child's success at Upton, will be a strong partnership between home and school. We have strived to open as many lines of communication as possible - to ensure all parents are fully aware and involved in their child's education.

Year Groups are holding their 'Information Sessions' next week, during which they will share key information about the year ahead (**Year 5 & Class 4G - Tuesday; Year 4 - Wednesday; Years 3 & 6 - Thursday - All at 2:30 pm**). If you are unable to attend - this information is repeated in the Year Group Newsletter - that is sent home three times a year. The 'Autumn Term Year Group Newsletter' will be sent home next Friday (12<sup>th</sup> September).

# Upton News



Every member of Upton staff has a 'school email address'. For busy working parents that are unable to be at the school at the start or end of a school day, email may be the quickest and easiest way to communicate. Staff read emails daily and will respond but, please appreciate this will usually be at the beginning, or the end of, their working day. (See staff email list given later in the newsletter)

Teachers are available at the start of the school day briefly - but please appreciate this would be for a 'quick message' as their priority at this time must be preparing for the start of the school day. The office staff will gladly take messages and share this information with teachers on your behalf.

Face to face conversations with teachers are always the preferred option if possible. Please don't feel you must wait until a 'Parent Consultation Evening'. Teachers are on the playground to dismiss their class at the end of every day. If you wish to speak with your child's teacher a quick chat at the end of the day may suffice but there may be occasions when this isn't appropriate and an appointment may be needed. Please arrange appointments via the office or contact the teacher directly.

I am very fortunate to have an experienced, very talented Leadership Team supporting my drive to ensure Upton provides a first class education for every child. Mrs McGinley is our Deputy Headteacher; Miss Arthur and Mr Walker are our Assistant Headteachers. Miss Arthur leads on Inclusion - including SEN and Mr Walker, the curriculum.

I also have four very experienced and talented 'Leaders of Learning' that oversee the education of the children in their year group team. They are:

**Year 3 - Mrs Lord**  
**Year 4 - Mrs Wilson**  
**Year 5 - Mrs Walton**  
**Year 6 - Mrs Blunden**

Along with Miss Crine (School Business Manager), we make up **Upton's Leadership Team** and want to be readily available to parents and intend to be as visible as possible. Email may equally be your preferred form of communication to us; but we are also on the school gates at the beginning and end of every school day. Please do not leave the school grounds with a question or concern—come and speak. If we don't know the answer we will endeavour to find somebody who does!

**New Staff Members:** Upton, like your favourite premiership football club, want to have the strongest team at the start of a 'new season'! The transfer window has now closed and we have new 'star players' to strengthen our staff squad!

Football comparisons over - the bottom line is that the Leadership Team and Governors have made several appointments ready for the new school year; all very talented people that share our unwavering belief that we are here to provide an outstanding education for every child.



**Mrs Bedingfield and Mr Skellon;** two new teachers joining our staff. They will teach in Year 3 and Year 6 respectively. Both teachers have spent Term 6 with us, familiarising themselves with our routines and high expectations.

**Mr Jackson** also joins us as '**Head of Computing**'. Mr Jackson will lead Learning Groups in Year 5 and teach 'Computing' during the afternoon timetable.

We also welcome as 'Senior Caretaker' **Mr Denny**. He is currently Caretaker at Minster School and looks set to become a huge asset to Upton.

**Miss Lewis** (no relation!!) & **Mr Brown** will join us as the newest members of our support staff. They will work alongside the Year 6 & Year 4 team respectively in September.

Welcome to you all and I am sure you will quickly become fabulous assets to Upton!

**'Behaviour' Reward Point System:** We start the new school year determined to build upon the outstanding success achieved last year. An extremely impressive 60% of our pupils (300+ children) kept maximum behaviour points across the whole year - wow!



This shows that Upton pupils not only know what 'good behaviour' is, but more importantly, they show it in their actions every day. Our start of the year assembly yesterday reinforced our high expectations on behaviour for learning and explained the 'behaviour points' to our new 'Uptonians'.

To ensure new parents are up to date and aware of the behaviour routines we use at Upton, we have '**Behaviour Information Sessions**' next week. There will be two sessions (during school time and straight after school) in order to give parents and carers greater flexibility in being able to attend.

The information session will give me a chance to explain

our 'Behaviour Point System' to you and answer any questions you may have about how we reward and praise our pupils and conversely, the sanctions we apply when pupils do not behave in the 'Upton way'.

It is open for all parents to come along to the session that best suits you...

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> September at: 2:15pm or 3:45pm**

**The Upton Way... 'One Childhood One Chance'.** The foundations of our school are based on mutual respect, we will deal with each other in the way that we would like to be treated ourselves. Our rules are simple and can be remembered - and followed - by all sections of our community: children, staff, parents and friends, and if we all stick to them then we will achieve our ultimate goal, for every child to achieve their full potential.

**Our Golden Rules are as follows:**

- Everyone is special and important
- Treat everyone as you would like to be treated
- Listen when others are talking
- Try your best always
- Take care of people and properly

**Core Values:** Our Upton 'Core Values' are those values which we see as being at the heart of our school. They refer to those **individual qualities** and **dispositions** we believe children will find essential in the 21st century. They help to develop those **qualities** that will enable children to be at ease with the continually changing context of their lives.

**Our Core Values are:**

<b>Enquiry</b>	<b>Communication</b>
<b>Adaptability</b>	<b>Thoughtfulness</b>
<b>Resilience</b>	<b>Cooperation</b>
<b>Morality</b>	<b>Respect</b>

Our 'Core Values' and **Golden Rules** will be revisited regularly during our assemblies and in lessons and although they aren't the only things which are important, they would be implicit and explicit to daily life at Upton.

**School Uniform:** It is lovely to see all the children return looking refreshed, 'sun kissed' and beautifully dressed, ready for the new school year. I have made no secret of my drive to lead Upton to 'outstanding' status and this can only be achieved with the support of the parents. Therefore I look to you to help us by ensuring the following things:

- Children will attend school as regularly as is possible
- Every child will arrive at school on time
- Every child will wear the correct uniform every day
- Every child will complete their home learning

**Hair Styles and Earrings:** For parents new to Upton you will note in our 'Upton Parent's Handbook' that children with hair longer than their shoulders must wear it tied

back. This rule is for boys and girls. Children must remove earrings when swimming as there is a risk that earrings can damage our pool liner.

For PE lessons and sport, whilst we would encourage children to not wear earrings on PE days, they can still participate if they have earrings in - we will ask them to cover their earrings with 'micropore tape' for their own safety.

Our parent handbook contains up to date information about school uniform but if you have any questions or concerns please speak to the ladies in the Office, the classteacher or a member of the Leadership Team. I thank you for your cooperation with this.

**Academic Year 2014/15: Attendance:** Term dates for the next academic year have been sent home alongside this newsletter and are available on our school website. We ask you to please consider these dates when booking your family holidays - and in light of government legislation, ensure holidays are not taken during term time. We thank you for your support with this.

This is just a reminder about the changes to Attendance regulations which came into force last year. For parents who apply for a leave of absence during term time, the amendments make clear that **Headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time** unless there are exceptional circumstances.

This is for the very good reason is that a child's success in their education will be a key determinant in their future success in life, and in order for children to be successful in school they need to be here! A target therefore, for every family, should be to ensure that every child achieves *at least* 95% attendance across the school year. If a child's attendance is below this figure then it will have a serious impact on their achievement in school and will mean that they will do much less well than they should. I have provided below an example of what percentages mean in terms of school days missed.

Attendance over one school year:

**If a child had:**

98% attendance = less than 4 days absent from school  
95% attendance = less than 10 days absent from school  
90% attendance = 4 weeks absent from school  
85% attendance = 5  $\frac{1}{2}$  weeks absent from school  
80% attendance = 7  $\frac{1}{2}$  weeks absent from school

Attendance over 5 school years:

**If a child had:**

85-90% attendance = having about half a year off school!  
80% attendance = 38 weeks off school = one whole school year missed!

We do understand as parents you are in the best position to judge whether or not your child is well enough to



attend school. Avoidable absence for family days out, long weekend breaks and holidays are the aspects of family life that we ask you to consider before taking your child out of school. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in this matter.

That said, if you do need to take your child out of school during the school day a 'Leave of Absence Due to Exceptional Circumstances' form will need to be completed. This is available to download from the school website or ask at the school office.

**Congratulations to our first Form Captains of the new school year...** To enable pupils across the school to experience a taste of leadership and take responsibility we have 'Class Form Captains'!

Every class voted for two children to take this position of responsibility. Well done to our first group of Upton Form Captains

#### Form Captains

Class	Form Captains
3B	Joshua Butler & Niamh Noble
3G	Isabel Bass & Gregor Hutchison
3R	Luke Marrison & Hollie-Marie Shannon McQueenie
3Y	Ella Downer & Sam Southgate
4B	Ollie Bowes & Rosie Keeble
4G	Sam Cleall & Teia-Mai Clark
4R	Rhys Knight & Kate Stephens
4Y	Ella Crompton & Finn Hickmott
5B	Molly Brown & George Harvey
5G	Carys Adams & Alfie Fahy
5R	Lewis Davies & Ruby Regan
5Y	Eden Andrews & Ethan Williamson
6B	Georgia Brenchley & Mia Escombe-Gedge
6G	Bethany Brenchley & Miles Thomas
6R	George Cannon & Olivia Smee
6Y	Abbie Emery & Jake Turner

**Rosie Keeble, 4B:** Well done to Rosie who is raising money for the Little Princess Trust. If you'd like to donate please contact the school office or [www.littleprincesses.org.uk](http://www.littleprincesses.org.uk). Updates will given shortly.

**SUMMER HOLIDAY 'Diary of an Upton Kid'...** Well done to the children (and parents) that completed the summer holiday 'Diary of an Upton Kid'. Could completed diaries be returned to school by Monday please (8<sup>th</sup>). A display of all diaries will be in the school hall on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> from 2:30pm so parents and families can have a look at the fabulous holiday adventures our children were lucky enough to participate in. Reminder texts will be sent out.

**IMPORTANT YEAR 6 PARENTS MEETING: 'PESE' Meeting...** We will be holding a 'PESE' Meeting (Procedure for Entry to Secondary Education) on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> September at 6pm. The meeting will be in the school hall. Parents with children in Year 6 are encouraged to attend the meeting, as the procedures for the smooth transition

to secondary school will be explained and your questions answered.

**Prayer Space: Reflection Week...** From the 22<sup>nd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> of September there will be a 'Prayer Reflection Space' at the school for the children, staff and parents to interact with. This is being set-up and run by Fegans and Queens Road Baptist Church.

'Prayer Space' is a National Initiative which supports different aspects of the National Curriculum and Religious Education. It will also support the values of Upton Junior School. A marquee will be erected in the school grounds with various activities centred on the different aspects of Christian Prayer and will encourage children to think and reflect on their own lives and wider world issues in a calm environment. Everyone will be encouraged to use the space in a way that best suits them, whether that is through quiet reflection or through prayer. As the week progresses the character and appearance of the space will change as the children write and draw their own reflections and prayers.

The children will be visiting the prayer space during the school day but we want to make it available after school every day across this week (3pm - 3:45pm) and across the whole afternoon on Friday (26<sup>th</sup>), from 1.15 to 3.15pm, for parents to come and see what the children have been involved in and to interact with the space if you would like to.



**Road Safety:** The start and end of the school day are extremely busy times and we ask, for the safety of children and adults alike, that you follow the guidelines for dropping and

collecting your child. If you drive your child to school we have an allocated 'Drop-Off Zone' that we ask you to kindly use, otherwise, entrance on foot would preferably be through the gate opposite the playgrounds. Bikes and scooters need to be walked onto the school grounds. Thank you for your support with this as we fully appreciate that the traffic outside school (both vehicles and pedestrian) can make life pretty stressful.

If you do use the bottom pedestrian gate, please use the pathway leading the playground and not the carpark.

Please start the year as we mean to go on with regard to parking safely (not on zig zag lines) and showing respect for the residents of Edge End and neighbouring roads. Thank you for your cooperation with this extremely important matter.

**Walking to and from School:** Parents use their discretion when and if they allow their child to walk to and from school. If you allow your child to walk to school independently we ask you to complete a form at the school office so that the school knows that your

children have permission. The school will then be alerted of a possible problem if your child doesn't arrive at school for registration and a member of staff will call you at the start of the school day.

**Cycling to and from school:** We have a bicycle shelter for children to 'park' their cycles during the school day. We recommend bikes are locked. We expect cycling helmets to be worn by all children cycling to and from school. If you allow your child to cycle to and from school independently we ask you to complete a form at the school office so that the school knows that your child has permission. If a child cycles to school with an adult then a form doesn't need to be completed.

#### Drop Off Zone

Thank you for using the 'Drop Off Zone'

It is provided to improve congestion in the road and for your child's safety

Please drive slowly through the zone

Drop children at any point in the zone -

you don't need to wait until you reach the 'STOP' sign

Please be aware of any children waiting to use the crossing at the end of the zone

Please don't park your car in the zone!

Thank you

**Extended School Information:** Our 'Term 1 Club List' will be emailed out to parents (and available on the website) on Monday 8<sup>th</sup>. It will give you an overview of all clubs taking place across this term, both during and after school; as well as information regarding Breakfast and After-School Club. If you have any questions regarding clubs please ask at the Office.

**School Fund:** If you haven't sent in a school fund donation of £5 for your child could I please ask that you do so.

**SAVE THE DATES: Parents invited to 'sample' our delicious school dinners:** Wouldn't it be great to be a



'fly' on the wall to see what your children get up to across the school day. Well, we hope that we can give you a little 'taste' of life at Upton with an invitation to school lunch...

Caterlink provide our school dinners, with Claire (our School Cook) leading a very talented team of kitchen staff. We have changed the arrangements this year to allow more parents the opportunity to dine with their child by now offering have a choice of a Wednesday or Thursday.

**Year 3: Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> November @12:15 pm or Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November @12:15 pm**

**Year 4: Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November @12:15 pm or Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November @12:15 pm**

**Year 5: Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> November @12:15 pm or Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> November @12:15 pm**

**Year 6: Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> November @12:15pm or Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> Novembers @12:15 pm**

Letters will be out shortly.

#### SCHOOL TIMES:

**SCHOOL STARTS: 8.50AM & FINISHES: 3:15PM**

**PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOUR CHILD ARRIVES ON TIME TO START THEIR DAILY LEARNING JOURNEY!**

Thank you for taking the time to read Upton's first newsletter of the new school year. We will endeavour to communicate everything that happens across this busy term in as many ways as possible. Please ask if you are unsure about anything. Remember...**One Childhood One Chance!** Together we will ensure your child has the best possible chance at an inspirational learning experience!!!!

#### **Staff Email Contacts**

Staff Contact	Email Address
Mrs Lewis, Headteacher	headteacher@upton.kent.sch.uk
Mrs McGinley, Deputy Headteacher	lindsey.mcginley@upton.kent.sch.uk
Mr Walker, Assistant Headteacher	dave.walker@upton.kent.sch.uk
Miss Arthur, Assistant Headteacher/AEN	darci.arthur@upton.kent.sch.uk
Miss Crine, School Business Manager	ellie.crine@upton.kent.sch.uk
Office	office@upton.kent.sch.uk
Mrs Turner and Ms Danson, Learning Mentors	learning.mentors@upton.kent.sch.uk
Mrs Lord, Year 3 Leader of Learning /3B Class Teacher	ros.lord@upton.kent.sch.uk
Miss Kemp, 3G Class Teacher	natasha.kemp@upton.kent.sch.uk
Miss Slaney, 3R Class Teacher	nicole.slaney@upton.kent.sch.uk
Mrs Bedingfield, 3Y Class Teacher	hannah.bedingfield@upton.kent.sch.uk
Mrs Wilson, Year 4 Leader of Learning / 4R Class Teacher	tessa.wilson@upton.kent.sch.uk
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Miss Hare-Winton, 4G Class Teacher	fran.harewinton@upton.kent.sch.uk
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Mrs Walton, Year 5 Leader of Learning / 5Y Class Teacher	lynne.walton@upton.kent.sch.uk
Mr Russell, 5B Class Teacher	george.russell@upton.kent.sch.uk
Miss Spain, 5G Class Teacher	nicola.spain@upton.kent.sch.uk
Miss Hayes, 5R Class Teacher	corinne.hayes@upton.kent.sch.uk
Mrs Blunden, Year 6 Leader of Learning / 6G Class Teacher	caroline.blunden@upton.kent.sch.uk
Mr Skellon, 6B Class Teacher	simon.skellon@upton.kent.sch.uk
Mr Walker, 6R Class Teacher	email address listed above
Miss Papa-Adams, 6R Class Teacher	athanasia.papa-adams@upton.kent.sch.uk
Miss Povey, 6Y Class Teacher	ashley.povey@upton.kent.sch.uk
<b>Additional Teachers:</b>	
Mrs Ash	jeanine.ash@upton.kent.sch.uk
Ms Barratt	lisa.barratt@upton.kent.sch.uk
Mr Coot	jamie.coot@upton.kent.sch.uk
Mr Jackson	jamie.jackson@kent.sch.uk
Miss Halliday	anne.halliday@upton.kent.sch.uk
Mr Langridge	peter.langridge@upton.kent.sch.uk
Mrs Votta	lynn.votta@upton.kent.sch.uk

Kitchen direct line: 01843 608494