



UPTON JUNIOR SCHOOL

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Newsletter 5

Dear Parents



Congratulations Upton! To pupils, parents, staff and governors! The DfE recently published schools achievement and progress data (in a document called RAISEonline) and it is official - Upton has achieved its highest academic results for Key Stage 2! Progress data puts Upton in the top 5% of schools nationally.

What does this mean for children and parents? It means as parents you can be confident in the knowledge that all children at Upton achieve very well. It means our learning groups for English and maths allow for differentiated teaching to ensure we cater for the needs of all of our children. All children succeed at Upton!

For our children, it means they are proud to attend an outstanding school, made up of 519 like minded children - in that they are surrounded by an inspirational; well motivated, well behaved and hard working peer group.

It means that our ethos of '*One Childhood One Chance*' truly embodies all we say and all we do as a school.

The strong partnership between home and school is a significant factor in our continued success as a school. Our children will succeed because of the relationship parents and staff work hard to cultivate.

This newsletter will highlight the many ways parents continue to work with us to ensure their children achieve at Upton...

Home Learning is an important feature of school life and **one way** you can support your children is by making sure the children have the resources and knowledge to complete their home learning activities.

Please find below a guide to Home Learning sent out in each Year Group.

[Upton Home Learning](#)

Home learning is set regularly in every year group for all pupils.

English is taught in Learning Groups. The English Learning Group teacher sets English home learning for the children in their group.



Maths is taught in Learning Groups. The maths Learning Group teacher sets maths home learning for the children in their group. We use 'MyMaths' an online interactive maths programme to support maths teaching and for setting maths homework.

Each Year Group set home learning related to topic work studied across each term. This is often in the form of an independent project.

The Learning Mentors lead 'Upton Home Learning Club' twice a week. This is open to all pupils (at parent, teacher or child's request for a place) but may have a waiting list.

The IT Suite is open daily until 5pm for parents (or grandparents) to work alongside their child with 'MyMaths' or other online home learning tasks.

Various art and writing competitions are set across each term for all pupils to enter.

Please see the overview below as a guide for the Home Learning across the four year groups: Timings are a 'guide' for parents and children to follow. If you have any issues / questions please speak to your child's class teacher or the Learning Mentors in the first instance.

	English	Maths	Other
Year 3	Reading (minimum expectation every child reads with an adult 3 x a week) Spellings (weekly - text every Monday)	Multiplication Practice 'My Maths': tasks set fortnightly plus 'Booster tasks' completed at child's discretion.	Independent projects
Year 4	Reading (minimum expectation every child reads with an adult 3 x a week) Spellings (weekly - text every Monday) Writing tasks - set at fortnightly intervals	Multiplication Practice 'My Maths': tasks set fortnightly plus 'Booster tasks' completed at child's discretion.	Independent projects
Year 5	Reading (minimum expectation every child reads with an adult 3 x a week) Spellings (weekly - text every Monday) Writing tasks - set at fortnightly intervals	Multiplication Practice 'My Maths': tasks set fortnightly plus 'Booster tasks' completed at child's discretion.	Independent projects
Year 6	Reading (minimum expectation every child reads with an adult 3 x a week) Spellings (weekly - text every Monday)	Multiplication Practice 'My Maths': tasks set fortnightly plus 'Booster tasks' completed at child's discretion.	Individual 'Learning Logs' completed at child's discretion

I have provided below some ways in which you can support your children with Homework. The expectation at Upton is that every child should complete their 'Home Learning' activities; although we do understand that circumstance can sometimes prevent this from happening. Please contact the class, Learning Group teacher or our Learning Mentors if family life has delayed the completion of a task.

If you have any thoughts or opinions as to how we could improve the Home Learning experience for the children please come and speak to me.

Upton News

Home Learning Tips

Homework shouldn't be a battle!
Here are some tips to help make it less stressful:



- ✓ Find a quiet place to do the homework without too many distractions.
- ✓ Agree in advance when 'homework time' is.
- ✓ Do allow your child to have something nutritional to eat before starting on homework.
- ✓ Do discuss any homework tasks with your child and how it connects with what they are studying at school.
- ✓ Turn off the TV!
- ✓ Don't let homework become a chore. Keep it fun and make it a special time that you both look forward to.
- ✓ Use the school computers to support 'MyMaths' or home learning research (available after school every day until 5pm)

Reading at Home: As a school we expect all parents to listen to their child read three times a week for at least 10 minutes - this is the **minimum expectation**. This time is equivalent to an episode of Coronation Street or Eastenders - it is not much to ask!



Unfortunately some children have not been heard read that much and I will shortly be writing to parents whose child is not reading to ask why?

We should always strive to be role models and promote key skills. If a child is not **expected to read at an early age**, how can they further develop their vocabulary and grammar knowledge? Please support us with your child's learning - this will enable them to realise their hopes and dreams.

"The OECD analysed data from 14 different countries, including the results of independently administered tests and surveys of parents. It found a close link between parents' "involvement with their child" as they started primary education - aged four, five or six - and academic performance at 15.

*The same pattern was found irrespective of families' social class, it was revealed. Children who read with **their parents every day or at least once a week gained significantly higher scores in exams sat at 15, according to figures.***

*The average improvement was found to be the equivalent of **six months' extra schooling** compared with children who did not have the same level of encouragement from parents.*

The study also found that the highest-achieving children still received encouragement from parents well into their teens."

Parents invited in to school to share your child's achievements... It was fabulous to see so many Year 4 parents (and grandparents) in school to view the 'Electricity' exhibition as a culmination of the childrens hard work.

Equally, this afternoon we opened the doors to welcome families in to school to celebrate 'In The News' - Year 5's end of topic celebration.

Year 4 Kingswood Trip: Tomorrow (Thursday 6th) Year 4 parents are invited in to school for the Kingswood Residential Trip information session. This will begin at 2:30pm and will take place in the school hall. For parents unable to attend due to work commitments, the powerpoint will be available on the website and Mrs Ballen will respond to emails with questions you may have.



Thank you to so many parents and grandparents for attending our **Open Afternoon**. The school was packed full to the rafters, with proud parents impressed with how much work their children had completed in seven weeks! Following on from Open Day, we had our **Parent Consultation appointments**.

Meetings with class, English and maths teachers should have allowed you to come away with a detailed picture of how well your child has settled into their new year group, successes so far as well as ways you can continue to support your child at home.

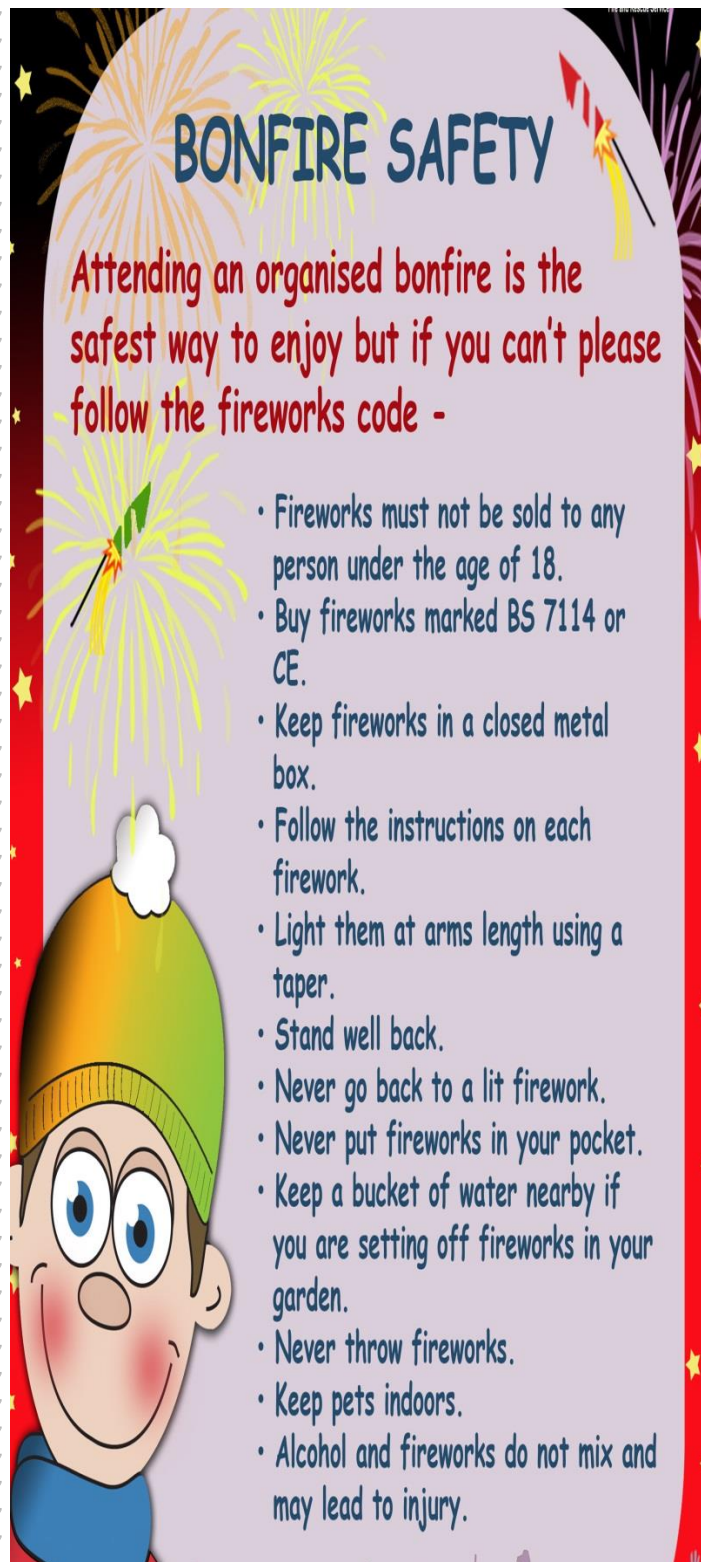
Remember every member of staff at Upton has a school email (addresses are available on the website as well as the Year Group Newsletter). Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any concerns, questions or can lend your support in any way!

Parent Consultation Meetings... I have written to the parents of every child that wasn't represented at our Parent Consultation Meetings requesting they contact the school this week to attend an alternative meeting with their child's teacher(s). These are extremely important meetings, timetabled at the end of the first term to ensure vital information is shared between home and school. I truly believe attending these meetings are a non-negotiable if home and school are working together for the benefit of every child! **Please contact the school office or email the teacher directly to arrange an alternative appointment.**

Term 2 Dates: Such a busy term ahead... Alongside this newsletter you will have received 'Term 2 Dates'. I strongly urge you to print this off and stick it to your

fridge (it helps in my house!!) We will endeavour to send texts, update Facebook and Twitter to remind you of events as they draw close. Please ensure the office have your up to date mobile number and email.

Firework Safety: It's that time of year already where we have to wrap up warm, masses of bangers and jackets will be consumed and lots of ooh's and ahh's can be heard all over the country! Please remember to stay safe tonight, we have some important tips on keeping safe during fireworks night:

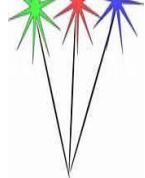


BONFIRE SAFETY

Attending an organised bonfire is the safest way to enjoy but if you can't please follow the fireworks code -

- Fireworks must not be sold to any person under the age of 18.
- Buy fireworks marked BS 7114 or CE.
- Keep fireworks in a closed metal box.
- Follow the instructions on each firework.
- Light them at arms length using a taper.
- Stand well back.
- Never go back to a lit firework.
- Never put fireworks in your pocket.
- Keep a bucket of water nearby if you are setting off fireworks in your garden.
- Never throw fireworks.
- Keep pets indoors.
- Alcohol and fireworks do not mix and may lead to injury.

Sparkler Safety:

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- **Never** put them in your pocket
 - **Never** pick one up off the floor
 - Make sure an adult is always present
 - Light them one at a time
 - Wear gloves
 - Hold them at arm's length
 - When it goes out, put the hot end in a bucket of water. Otherwise it could still burn you.

More advice can also be found on:
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/15357129>

Road Crossing Patrol & Road Safety: A reminder to please, please take care when crossing Broadstairs Road either side of the school day because our RCP Mr Pankhurst is no longer working in that capacity. Kent County Council have not yet appointed a replacement. We will update you on this as soon as we know more.

E-Safety and the National Curriculum:



The 'new' National Curriculum raises the profile of e-safety further - as it quite rightly should, under the umbrella of **Computing - Digital Literacy**. Mr Jackson, our Head of Computing leads lessons taken in the Computer Suite during the afternoon, with class and Learning Group teachers also teaching

aspects of the new computing curriculum across the school day.

Miss Spain is our E-Safety (Digital literacy) lead teacher. Crucially, a key part of her role in supporting the children is to help parents understand the digital world our children are very much part of. Miss Spain has created a brochure entitled 'A Parent's Guide to Social Networking'. This can be accessed on our website ('Support Materials for Parents') or following the link below...
<http://www.upton.kent.sch.uk/page/?title=Support+Material+for+Parents&pid=50>

Our website contains further information; links and youtube clips to share advice for parenting in the 'digital age'. I ask if you have any concerns over social networking sites, games or websites then please contact the school so that we can share these concerns with other parents.



We welcome a new addition to our Computer Team - with Mr Edwards coming onboard the Upton ship as our 'IT Technician'. Mr Edwards will support pupils, staff (and parents) in all aspects of technology!

Another new member of our Upton Team is Mr Denny - who joins us as our Caretaker. Mr Denny may well be a familiar face to parents as he is an ex-Upton parent, a member of the local Broadstairs community and a leading figure in youth football and athletics. Mr Denny is sure to be a huge asset to Upton.

Please introduce yourself and welcome Mr Denny and Mr Edwards to our school community - as you will no doubt see them before, during and after school supporting the hard work that goes on behind the scenes of the good ship Upton!

SEN: Special Educational Needs... In line with the launch of the new 'Special Educational Needs and Disability Policy' (2014), we have reviewed and rewritten our school SEN policy and information report. You will find it on Upton's website: www.upton.kent.sch.uk. Click on Ofsted Information and then Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) information.

<http://www.upton.kent.sch.uk/page/?title=Special+Educational+Needs+and+Disabilities+%28SEND%29+Information&pid=230>

Please take a moment to look through the policy to see if you think it is easy to understand and gives you the information you may require if enquiring about SEND at Upton Junior School.

If you have any comments or suggestions please contact Miss Arthur at school or email her at darci.arthur@upton.kent.sch.uk before Friday 21st November.

Look Smart, Think Smart - Our children wear their Upton school uniform with pride. It shows we are all the same: 'Team Upton.' At the start of every term Mrs McGinley will talk to the children in assembly to reinforce our high expectations with regard to school uniform, hair and jewellery.



We appreciate your support working with us to maintain the standards we set for our children. We also appreciate, whilst we encourage our children to develop a sense of personal responsibility (and not just blame mummy for the forgotten PE kit), they do often need reminders and the support from home to ensure they have the correct equipment in school on the right day.

Due to the inclement weather over the last couple of days, please ensure that your child comes to school with a coat. Boots or trainers can be worn to and from school and at playtimes but we do expect our children to wear black school shoes (or plimsolls) inside the school building.

PE Kits - BE PREPARED: Please remember that children are permitted to wear tracksuits for outdoor PE when the weather is wet and cold. The children do go out in the rain, so please ensure your child is fully prepared.

Special Achievements

We have an extremely talented group of children at Upton. Many of our pupils are able to develop their talents through the wide variety of clubs we have on offer in school. Lots of our children are fortunate to participate in a range of clubs and activities outside of school. We want to be able to share your child's talents and successes - whatever they may be! In order for us to celebrate success we need to know about it! Don't be shy - be proud and let us know. We have a 'Celebration Assembly' every Friday and encourage children to bring in their certificates, trophies and medals and receive congratulations from the whole school community. We also have a 'Special Achievement' display board and welcome photographs and newspaper articles celebrating the many talents and successes of the children of Upton!



Congratulations and Well Done to...

Eden Andrews (5Y): Eden was invited to dance at the 'Imperial Junior Ballet Awards' in London. This involved 80 dancers from around the country. Eden was placed through to the final stage along with 19 others. Unfortunately she wasn't placed beyond that point but this was an amazing achievement to get through and her family and all at school are very proud of her!

Eden attends Page Mason School of performing Arts. Keep practising hard Eden - the effort and commitment you show are really paying off, well done!

Mia Branscombe-Kent (6B): Mia has led a fund raising campaign to raise money for 'Cancer Research'. Before the holiday Mia sold Halloween items and continued to raise money across half term. She has managed to raise £23.80.

Mia has done this completely off her own back, with absolutely no influence from home. Mum is extremely proud of Mia - as are we all!

Tay Chapman (4R): Tay - or should I say, *Cinderella* completed 'household chores' at home across the half term holiday in return for donations towards our 'Swimming Pool Fund.' Instead of saving the money for a trip to the local toy shop, the £7.07 Tay earnt, she generously donated towards the swimming pool fund.

Acts of kindness and compassion are always highly valued - and Mia and Tay deserve recognition for their thoughtful and generous actions. Well done girls - both upstanding members of the Upton community!!!

Bradley Bisset (6B): The hugely talented Bradley will be performing in a role absolutely made for him - that of the 'Artful Dodger' in Lionel Bart's fabulous musical 'Oliver'!

Bradley will take to the stage this evening and again for Saturday's matinee performance. Break a leg Bradley!!! (Not literally obviously - for those of you in the know -it would have been bad luck for me to wish him luck!!)



Staying with the 'Oliver' theme....**FOOD GLORIOUS FOOD**...**'Come Dine With Us'** - Parents invited to dine with their children!

Thank you to the huge number of Year 3 parents that chose to relive school dinner experiences and join us for a school lunch. Feedback from parents has been overwhelmingly positive (lots of comments about how different from their own experience of school dinner!!) Tomorrow we welcome another group of Year 3 parents and then twice weekly moving up the school.

For those of you who are unable to attend this round of parents lunches please do not fear, we have scheduled in another round of parent lunches in March next year, please save the dates:

Year 3: Wed 4th and Thurs 5th March

Year 4: Wed 11th and Thurs 12th March

Year 5: Wed 18th and Thurs 19th March

Year 6: Wed 25th and Thurs 26th March

More information about the March parent lunches will be sent home in the new year.

UPTON PTFA

Email:

Upton.Ptfa@upton.kent.sch.uk

Dates for your diary:

PTFA AGM: The AGM will be on Monday 10th November at 7.30 in the Charles Dickens pub. Drinks and nibbles will be provided! All are welcome.

Coming along doesn't mean you are committing yourself to attending all meetings or helping at every function. It means you are willing and keen to support a fabulous group of people who want to do that little bit extra to improve Upton for their children!

Please spare an hour of your time and meet the PTFA team!

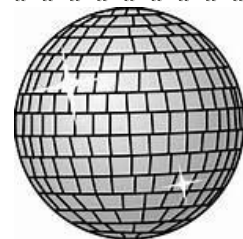
SCHOOL DISCO: Friday 21st November

Letters were sent home before the end of term.

If you haven't received - please ask at the office or download from our website!

Lower School: 5:30 - 6:45pm

Upper School: 7 - 8:30pm



The PTFA led our extremely successful DISCOs. In order for the discos to continue they need the support of parent volunteers. If you are able to support at either the lower or upper disco (or both!!) then please complete the additional 'Parent Helper Disco Letter'.

Thank you!!

Important information regarding attendance at the School Disco... The invitation to our Upton School Disco is open to all pupils. However, any child in receipt of a 'Red Card' during DISCO week will not be allowed to attend. I have spoken to the children during assembly today and made them aware of this. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Harvest Festival: Our 'Upton Harvest Festival' was the most successful ever! Maggie (from Fegans) led our Harvest assembly with Mr Bashford, Mrs Laffey and the Environment Club responsible for the amazing Harvest food 'living art' display. Their creativity truly knows no bounds. A special 'thank you' to Ash Farms for the generous supply of fresh farm produce. Upton Farmers Market proved to be very popular out on the playground! An event to be repeated in the spring!



SOS: 'Save our Swimming Pool': A massive THANK YOU for the generous support shown for the first of our fund raising events this year. We managed to raise a whopping £900!

Miss Crine (Ellie.Crine@upton.kent.sch.uk) would appreciate fundraising ideas (or business contacts you may have) to further support our fund raising. SOS will be a regular feature in our newsletters to keep you updated with events and money raised.