



UPTON JUNIOR SCHOOL

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Newsletter 16

Dear Parents

This is a very exciting week...not just because Thursday is 'Election Day' but also because we welcome to Upton a very special visitor on Thursday - **Patrick Leeson**; Corporate Director of Education and Young People's Services, KCC.

Mr Leeson will be touring Upton to see first-hand, the outstanding educational provision our children experience on a daily basis. I am always proud and privileged to entertain visitors to our school; it is my way of celebrating the tremendous hard work shown by our staff and pupils.

Mr Leeson is keen to see what our Ofsted Inspectors saw, as well as the Pupil Premium judges. He will visit lessons across the morning and take a look at the children's books. In doing so, he will also witness the children's exemplary behaviour for learning.



Mr Patrick Leeson

Parents, I hope you were able to join us in school prior to Parent Consultations, to look through your child's books and talk to them about their learning. The feedback I've had from parents, was that the timing of the 'Book Look' was very useful - just before you met with your child's teachers.

I am pleased to say that we had a very high turn out to Parent Consultations last week. The teachers feel that the face to face meetings with parents are so crucial and truly aid a child's progress in class. Having the opportunity to meet with Maths and English teachers as well as the class teacher should enable you to build up a full picture of your child's learning, progress, behaviour and social skills. Obviously nobody knows your child like you do - but experience tells me, we certainly see different aspects of their personality at school. I hope you came away from the consultations feeling proud of your child - proud that they are developing their own personality and set of values that will help shape the adults they will become.

If you have any questions having reflected upon your discussions with teachers - then please contact the teacher concerned. (Email addresses are all on our website, alternatively contact them via the school office).

For the small percentage of parents that have yet to meet with teachers, please do so before the end of this term. As I stress time and again - a key factor in a child's success is the interest parents take in their education. Parent Consultations are our way of sharing their success with you as well as discussing focus areas for development. Please contact the teacher directly to arrange a convenient time to meet or arrange via the school office.

The country decides...Election 2015... The children have taken an active interest in the General Election; asking questions at home and school. **Tomorrow, Thursday 7th May, the country will take to the polls!** It is not our place to influence your vote one way or another - however I do feel it is important that school raises awareness of the significance of a general election and encourage our children to ask questions.



Whatever your political bias; our children are growing up in a country that celebrates free choice and democracy - and the general election is a fine example of this. Election time always brings to my mind the famous quote attributed to Voltaire (although there is now a

body of thought stating the quote was said about him, not by him). Regardless of who said the words, it is an iconic phrase, salient more now than ever...

"I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it"
(Voltaire / Hall)

I am proud we have inquisitive minds at Upton, children who want to ask questions and seek to find out more about what is happening not only on their door step and in their community, but across the whole country.

Other News



Term 5 Dates Reminder:

This is a very short term - having only just settled back in to routines, the term end on Thursday 21st May (Two

weeks tomorrow), with our final Inset Day of the year on Friday 22nd May.

Nonetheless, it is an extremely important term (aren't they all!!) as it is our final term before end of year English and Maths assessment tests for children in Years 3, 4 & 5.

YEAR 6 SATs TESTS: For Year 6, these tests take place week beginning 11th May and are the national Key Stage 2 SATs tests. The Year 6 staff will share the testing timetable with you - but I would like to stress how important it is that our Year 6 children arrive promptly to school next week - feeling well rested and having eaten a substantial breakfast. We try our very best to make what can potentially be a stressful time for children - as calm and supportive as possible. If you have any concerns about your child, or feel they feel particularly pressured then please let us know.

INSET DAYS 2015-16:

We are now in a position to share Term Dates with you for the new academic year. Please can you take term dates in to

consideration when booking family holidays. As you are aware, the school is not in a position to authorise holidays taken in term time unless there are 'exceptional circumstances'. If in any doubt, please come and speak with me or drop me an email.



2015-16 dates

Term 1: INSET DAYS: 3/4th September

Term 1 starts for pupils Monday 7th September and ends on Friday 23rd October 2015

Term 2: INSET DAY: 2nd November

Term 2 starts for pupils on Tuesday 3rd November and ends on Friday 18th December 2015

Term 3: NO INSET DAYS

Term 3 starts on Monday 4th January and ends on Friday 12th February 2016

Term 4: INSET DAY: 22nd February

Term 4 starts on Tuesday 23rd February and ends on Thursday 24th March 2016

Good Friday on Friday 25th March

Term 5: INSET DAY: 27th May

Term 5 starts on Monday 11th April and ends on Thursday 26th May 2016

Bank holiday on Monday 2nd May

Term 6: NO INSET DAYS

Term 6 starts on Monday 6th June and ends on Friday 22nd July 2016

Kingswood Residential: Year 4

- Thank you very much to everyone who attended our Kingswood Information Meeting on Tuesday 5th May. For anyone who was unable to attend

Tuesday's session we have scheduled another meeting for your convenience on **Thursday 7th May at 5:30 pm**. We have also published the Power Point presentation onto the website, to find out more please visit:

<http://www.upton.kent.sch.uk/news/default.asp?pid=17&nid=1&storyid=167&action=saved>



Swattenden Residential - Year 6: Meeting times and reminders

Mrs Ballen and Ms Barrett will be holding two Swattenden Parents Meetings on **Monday 18th May at 6pm or Thursday 21st May at 2:00 pm** - please just pop along to the session most convenient for you. This meeting will allow the

Swattenden staff team to share the routines and timetable for the week as well as give you the opportunity to ask questions.

Admissions: You may be aware that it was National Offer Day on 16th April whereby all local authorities offer Primary/Junior School places to children starting school in September 2015.



We warmly welcome all new pupils offered a place here at Upton. You should have by now received our welcome letter and admissions forms required for completion by Friday 15th May.

If you have any questions about the admissions process and our subsequent transitional arrangements, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

For Year 6 transitional arrangements questions, please contact your year group leader.

Free School Meals: A reminder:

Kent County Council have an online 'Free School Meals' application service. For more information visit www.kent.gov.uk.



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...

Upton Chess Club: Mrs Hoenes has been part of the Upton Ship - running a weekly Chess Club for the children at Upton for the last twelve years.

It is with huge sadness that I tell you that Mrs Hoenes will not be returning to Upton after the holiday. She has been an avid supporter of our school and children - having had her own sons, Ben & Fraser, attend Upton. On behalf of all at Upton, THANK YOU and best wishes for the future!

Mrs Hoenes has led internal Upton Chess tournaments, with children competing for the prized 'shield' - as well as entering our pupils in to the UK Chess Championships Mega Final.

Well done to all of our talented chess players - particularly well done to the following:

Ryan Piddock (1st Place)

Abi Gibbons (2nd Place)

Kylle McKeown (2nd Place)

Sean Gibbons (2nd Place)

Ayra Amir (2nd Place)

Kirsten Hutchison (3rd Place)

Mrs Hoenes made a special mention to Sean Gibbons as the best newcomer to Chess Club and to James Mullin for being the most helpful in setting up.

Well done to you all, this is such an amazing achievement!

We would like to wish you all a MASSIVE thank you for donating to the Nepal Earthquake fund on Friday 1st May - we raised an absolutely **AMAZING £825.50** and money is still trickling in. This truly is a wonderful effort, we can't thank you enough!

Well done to **Grace Huckstep** for winning Silver in the Medway Stage Festival, under 9's vocal solo on 26th April Also Grace won bronze in the MWTA Under 40kg Girls Sparring on 2nd May. This is fabulous news Grace, super well done to you!

Well done to **Charlie Dent** who recently took part in the British Taekwon-do Championships which took place at Margate Winter Gardens.



Charlie's parents are so proud of him, as are we, for winning a bronze medal in the under 18s category, as you can see he is by far one of the smallest and youngest in this category but he gave it his very best.

A massive well done to **Lola Walton** who was recently a



runner up in the 8-11 years category in the Forth Plinth Competition in London. This is an amazing achievement, well done Lola!

Well done to Jaan Richards: Jaan recently passed his piano grade 1 exam (Taken at Trinity College London). Super well done to you!!

Well done to **Ella Crompton** who was recently awarded a merit in her Grade II Imperial Classical Ballet examination. A huge well done to you!!

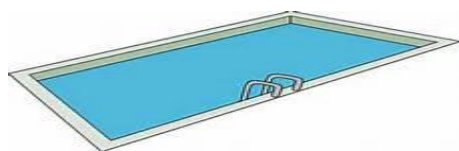
Well done to **Gregor Hutchison**, who wrote the Beaver prayer for this year's St. George's Day scout parade, and read it out on stage at the Winter Gardens in front of a packed house. Wow, this is such an amazing achievement! Well done Gregor!

A HUGE WELL DONE & Congratulations to our very own Mr Walker - who has won Kent Teacher of the Year. Mr Walker has been invited to attend a prestigious awards ceremony at Leeds Castle next week, when he will receive his award. I am sure you will agree that this award is certainly very well deserved and we are very proud and fortunate that Mr Walker is a pivotal member of 'Team Upton'.

Well done to our Term 4 Animal Art Competition winners:

Isabella Dryden; Harmony Hampson; Lily Cullen; Mabel Naisbitt; George Cleverdon; Toby Sydenham; Ben Lithman; Cameron Argent; Molly Cullen; Coco Newby

SOS: Save our Pool!



Well done to all who got involved in our sponsored event at Revolution on Saturday and our thanks to 'Revolution Skate Park' for letting us have the venue for free and their excellent support on the day. Could all sponsor money

please come in by the end of this week to the office or via the Virgin giving page <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fund/SaveUptonPool>

Save the Pool Fun Day and Fayre - Sat 13th June 10am-3pm -All pupils should have brought a letter home about this upcoming event on the school field. We need **your** help to make it a success. Can you run stall, donate a raffle prize, know someone who'd like to get involved or just help out generally on the day? We also have a craft fair running at the event

Please bear in mind companies who are helping out our pool fundraising - Chandlers building supplies (home improvements, builders etc) are the latest to become involved donating 2.5% of every sale quoting the 'Upton Save the Pool' appeal. Belmonte are donating 10% of their fees to the pool as our Expressions in Broadstairs High St.

PTFA NEWS

SAVE THE DATE: 12th June for the Mega Disco! Letters to follow shortly!



**Next newsletter out:
Wednesday 20th May
Thank you for reading!**