



UPTON JUNIOR SCHOOL

Edge End Road, Broadstairs, Kent CT10 2AH
Tel: 01843 861393 Fax: 01843 608498
Email: headteacher@upton.kent.sch.uk
Website: www.upton.kent.sch.uk

Mrs M Lewis BA Ed (Hons)
Headteacher
Twitter: @uptonjuniors
Facebook: Upton Junior School, Broadstairs - Official

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Dear Parents

Newsletter 18

Welcome back to the summer term!

We have eight fabulous final weeks of this academic year left. This term has always been my favourite - with outdoor learning, long hot sunny days and sunny dispositions to match. As you will see from the list of activities taking place this term ('Term 6 Diary Dates' will have gone home alongside this newsletter) staff have planned for an exciting end to the year. We have a host of summer activities planned for our pupils to enhance their learning journey, and fingers crossed, the weather will be kind!



Our SEAL theme for the term is '**CHANGES**' (*SEAL: Social Emotional Aspects of Learning*). During our start of the term assembly yesterday the children discussed how changes can make us feel; how change can be exciting and happy as well as making us feel apprehensive and unhappy.



I read the children a story of a man who didn't like change and how anything new made him frightened and angry. The children were fabulous at recognising these emotions in a 'fictional character' - I hope across the next eight weeks, home and school can work together to support the children with the mixture of emotions they may have as one school year comes to an end and we prepare for another.



For our Year 6 pupils this will be an awfully big change as we look at them 'Moving On' to their new secondary school. For our younger pupils, it will still be a transition from one year group to another.

I hope - and truly believe - that one of Upton's greatest strengths is the strong pastoral support we offer our children. We have a host of activities and systems in place to support the children; but we will never be in a position to know your child as well as you do. So, if you feel that your child is anxiety or fretful as the year draws to a close - please come and speak with the class teacher, the Learning Mentors or a member of the Leadership Team. I am confident that by working in partnership, we can support the children effectively.



Other News

Language of the Term!!! British Sign language

British Sign Language (BSL) is the most common form of sign language used in the United Kingdom. It is used by deaf people and their relatives. Each country in the world has its own sign language.

In the United Kingdom there are over 70,000 people who use BSL.

BSL is not a way of expressing English with gestures. It is a complete language in its own right, with its own vocabulary and grammar. BSL has many regional variations: signs used in Scotland may not be understood in southern England.

Artist of the Term!!! In assembly, Mrs Walton taught pupils about the art of surrealist painter Salvador Dali. Look out for Term 6 competition entries.

This is the final week for entries for the self-portrait competition to be handed in. Winners will be announced on Monday 8th June. Today (Wed 3rd), a band of pupils will be helping to restore the mosaics created by Upton pupils for the Turner Dickens Walk.

Hopefully you had a chance to see Upton represented at the Art Display set up by the Rotary Club at Westwood Cross with the theme 'Imagine'.

Author of the Term!!! David Walliams

David Walliams was born in 1971 and raised in Banstead, Surrey. Walliams is most famous for his appearances in the television show on 'Britain's Got Talent'.

Walliams is quite new to writing children's books but has made an instant impact.

'The boy in the Dress'

'Mr Stink'

'Gangster Granny'

'Billionaire Boy'

Mr Russell is organizing a competition for the children and there are also 'Challenges' on the 'Author of the Term' display that the children can participate in. There are also bookmarks on display which children can take.

Form Captains trip to the Houses of Parliament on 2nd June 2015: After a very early start we got to London in good time, met up with Newington Pupil Council and got straight on the London Eye. The whole group thoroughly enjoyed seeing the spectacular views across London pointing out different land marks. We enjoyed our lunch on the South Bank before heading across Westminster Bridge to Portcullis House. We all had to go through security and wear ID badges for our tour of the Houses of Parliament. In the House of Commons we saw and heard Jeremy Hunt and Andy Burnham speaking about the NHS as they were all debating the Queen's Speech. We

Finger Spelling Alphabet		a	b
c	d	e	f
g	h	i	j
k	l	m	n
o	p	q	r
s	t	u	v
w	x	y	z

had a photo in the Great Westminster Hall which has a leaky roof! For the second part of our visit we attended a workshop run by Ruth who split us into two party's and we had to campaign to get our voices heard to the Barons and Lords of the House of Lords, the public and the MPs. We have some very persuasive children here at Upton, maybe future politicians?! We finished the afternoon meeting our local MP Craig Mackinlay and had a question and answer session. All in all a very informative and interesting day.



Year 6 Swattenden and Survivor Week: A midweek update from our fearless explorers...

The children (and staff) are thoroughly enjoying the experience. The sun has been shining today (or at the very least, no rain!), the food is fabulous and the activities - despite being challenging, are incredibly exciting.

Please see daily texts, tweets, Facebook and the school website for more information on the Year 6 Swattenden adventure.

Our remaining Year 6 pupils are in the midst of 'Survivor Week'. They have been shipwrecked, are building an appropriate shelter and will build a catapult to fight off sharks!!!!!! Our Year 6 Survivor Children are welcome to wear non-school uniform on Friday (no cost!!!!)

End of Year Assessments... For pupils in Years 3, 4 and 5 'end of year assessments'

in Reading, Writing and Maths will take place across the next two weeks. Although they are 'formal' tests, the children will be in a supportive environment to ease the pressure and anxiety testing can cause. If you have any questions regarding these tests please speak with your child's teacher.

Year 5 PESE Information Evening

Monday 15th June 6pm: Believe it or not, the time has now arrived for parents with children in Year 5 to think about secondary school transition. A Kent Test information leaflet and a letter were sent via email at the end of Term 5. If you haven't received either please contact the office as it is essential information. Parents will have until 1st July to decide whether or not they want their child to take the Kent tests (11+ tests in 'old money!')

A reminder that in order to help with your decision we shall hold a **PESE Information Evening on Monday 15th June at 6pm.** The PESE process will be explained in detail and Year 5 staff will be on hand to answer questions you may have. Please note Year 5 teachers will also hold a parents meeting on the afternoon of **16th June from 1.15-3.30pm.** This time has been set aside for parents who are unable to attend the evening meeting or parents that did attend the meeting but had a specific question about their child regarding the PESE test. Parents will be able to sign up for an appointment time during the Parents Meeting on the 15th June or telephone the school office in advance to make an appointment for this.

The Year 5 pupils have taken **Cognitive Assessment Tests** (CAT tests) this week. These tests are verbal and non-verbal reasoning tests as well as a maths test. The questions are similar to the Kent Tests the children may sit in September if you are thinking of a grammar school for your child. The results of the CAT tests are therefore a useful indicator to inform your decision

making or conversations you may want to have with the class teacher. CAT Test results will be sent home with your child on **Friday 12th June.**

NEW pedestrian gate... The more



observant amongst you will have noticed that we now have a gate in to the school grounds along the Broadstairs Road. We have been waiting for KCC

Highways to confirm safety barriers on the pavement. Whilst we wait however, we would like to open the gate for pedestrian access in and out of school - especially as the weather is now fair and we will be able to walk across the grass.

Mr Denny has erected a temporary area to be used as a 'walkway' on to the main premises.

I am also extremely delighted to inform you that after much searching, we have a new Road Crossing Patrol - Mr Callanan. Mr Callanan will be starting with us shortly. Apologies for the huge delay, recruitment has taken much longer than we hoped. However, as the saying goes, 'Good things come to those who wait' - and I'm confident Mr Callanan will be a welcome addition to the Upton team.

Fingers crossed KCC Highways will eventually agree to a crossing for Mr Callanan to base himself at, as well as safety barriers in front of the gate. Watch this space for updates!!!



UPTON FEST... SAVE THE DATE!!



SOS Pool: ASDA Bag packing & Bath of Beans...

This Saturday 6th June the school will be fundraising at the ASDA store in Broadstairs between 10am-3pm to raise money for the swimming pool. If your child can spare an hour to help bag



pack for ASDA customers at the checkouts we would be really grateful! We also need volunteers to sit in our 'Bath of Beans' outside the main doors of the store. We will have our fundraising buckets everywhere and hopefully people will donate to the appeal. Please collect a letter from the school office if you're happy to help!

Thank you to Changes Spa: Changes Spa are very kindly donating 25% of what you spend in their salons in June to help save our pool. If you use their salons in June, Changes Hair and Beauty in Broadstairs or

Changes Day Spa in Ramsgate please quote 'Upton' for us to receive their incredibly generous donation!

Lost property boxes...A

reminder that we changed our location of lost property - to be honest, we had little choice! The growing number of 'lost' items had taken over corridor space!



We now have exterior storage boxes where all discarded and forgotten items are placed. Any small, valuable items found (not clothing or shoes) are kept in the school office. Please make a point of checking these boxes regularly if your child has misplaced anything.

Year 6 Production: ROBIN HOOD...Mr



Langridge and the Year 6 staff and pupils will be thinking of nothing else for the next eight weeks. Auditions took place before half term, dance lessons and full rehearsals will start next

week. I will try not to peep in on the rehearsals as I want to be totally blown away when I watch the children perform on the stage of the Winter Gardens.

For parents new to Upton - we don't perform in the school hall, oh no - much too small an affair for us - we hire the **Winter Gardens** in Margate for two days and our Year 6 pupils take to the stage (the real stage!) and perform to a packed out theatre. *Tickets and more information will be sent home to all parents very soon. Watch this space!*

Choir News! Broadstairs Dickens Festival

is just around the corner and our talented Choir and Rock Band will be performing at the Bandstand. I shall be there (fortunately not performing!) but in the front row proudly supporting our talented Uptonians! Please come along and enjoy the talents of Upton if you are available.

CHOIR: Broadstairs Dickens Festival—Monday June 15th — 10.00—12.00—the Bandstand.

ROCK BAND: Broadstairs Dickens Festival— Tuesday 16th June 2.00—3.00—the Bandstand.

SPORTS Days... A reminder of the dates and times of the forthcoming SPORTS Days. Parents are warmly invited.

7/7/15 - Year 3 Sports Afternoon 1:30PM

8/7/15 - Year 6 Sports Morning 9:30AM

8/7/15 - Year 5 Sports Afternoon 1:30PM

9/7/15 - Year 4 Sports Afternoon 1:30PM

Academic Year 2015/16: Term dates for the next academic year have been sent home and are available on our school website. We ask you to please consider these dates when booking your family holidays - and where possible, holidays are not taken during term time. We thank you for your support with this.

Remember...Our 'Computer Suite' is open for parents and children to complete homework...A reminder that our computer suite is open every afternoon straight after school until 5pm. The time has been set aside for parents (or grandparents) and children to work on the computer to access 'My Maths' homework site - or to complete other online homework.

We ask that you sign up for a time slot (you can book more than one $\frac{1}{2}$ hour session). The 'sign up sheet' is kept in the school entrance. Remember you can always telephone the office and arrange and they can 'sign you up'.

PTFA News:

Communication Board: The PTFA have their 'Community Board' in the playground (on 6B outside wall). The PTFA will regularly update with information regarding forthcoming events, as well as member contact details and photographs. If you would like to find out more about our fabulous team of dedicated PTFA members please email: Upton.Ptfa@upton.kent.sch.uk

Upton Family Camp: Letters will go out shortly detailing all of the information you'll need to apply for the Family Camp out on 11th July.

PTFA DISCO Friday 12th June

Disco letters were emailed last term. If you require a copy of these letters, either Lower or Upper School ticket request letters or the Helpers letter please pop along to our school office or alternatively you can download copies from our school website.

Governors: If you have any questions for the governing body please contact them via the school office or email them: governors@upton.sch.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 (Talk to me on the gate or email me: headteacher@upton.kent.sch.uk). 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' board to display photographs and newspaper articles celebrating the many talents and successes of the children of Upton!

Congratulations and Well Done to...

Stanley Dray 3R: GOOD LUCK Stanley... Stanley will be running a very special charity 5K race in London on Sunday in support of Great Ormond Street Hospital. We are very proud of you!

Well done to the shortlisted winners of the 'Fantasy Writing Competition' held last term:

Gregor Hutchison
Kylle Bien Agustin
Dhriti Patel
Louis Sotiri
Maya Shakeshaft

All winners will receive a small prize. Two of the shortlisted winners will go on to win another prize. We will keep you posted!

Spirit of Upton Award Winners: This is a very special prize, awarded to only one child in each year group three times a year (at the end of terms 2, 4 & 6). My apologies as the recipients of the Term 4 'Spirit of Upton Award' should have been celebrated in the newsletter - and unfortunately their names were missed out. So, better late than never...

CONGRATULATIONs to Year 3's Joshua Hill; Year 4's Leo Winter; Year 5's Jake Rudland-Rosman & Year 6's Maisy Hembrow.

The children were chosen for displaying the true 'spirit of Upton' across terms 3 & 4. We are extremely proud of them as we are sure they parents are too!

Next newsletter out: Wed 17th June
Thank you for reading!