1st July 2015

Dear Parents

Transition Newsletter

This is a special newsletter to share class organisation for the next academic year. It is important you are aware of this information because tomorrow (Thursday 2nd July) is **Transition Day** across Thanet schools.

Our current Year 6 pupils will spend the day in their new secondary school. Each of the secondary schools would have communicated information with parents and new pupils.

Our school day will follow usual timings for pupils who are <u>currently</u> in Year 3, 4 and 5. They will spend the day in their 'new' year group with their 'new' teachers.

<u>Our 'new' Year 3 children will arrive at 9:15am and depart at 2:45pm.</u>

Any questions please speak to the school office.

Please find detailed below class arrangements for academic year 2015-16:

Year 3: September 2015			
3B: Mrs Lord*	3G: Miss Kemp	3R: Miss Reed	3Y: Miss Rees-Boughton

Year 4: September 2015			
4B: Mr Stevens	4G: Mrs Wilson*	4R: Miss Hare-Winton	4Y: Miss Watmough

Year 5: September 2015			
5B: Miss Spain	5G: Miss Hayes	5R: Mrs Ballen	5Y: Mrs Walton*

Year 6: September 2015			
6B: Miss Slaney	6G: Miss Papa-Adams	6R: Mrs Blunden*	6Y: Miss Povey

* = Year Leader

Transition Day will allow our pupils and staff to spend the day getting to know each other. It is important for the children to have a clear idea of the expectations and routines across the new academic year. Please speak with your child this evening about their new teacher and share with us if they have any concerns or worries. Transition Day should alleviate these anxieties but if they persist please speak with either their current or new teacher, or Mrs Turner or Ms Danson – our Learning Mentors.

Remember face to face conversations would be the preferred way to communicate but time pressures on you may not allow that. If this is the case please do not hesitate to telephone or email (all email addresses for staff are listed on the school website – along with photographs of staff, in case you can't quite put a face to a name yet!)

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'Welcome and Goodbye'… As you would have noticed from next year's class lists, we are welcoming new teachers to our Upton team. A new school year always brings change and this year is no exception.

Departing the 'Good Ship Upton'…When we say our 'goodbye' to our 127 Year 6 children on the last day of the school year we will also be saying a fond farewell to a number of staff as well.

Mrs McGinley, Upton's Deputy Headteacher, has worked at Upton for 38 years. Yes – you read it correctly – an amazing **38** years!

Mrs McGinley started life with us on Remembrance Day 1977, initially on a one year contract (working in a mobile on the front playground) and 38 years later she bids a fond farewell to the school she has dedicated her entire teaching career.

Mrs McGinley worked her way up the career ladder, with her first responsibility 'Girls Games' and 'Needlework' - clearly impressing with her skill and became Upton's Deputy Headteacher in 1990.

Mrs McGinley has worked for all six of Upton's Headteachers and proudly says that this year has been Upton's finest! She is so fortunate to have her swansong year in the year that Upton achieved all that it so richly deserves.

Mrs McGinley is looking forward to spending a long; happy, healthy retirement enjoying spending time with her family. She has two grandchildren that I'm sure will keep her busy; has booked fabulous vacations (during term time of course!!!!), has signed up for 'Cheese Making' and 'Life Drawing' courses and will be an active member of Dane Park Bowls Club.

In whatever way Mrs McGinley chooses to spend her leisure time, we wish her every future happiness and thank her for a lifetime of service to generations of Broadstairs families.

Also departing after a lifetime at Upton is **Miss Brennan.** Miss Brennan is another recipient of the 'lifetime award' – having worked here for 28 years. Miss Brennan joined the staff at Upton after teaching at St Ethelbert's Primary and quickly felt that Upton was the school she wanted to work at.

Miss Brennan has the wonderful 'knack' of remembering children, families and faces from across the 28 years. I can show a prospective parent around with their seven year old child, and Miss Brennan will not only recognise the parent from when they were a pupil at Upton, she will also remember how many marks out of ten they got in their spelling tests!!

Miss Brennan leaves us to explore new opportunities. We thank her for the warmth and sunshine she has brought to generations of children at Upton.

The final 'Lifetime Achievement' award goes to **Mrs Tottman**. Mrs Tottman (or Mrs Derbyshire as she started life with us) has also decided to become a 'lady of leisure' after 21 years of service to Upton. Mrs Tottman leads our wonderful team of 'Mid-

day Meal Supervisors' and has done a marvellous job every lunchtime for 21 years.

Mrs Tottman has witnessed generations of 'Uptonians' pass through the Upton dining hall under her watchful eye! We thank her for the compassion and care she has given to the pupils at Upton and wish her a healthy and happy retirement.

Three teachers that have been as equally dedicated to Upton, but not served as long a 'sentence' as the ladies retiring, are **Mr Perkins, Mr Russell and Mr Skellon**. Each has decided to venture on to pastures new and experience teaching in other establishments.

Each has been a magnificent member of 'TEAM UPTON' and has given over and above what is expected of a teacher. They have done this because they truly are terrific teachers that want to provide an outstanding education for every child and all three understand and embrace our 'One Childhood One Chance' philosophy.

Mr Russell will be delighting the Year 6 pupils of Salmestone with his amazing teaching talents; whilst the incredible **Mr Perkins** has opted for a taste of life teaching younger children and will be a Year 2 teacher at Priory in September.

The skilful **Mr Skellon** is relocating out of Kent and takes up a teaching position in Derbyshire.

The extremely talented **Mrs Ash** is also departing Upton at the end of this year. Mrs Ash has worked as part of the Year 5 team, leading English and Maths for three years. The children that have been taught

by Mrs Ash will have benefited enormously from her calm, considered manner. Mrs Ash is stepping out of teaching, for what we hope will only be a short while as she is truly a credit to the profession and will be sorely missed at Upton.

Words cannot express sufficiently the high esteem in which I hold these teachers. It has been my privilege as Headteacher to lead these teachers at the start of their teaching careers. To guide and help shape the teachers they have become has truly been one of the highlights of my role as a school leader.

The children of Upton have certainly benefited enormously having had them here as part of our dedicated staff. On behalf of the Upton community, I wish each of you a very successful future and know that wherever you go and teach – there will always be part of you that will be forever Upton!

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Upton Leavers Farewell Picnic…

To give the whole school community the opportunity to bid farewell to our staff departing Upton shores (as well as a final farewell picnic for our Year 6 pupils) we invite parents to join the school for a very special 'FAREWELL PICNIC' at the end of term.

We will host the picnic for the entire school on the penultimate day of the year – Thursday 23rd July. Families are welcome to join us between 12 – 1:30pm on the school field. Families can feast together (sorry folks, you need to provide the food) and we will provide the entertainment.

More details for this fabulous end of year event will follow closer to the time – please SAVE THE DATE on your calendars now!

'All aboard…' Joining the 'good ship' Upton in September we welcome…

Now for the fun part… the excitement of welcoming fresh, new, enthusiastic teachers to TEAM UPTON!

Miss Reed, Miss Rees-Boughton, Miss Watmough and Mr Stevens; four new teachers joining our staff. They will teach in Year 3 and Year 4. All four teachers have spent Term 6 with us, familiarising themselves with our routines and high expectations. They are all therefore in school to lead their new class tomorrow for 'Transition Day' and will be in school for you to 'put a face to a name' in the remaining days of this school year.

We are so fortunate to have appointed four teachers that each come to us with glowing references. I am confident they will become huge assets to our staff team. Welcome and good luck to you all!

We also welcome Mrs Denby, Mrs Higgins and Mrs O'Donnell to our support staff team. All three ladies are familiar faces to Upton; they each take on a different role in September with Mrs Denby joining us as a

Teaching Assistant, Mrs Higgins as a Senior Teaching Assistant and Mrs O'Donnell with two caps – our Senior Mid Day Meal Supervisor as well as a Teaching Assistant.

We are also lucky to welcome our new Teaching Assistant apprentice, Danni Neal, who is also a familiar face to some of our children. Danni has regularly helped out on a voluntary basis with our homework club. We look forward to working with you and supporting you in your new career.

'Welcome Aboard ladies' – we know you will complement our very strong and talented team of support staff.

Final Transition Day Reminder…
Children that will be in 'new' Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6: school start and finish at usual times 8:50am and 3:15pm.

Children that will be joining us for the very first time, our 'new' Year 3 – school starts at 9:15am and will finish at 2:45am.

If you have any questions regarding TRANSITION DAY arrangements for tomorrow please contact the school office.

I look forward to sharing an extremely successful Transition 2015 with you all and welcoming new faces to TEAM UPTON!

Best wishes

Mrs Lewis