



# UPTON JUNIOR SCHOOL

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## Newsletter 1

9<sup>th</sup> September 2015

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' this week, during which they will share key information about the year ahead (**Year 5 had their session yesterday - thank you to everyone who came along; Year 4 - today and Year 6 - Monday 14<sup>th</sup> - All at 2:30 pm**). Please note, Year 3 will hold special parent consultations on the week beginning Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September. Letters have been sent home via your child about booking appointments - please contact the school office if you have not received your letter. If you are unable to attend the parent information sessions - the information will be 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 (19<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. Miss Arthur and Mr Walker are our Deputy Headteachers. Miss Arthur leads on Inclusion - including SEN and Mr Walker, the curriculum.

I also have four very experienced and talented Assistant Headteachers 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.

**We welcome 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 spent Term 6 with us, familiarising themselves with our routines and high expectations.

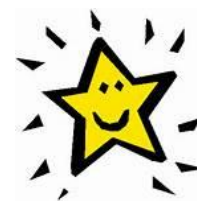
We are so fortunate to have appointed four teachers that each come to us with glowing references. I am confident they will become huge assets to our staff team. Welcome and good luck to you all!

**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 have each taken on a different role 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 to you all - we know you will complement our very strong and talented team of support staff.

**'Behaviour' Reward Point System:** We start the new school year determined to build upon the outstanding success achieved last year. An extremely impressive 73% of our pupils (400+ 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 held our **'Behaviour Information Sessions'** today. Please don't worry if you couldn't come along today, we will publish the powerpoint presentation used during the sessions onto our school website.

The information sessions gave Miss Arthur a chance to explain our 'Behaviour Point System' to answer any questions about how we reward and praise our pupils and conversely, the sanctions we apply when pupils do not behave in the 'Upton way'.

**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:**

Enquiry	Communication
Adaptability	Thoughtfulness
Resilience	Cooperation
Morality	Respect

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. To maintain our high standards I look to you for your support in 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.

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 class teacher or a member of the Leadership Team. I thank you for your cooperation with this.

**Academic Year 2015/16: 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 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	Mia Stream and Theo Wickenden
3G	Harry Buss and Willow Fielder
3R	Harrison Taylor and Elyse-Indigo Mariager-Alesky
3Y	Beatrice Beaumont and Alex Bartindale
4B	Mabel Walton and Charlie Dent
4G	Charlie Morgan and Maisie McNair
4R	Kelsie Bissett and Eden Williams-Verrall
4Y	Will Hume and Maya Shakeshaft
5B	Zack Connor and Lauren Rouse
5G	William Moynan and Amy Topping
5R	Harry Sharman and Jessica Gardner
5Y	Finn Hickmott and Jessica Till
6B	Finley Connelly and Rose Carrington
6G	George Cleverdon and Ayra Amir
6R	Mia Marrison and Stanley Dyer
6Y	Riley Watkins and Lola Walton

**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 (14<sup>th</sup>). A display of all diaries will be in the school hall on Friday 19<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 14<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.

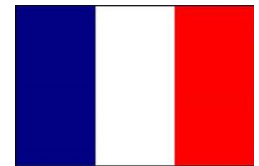
**Prayer Space: Reflection Week...** From the 21<sup>st</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> of September there will be a 'Prayer Reflection Space' at the school for the children, staff and parents to interact with. This is being set-up and run by Fegans and Queens Road Baptist Church.

'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 on Friday (25<sup>th</sup>) from 2:30 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.

#### Language of the Term - French:



French is an official language in the following countries: Belgium, Benin, Burkina, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, France, Gabon, Guinea, Haiti, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mali, Monaco, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, Switzerland, Togo, Vanuatu and Vietnam.

There are about 129,000,000 French speakers in the world!

Did you know that the following words are actually French.... *Ambulance, grace, crayon, soup, trophy, sauce, palace, toast, pastry, ballet, cartoon, poetry.*



**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:

All pupils who leave the school gates on their own at the end of a school day require permission to leave the school grounds. All children who are allowed this permission have a credit card sized permit to produce to the staff members manning the gates at home-time so we know the children have your permission to leave.

If your child leaves the school premises alone (even if they are meeting you on the corner of the road) please spare five precious minutes to complete the 'Leaving School Unaccompanied' form which can be collected from the school office.

**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 Clubs List' will be emailed out to parents (and available on the website) by Monday 14<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 Kerry (our School Cook) leading a very talented team of kitchen staff. We would love for you to join us for lunch on the following days:

**Year 3:** Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November @12:15 pm or  
Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November @12:15 pm

**Year 4:** Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November @12:15 pm or  
Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November @12:15 pm

**Year 5:** Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November @12:15 pm or  
Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November @12:15 pm

**Year 6:** Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November @12:15pm or  
Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> Novembers @12:15 pm

Letters will be out shortly.

### 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!

### Well done to....

**Daniella Cross, Alexandra Cross, Lucy Hickmott (a former Uptonian) and David Lamler (Upton School Choir)** who put on a wonderful evening's entertainment at St. John's Church during the holidays and raised money for the church and the School Pool Fund. David provided the musical accompaniment for an evening of popular musicals and film scores. The girls all performed beautifully in the "Matilda" section whilst David showed his talents on the keyboard, organ and accordion. They raised a huge £100 for the Pool fund!! Well done everyone!!

**Jack Rudland Rosman (6B)** who has recently passed his Grade 1 Piano exam in July. Well done to you!!!

## Mr Langridge Music News!!

**Choir - Starts back on Tuesday 15th Sept.**

"Do you want to Join?" -

**When** - Auditions for Choir will be held on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September, in the Music Room from 12.15 pm onwards. Children will need to have second lunch and will need to inform their teacher. Mr Langridge, (Music Teacher), will stand in the Year 3 corridor at the beginning of the lunch period and lead any year 3 children to the music room.

**What** - To audition, you just need to prepare a short song to sing - one you feel you can sing really well and with strength - choir songs from your previous school are always a good choice. You may also have a short 'pitch test' where you need to sing back a sequence of four notes.

Good luck and look forward to meeting you!

**Rock Band** - Rock Band is full at present and will start back on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September

**Recorder Club** - Recorder club has spaces for around 9 more players. Players need to have had experience of playing the recorder and basic music reading. Letters will be available from the office.

**String Group** - There are plenty of places for young string players, (violin, viola, cello, guitar), but they do need to have had at least one years experience of playing their instrument and will make more progress if they are currently having private lessons. Please arrange to see Mr Langridge if you would like more info.

### PTFA Meeting

Upton's next PTFA meeting will be on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September at 3:30 pm. Parents old and new are welcome to come along! We really hope you can join us!

### SCHOOL TIMES:

SCHOOL STARTS: **8.40AM** & 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
<b>Mrs Lewis, Headteacher</b>	headteacher@upton.kent.sch.uk
<b>Mr Walker, Deputy Headteacher</b>	dave.walker@upton.kent.sch.uk
<b>Miss Arthur, Deputy Headteacher/AEN</b>	darci.arthur@upton.kent.sch.uk
<b>Miss Crine, School Business Manager</b>	ellie.crine@upton.kent.sch.uk
<b>Office</b>	office@upton.kent.sch.uk
<b>Mrs Turner and Ms Danson, Learning Mentors</b>	learning.mentors@upton.kent.sch.uk
<b>Mrs Lord, Year 3 Assistant Headteacher / 3B Class Teacher</b>	ros.lord@upton.kent.sch.uk
<b>Miss Kemp, 3G Class Teacher</b>	natasha.kemp@upton.kent.sch.uk
<b>Miss Reed, 3R Class Teacher</b>	isobel.reed@upton.kent.sch.uk
<b>Miss Rees-Boughton, 3Y Class Teacher</b>	alice.rees-boughton@upton.kent.sch.uk
<b>Mrs Wilson, Year 4 Assistant Headteacher / 4G Class Teacher</b>	tessa.wilson@upton.kent.sch.uk
<b>Mr Stevens, 4B Class Teacher</b>	hayden.stevens@upton.kent.sch.uk
<b>Miss Hare-Winton, 4R Class Teacher</b>	fran.harewinton@upton.kent.sch.uk
<b>Miss Watmough, 4Y Class Teacher</b>	lauren.watmough@upton.kent.sch.uk
<b>Mrs Walton, Year 5 Assistant Headteacher / 5Y Class Teacher</b>	lynne.walton@upton.kent.sch.uk
<b>Mrs Sedgewick, 5B Class Teacher</b>	nicola.sedgewick@upton.kent.sch.uk
<b>Miss Hayes, 5G Class Teacher</b>	corinne.hayes@upton.kent.sch.uk
<b>Mrs Ballen, 5R Class Teacher</b>	sharon.ballen@upton.kent.sch.uk
<b>Mrs Blunden, Year 6 Assistant Headteacher / 6R Class Teacher</b>	caroline.blunden@upton.kent.sch.uk
<b>Miss Slaney, 6B Class Teacher</b>	nicole.slaney@upton.kent.sch.uk
<b>Miss Papa-Adams, 6G Class Teacher</b>	athanasia.papa-adams@upton.kent.sch.uk
<b>Miss Povey, 6Y Class Teacher</b>	ashley.povey@upton.kent.sch.uk
<b>Additional Teachers:</b>	
<b>Mrs Ash</b>	jeanine.ash@upton.kent.sch.uk
<b>Mrs Bedingfield</b>	hannah.bedingfield@upton.kent.sch.uk
<b>Mr Coot</b>	jamie.coot@upton.kent.sch.uk
<b>Mr Jackson</b>	jamie.jackson@kent.sch.uk
<b>Miss Halliday</b>	anne.halliday@upton.kent.sch.uk
<b>Mr Langridge</b>	peter.langridge@upton.kent.sch.uk
<b>Mrs Votta</b>	lynn.votta@upton.kent.sch.uk

Kitchen direct line: 01843 608494