

Newsletter – 20th December 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

‘As we reach the end of another successful term, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt gratitude to each of you for your support this term and always. Your involvement in your children’s education and your commitment to our school community have been integral to making this term truly remarkable.

Reflecting on the past several weeks, it is evident that we have experienced a vibrant and engaging term filled with a plethora of activities. From the sights and sounds of fireworks lighting up the sky to the joyous laughter shared during our discos, every event has woven a tapestry of memorable experiences for our children. The festive parties, lively fair, and the delightful Christmas dinners served to foster a sense of community and togetherness, contributing to the overall success of our term.

I am particularly proud of the resilience and enthusiasm our children have demonstrated during this bustling time. They have approached every activity with a spirit of joy and engagement, and their hard work in the classroom has been commendable. It has been a pleasure to witness their academic progress as they embraced new concepts and ventured into deeper levels of understanding. Despite the distractions of holiday festivities, the children have displayed an admirable commitment to their learning, and this dedication has not gone unnoticed.

As we conclude this term, let us celebrate the achievements of our children, both academically and socially. They have grown not only in knowledge but also in their abilities to work together, to respect diverse opinions, and to support one another as friends and classmates. These social skills are as crucial as academic achievement and contribute immensely to their future endeavours.

As we look forward to the upcoming term, I encourage you to engage in discussions with your children about what they have learned and experienced this term. These conversations can serve to reinforce their learning and allow them to articulate their thoughts and feelings about their educational journey.

Wishing you all a peaceful and joyful festive season, filled with cherished moments and enduring memories.

Thank you once again for your continued partnership in your child's education. I look forward to welcoming everyone back in the next term, rejuvenated and ready for our next adventures.’

Miss Arthur Head of School



Year 3

What an incredible term it has been for Year 3! The children have shown fantastic enthusiasm, dedication, and a true love of learning as they explored new topics and skills across the curriculum. Here's a closer look at what we've been up to:

In English, the children have produced some truly fabulous writing inspired by our core text, *The Iron Man*. Through this engaging story, they developed their creativity, descriptive language, and storytelling skills. It has been wonderful to see their ideas come to life on the page and watch their confidence as writers grow.

In Maths, Year 3 have worked hard to secure their understanding of key concepts, particularly statistics, addition, and subtraction. From interpreting data in graphs to mastering calculations, the children have tackled each challenge with perseverance and enthusiasm. Their progress has been amazing, and they should be very proud of themselves!

A highlight of the term has undoubtedly been our thematic topic: 'Feel the Force, See the Light!' where the children explored the fascinating world of forces and light. From investigating shadows and reflections to understanding how things move, the children have developed their scientific thinking and curiosity about the world around them. One of the standout moments this term was our STEM Challenge Day. It was a huge success, and the children loved putting their problem-solving and teamwork skills to the test. They approached each activity with enthusiasm, creativity, and determination, showcasing their brilliant ideas and resilience.

It has been a joy to see the children work so hard, grow in confidence, and make so much progress in their learning this term. Their enthusiasm for each subject and love of learning shines through every day, and we could not be prouder of their achievements.

Well done, Year 3! Keep up the fantastic work, and we look forward to more exciting learning adventures next term!

Year 4

We have had an incredible term in Year 4. The children have thoroughly enjoyed their learning across all subjects and have worked hard throughout.

Our afternoon lessons have been the highlight of the term with our 'Walk Like an Egyptian' topic during Thematic. It has been a hands-on, interesting and fun topic which has sparked the imagination of the children, who have been inspired to ask questions and do their own research to further their knowledge and understanding. From making pyramids out of clay, washing line timelines and mummifying tomatoes, we hope the children will remember their learning for years to come.

Our English lessons have also had an Ancient Egyptian link through our texts: Marcy and the Riddle of the Sphinx and The Egyptian Cinderella. Marcy and the Riddle of the Sphinx is a beautifully illustrated book which inspired the children to write well across a range of genres, but the standout piece of writing was their journal entries, which were well laid out and presented with embellishments. The children also enjoyed making links to Cinderella whilst reading The Egyptian Cinderella, then using their imagination to continue the story by writing their 'Happy Ever After!'

Maths lessons saw the children calculate using multiplication and division. They learnt an array of strategies to calculate, applying them to a variety of contexts and to solve problems. For the remainder of the term, the children explored discrete and continuous data by studying a range of graphs including pictograms, bar charts and time graphs. They answered questions about the different types of graphs and had a go at constructing their own.

The children have had a very successful Term 2 and should feel very proud of their achievements. We wish them a well-earned rest over the Christmas holidays, ready to welcome them back for Term 3.

Year 5

This term, year 5 have explored space through our topic, 'Stargazers.' They have learnt about space travel, space disasters, the solar system and how the moon impacts the Earth. During the term, the children also had the opportunity to venture into the Astrodome and explore the constellations and why Pluto is no longer a planet. The children showed such passion and enthusiasm for this topic and thoroughly enjoyed learning about life outside of Earth! In English, our text was, Cosmic, which linked to our thematic lessons. The children followed Liam's journey into space and loved exploring the characters along the way! In maths, the children have been focusing on long multiplication and short division and area and perimeter. This has been a fun packed term, full of excitement and awe!

Year 6

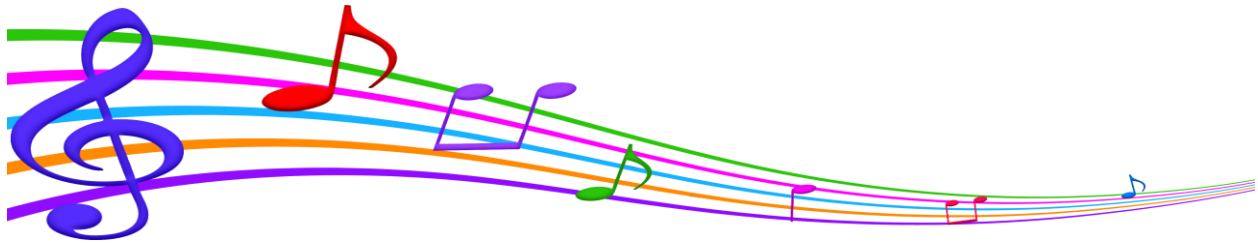
This term Year 6 have been totally immersed in the trials and tribulations of Gunnar Bjornson, the protagonist of our text Viking Boy. Using this captivating text as a stimulus, they have successfully written across a range of genres including creating their own Viking quest narrative.

In maths, after tackling calculation problems, Year 6 have focused on fractions. They have learnt to simplify, convert and apply all four operations in a range of contexts.

Our Thematic Curriculum unit, 'My Home, My Country' started with the big question 'Is it ever OK to invade another country?'. This sparked great conversation, and we then went on to explore the Vikings. Our lessons spanned great leaders of the time to the ingenious design of Viking longships.

Term 2 cannot pass without a special mention of Year 6's involvement in Upton's Open Day events. Whatever their role on the day, the staff, and visiting adults, were blown away by the confident, polite children we are lucky enough to teach this year!

Music News



This term has been a whirlwind of musical activity at Upton! Our students have been incredibly dedicated and enthusiastic, and their hard work has paid off in a variety of ways.

Year 3 Our youngest musicians have been exploring the world of music through "Ode to Joy" by Beethoven. They've been learning to read music and play this iconic piece, laying a strong foundation for their musical journey.

Year 4: Our students have delved into the power of expression in music. They've learned how to use major and minor keys to create different moods, adding depth and emotion to their performances.

Year 5: Have been diving deep into music theory, mastering the C major scale and its placement on the staff. They've applied their knowledge to learn and perform the iconic riff from Billie Eilish's "Bad Guy."

Year 6: Our oldest students have been exploring the fascinating world of commercial music. They've analysed the structure of popular songs like The Weekend's "Blinding Lights" to understand the building blocks of hit music.

Our Music clubs have been very busy, Choir managed to somehow fit 5 performances into one week! 3 at our Open Day events, along with our brilliant Young Voices Choir. 1 performance to parents at our Open Rehearsal, with parents singing along and our final performance at the Thanet Male Voice Choir Christmas Concert at Holy Trinity Church in Broadstairs. All in all the choir had a very busy time but everyone was singing their hearts out and having a great time.



Our Rock & Pop Bands have all been performing this term with all 3 of the bands hosting a studio session for parents to come in and listen to what songs they have been working on. Our year 3 & 4 band 'Riots of Colour' did a performance in one of our Music Assemblies to which they got one of the loudest round of applause and cheers ever!

Drum Club also performed in an assembly as part of our Musician of the Term Assembly. This term we were learning about the artist 'Woodkid' and the percussion group came along to the assembly and performed his hit track 'Run Boy Run'.

Our String Group just keeps growing and growing, we now have over 20 students all playing the violin together with Mrs. Nunn & Mrs. B.G. It's so nice to see the violin come to life in the school.

Ukulele group have almost finished their first song together with half the group playing chords while the other half play a riff. With such a big influx of Year 3 players this year we really had to scale it back to begin with, but our fantastic older students have been great at helping the new students to flourish.

We're incredibly proud of our students' achievements this term. As we head into the holiday break, we encourage everyone to continue exploring their musical passions. We look forward to another exciting term of music-making in the new year!



Sports News

Click [here](#) to see a round up for the year of our Sporting Events.

Our years 5 and 6 athletics team took part in the Thanet competition. The boys and girls were fantastic, really showing off their athletic prowess. In the end the girls came 3rd 🥉 in Thanet, the boys came 2nd 🥈 and overall Upton came 2nd in Thanet 🥈



In the years 3 and 4 Athletics competition the children showed great skills in the track and field events. After a very close morning, the girls finished 2nd 🥈 in Thanet, the boys finished 1st 🥇 and when the scores were combined Upton were crowned Thanet Champions! 🏆.

After our years 5 and 6 basketball team impressed in the Thanet basketball qualifiers, they made it through to the finals to face the top 7 schools in Thanet. After only losing 1 game they came 2nd 🥈





Art News

It has been a wonderful term of Art, with the Blues and Greens producing some creative work and learning about a wide range of artists. We have continued our journey into drawing and really explored the key components - line, shape, tone and shade. It has been brilliant to see such engaged children really enjoying their art and seeing clear progression over the past seven weeks.

Thursday 21st
November 2024
I.A.L.T. apply shading
skills to show texture

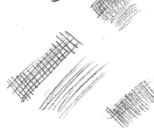


Next term the Reds and Yellows will be welcomed back to the art room and the skill of painting and printing will be awaiting them! It might get a little messy, but it will definitely be a colourful, creative and engaging experience.

I will also be announcing the winner of the Artist of the Term competition. Thank you to all that have entered. The quality of work was outstanding, and it has been a joy having children drop into my room with their artwork. Roy Lichtenstein would be proud! Next term will bring a new artist and a new competition, which I am sure will inspire some interesting artwork from the incredibly imaginative children here at Upton. I can't wait.

Friday 8th November
2024
I.A.L.T. show objects from
their imagination using
drawing by shading

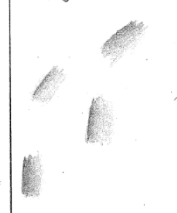
crosshatching



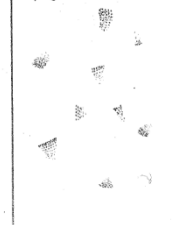
thick lines



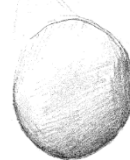
smudging



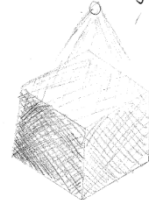
stippling



smudging



crosshatching



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 enough 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 their success, we need to know about it! Don't be shy – be proud and let us know. Email your celebrations to office@uptonjunior.com and will add them to our website.

We have a 'Celebration Assembly' every Friday and encourage children to bring in their certificates, trophies and medals to receive congratulations from the whole school community.



Please find some useful links for activities, events and support available to families in our area:

[Viking Academy Trust - Parent funding support](#)

[Viking Academy Trust Emergency Out of Hours Contact Form \(keysurvey.co.uk\)](#)

Local Kent Directory <https://local.kent.gov.uk/kb5/kent/directory/home.page>

SEND Information Hub: <https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/special-educational-needs>

Early Help (support for families) <https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/early-help-support-for-families>



Swimming & PE

Monday	Year 3 B & G to wear PE kits & bring in swimming kits Year 5 to wear PE kits
Tuesday	Year 4 B & G to wear PE kits & bring in swimming kits Year 3 to wear PE kits
Wednesday	Year 6 to wear PE kits
Thursday	Year 5 B & G to wear PE kits & bring in swimming kits Year 4 to wear PE kits
Friday	Year 6 B & G to wear PE kits & bring in swimming kits

If your child is unable to swim please email office@uptonjunior.com so that we can notify the swimming instructors, thank you.

Swim kit is to consist of:
Trunks or a one piece swim suit
Goggles (if needed)
Hat

