



Quality of education - **OUTSTANDING**
Behaviour & Attitudes - **OUTSTANDING**
Personal Development - **OUTSTANDING**
Leadership & Management - **OUTSTANDING**

**It's official,
Ofsted agrees
that we are**



Newsletter - 14th February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach half way through this academic year, I would like to thank you all for your support. Your active involvement and encouragement have played an instrumental role in creating an enriching educational environment for our children.

Our Uptonians have continued to excel exceptionally well this term. Their enthusiasm for learning has been truly inspiring, and they have demonstrated remarkable friendship, aspiration, respect and resilience. It has been a joy to witness their growth academically, socially and emotionally, as they work hard and collaborate with their peers.

As you are all aware, our recent Ofsted inspection resulted in an 'Outstanding' rating. This achievement is a testament to the hard work and commitment of both the staff and children. It reflects our collective dedication to providing an exceptional educational experience, and I am immensely proud of our school community.

As we end this term, I encourage everyone to take a well-deserved break during the half term. It is important for the children to recharge and spend quality time with family and friends. We hope that they will engage in enjoyable activities that allow them to explore their interests beyond the classroom. This time away from structured learning is equally significant, as it offers opportunities for personal development and relaxation.

Looking ahead, we are excited about the upcoming term. We remain committed to providing an engaging, stimulating, and supportive learning atmosphere.

Once again, thank you for your dedication and partnership this term. Enjoy the half term break, and I look forward to welcoming the children back, refreshed and ready to embrace the opportunities that await them, Miss Arthur Head of School.

Year 3



This term in Year 3 has been packed with exciting learning experiences, and we have all had a fantastic time! One of the highlights of the term has been our class reading of *Esio Trot* by Roald Dahl. The children absolutely loved the charming tale of Mr. Hoppy and his clever plan to win Mrs. Silver's heart. It has been wonderful to see their enthusiasm for reading grow, and they have produced some truly fantastic pieces of writing inspired by the story.

In Science, we have been learning all about the human body. The children have enjoyed exploring how different bones function and have likewise, enjoyed understanding how we stay healthy. Their curiosity and engagement in discussions and activities have been brilliant!

Another major highlight was our Design Technology (DT) project days. The children had the opportunity to get hands-on and create their very own healthy snacks. They made delicious hummus and crudité's, learning about nutrition and the importance of making healthy food choices. It was wonderful to see their teamwork, enthusiasm, and excitement as they prepared and tasted their creations.



As we move forward into the next term, we look forward to even more exciting learning opportunities. Well done to all our Year 3 children for their hard work and enthusiasm – we are so proud of you!

Year 4

Maths this term has been dominated by fractions. We have learnt what fractions are and what the numbers are called and mean and built fraction walls to help us. We have found equivalent fractions and converted between improper fractions and mixed numbers, using our times tables knowledge. We have found fractions of quantities and used this to compare different situations and have added and subtracted fractions that have a like denominator.

Our English text this term has been 'I Survived the Eruption of Mount St Helens, 1980' by Lauren Tarshis. It has linked nicely with our afternoon learning and has given us a better understanding of

how people may have felt during and after the eruption. Across the term, we have written a comparative setting description using expanded noun phrases and ambitious adjectives, written our own survival disaster stories and have written a non-chronological report. We also had a go at writing volcano linked poems.

This term in Year 4 has been explosive, as our topic has been centred around volcanoes and earthquakes. During our afternoon lessons, we have explored how volcanoes are formed and why they erupt, why earthquakes happen and the effects of both on the areas where they occur.



We looked at why people decide to live near volcanoes and role-played different jobs to help us to understand the positives and negatives. Using maps and globes, we identified different lines of longitude and latitude, as well as plate boundaries. During DT lessons, we investigated which shapes make a stable construction and built our own earthquake-proof structures.

All of the children have worked incredibly hard, and we look forward to an equally successful Term 4, where (fingers crossed) we have warmer days and lots of outdoor learning opportunities. Children will be bringing home a times tables challenge to complete over the half term. Every child who completes a pack and hands it to Miss Lewis by Thursday 27th February will receive a small reward.

Year 5

In maths this term, we have been focusing on fractions and decimals and angles. The children learnt about mixed numbers, improper fractions, comparing decimals and fractions and classifying and measuring angles.

This term in English, year 5 have been studying Anglo Saxon Boy. They have created quest stories, newspaper reports, setting descriptions and internal monologues. The story was set during 1065- 1066 and the lead up to the Battle of Hastings. This linked perfectly to our thematic, Marvels of Matter.

Our thematic learning this term has been a hands on experience! Towards the beginning of our topic, we took the children to Canterbury Cathedral to explore the significance during Anglo Saxon times. They acted out key moments in history, studied artefacts and even dressed as Anglo Saxons and Vikings. Following this, the children researched Anglo Saxon farms. They worked in groups to recreate the farms with key features from those times. This led us on to Anglo-Saxon jobs and jewellery making. The children moulded clay to create a piece of Anglo- Saxon jewellery.



For example; a brooch, belt buckle or an arm cuff. They added detail using a carving tool and finished it off with some jewels. Throughout the term, the children also learnt the 'Invade' song which we performed to the parents.

To end the term, the children took a visit to the local church, St Peters in Thanet. They took part in a treasure hunt and learnt about the different features of a church.

It has been a fantastic, fun packed term in year 5!

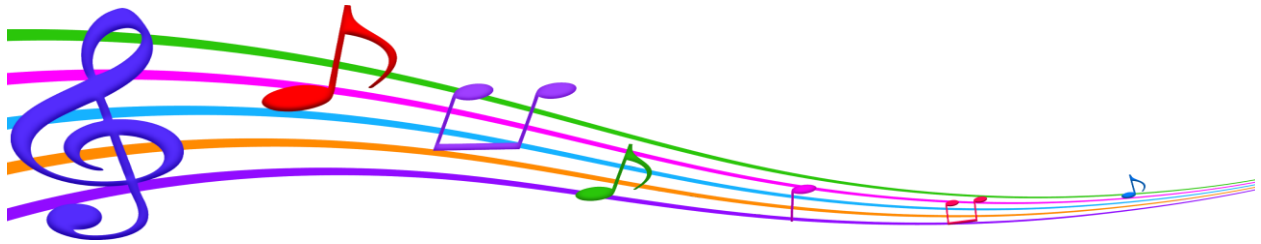
Year 6

Year 6 have had such an exciting term filled with memorable and hands on experiences. In English, we have enjoyed reading 'Skellig' by David Almond which has inspired a range of imaginative and impressive creative writing. In maths, we have tackled decimals and measures whilst solidifying arithmetic methods; the progress each and every child has made in this area has been outstanding.

In the afternoons, Year 6 have been fully engaged with their 'How to Mind Your Heart' thematic topic. From heart dissections to making blood and creating their own Bolognese sauces, the children have blown us away with their hard work and enthusiasm.



Music News



Wow, what a jam-packed term it's been for music at Upton! From radio waves to rocking rehearsals, we've been making some serious noise.

Radio Upton is now available for your listening pleasure, get ready to tune in anytime, anywhere, right from the comfort of your own home! Our students have been working hard crafting amazing content week after week, showcasing their creativity and showmanship. Catch every episode on the school website's Radio Upton Blog or click [HERE](#)– happy listening!

Our instrumental lessons are booming! We're thrilled to offer expert tuition in Piano, Drums, Guitar, Bass, Vocals, and Violin. Demand is high (our waiting lists prove it!), and we're constantly striving to expand our offerings so even more students can explore their musical talents.



We're incredibly fortunate to have talented music tutors who not only teach our students but also share their expertise in engaging assemblies. Recently, the amazing Mr. Watling gave a fascinating presentation on the guitar, complete with student performances and a whole-school singalong to Taylor Swift's "Love Story." What a way to end the assembly!

BIG ANNOUNCEMENT INCOMING!

Get ready for not one, but two fantastic school concerts next term! Mark your calendars:

- **Monday, March 17th:** A celebration of our Drum Club, Ukulele Club, and String Club, showcasing the fruits of their hard work.
- **Tuesday, March 18th:** Our Rock & Pop Bands take center stage, performing contemporary hits that will have you singing along!

Choir, Young Voices, and solo musicians will also be featured at both concerts, making for a truly spectacular showcase of our school's musical talent. More details coming soon – stay tuned!

Our choir has been busy learning a fantastic repertoire of Rock & Pop tunes for the upcoming concerts, featuring hits from Bruno Mars & Rose, Toto, Fatboy Slim, Erasure, and Taylor Swift. Our Rock & Pop bands are also putting the final touches on their electrifying sets – get ready to be blown away!

In our music lessons, students have been on some incredible musical adventures this term:

- **Year 3:** Exploring the fundamental elements of music, from Tempo to Timbre – they're becoming musical maestros!
- **Year 4:** Creating their own orchestras and delving into the power of musical expression.
- **Year 5:** Time-traveling through music history, from Medieval melodies to modern pop anthems – a truly epic musical journey!
- **Year 6:** Tackling the exciting world of music technology, building their own gig rigs and mastering PA systems – future sound engineers in the making!



We're bursting with excitement for everything that next term has in store! Stay tuned for more updates, concert details, and musical merriment. It's going to be a term to remember!



Sports News

This term has been nothing short of **spectacular** for Upton's athletes! Our teams have shown **skill, determination, and incredible teamwork**, bringing home amazing achievements across multiple sports.

🟦 **Year 5/6 Handball Tournament** – Our team gave it their all in a thrilling competition, demonstrating fantastic agility, teamwork, and resilience on the court!

🎯 **Year 3/4 Archery Competition** – Precision and focus were the name of the game as our young archers hit their targets, securing a **brilliant 3rd place finish in Thanet!**

🏹 **Year 5/6 Archery Tournament** – Upton's archers proved unbeatable, showing outstanding accuracy and nerve to **claim 1st place in Thanet**—a truly phenomenal achievement!



🏓 **Year 5/6 Table Tennis** – Fast reflexes and expert coordination led our team to a **remarkable 1st place finish in Thanet**. Their dedication and practice truly paid off!

⚽ **Les Riggs Cup (Year 5/6 Football)** – Our footballers have been on fire this term, battling through tough a tough match against St Saviours to **win their semi-final**. With their sights now set on the **final next term**, we can't wait to see them give it their all!

Every single player has represented Upton with **pride, passion, and perseverance**, and we couldn't be prouder of their achievements. A huge well done to all involved—you are sporting stars! 🌟💙💛. Bring on next term!



Art News

Term 3 has been a lot fun, full of colour and very, very messy! We have been experimenting with paint and printing and have created some beautifully vibrant pieces of art.

The year 3's have been using watercolours and looking at Georgia O'Keeffe. They have been blending colours and experimenting with complimentary colours when painting their own O'Keeffe flowers.



Year 4 have been printing this term, initially looking at William Morris and his repeating flower patters. Next, they studied Andy Warhol, taking influence from him when stencilling.

We have looked at a multitude of artists in year 5, our focus being different ways to use paint. We explored Kandinsky and his colour theory, linking colours to emotions. Next, we looked at Da Vinci and how he developed his work from detailed sketches. We then moved on to Vermeer, looking at his use of shade and tint to create depth in his work. Finally, we finished on the wonderful Alma Thomas. We used all of our knowledge over the past lessons to create a final piece inspired by her and her amazing work.

Last but not least, Year 6 have been looking at 3 artists to use as inspiration to paint their own final piece that reflects their own lives. We used JMW Turner as an example of watercolour blending, Gustav Klimt to see detailed patterns and iconography and finally Romare Bearden, who is a wonderful example of narrative in paintings.

Next term, the Greens and Blues will be able to enjoy delving into these subjects and artists with as much passion as the last classes.

Artist of the term – Jean Michel Basquiat

First of all, well done to Leonor in year 3 – the winner of the Term 2 Artist of the Term. Her wonderful work inspired by Roy Lichtenstein was outstanding! All the entries were excellent, however hers really stood out.

Our artist of term 3 was Jean Michel Basquiat. He was a very important and inspirational artist that had a huge influence on the art world and is still revered and imitated today. I have had lots of fantastic entries, and the winner will be announced in term 4.



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 we 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 R & Y to wear PE kits & bring in swimming kits Year 5 to wear PE kits
Tuesday	Year 4 R & Y to wear PE kits & bring in swimming kits Year 3 to wear PE kits
Wednesday	Year 6 to wear PE kits
Thursday	Year 5 R & Y to wear PE kits & bring in swimming kits Year 4 to wear PE kits
Friday	Year 6 R & Y 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) and a swim hat



Upton Junior School


Welcome BACK TO SCHOOL MONDAY 24TH FEBRUARY 2025




CROSS COUNTRY AT QUEX

SATURDAY 1ST
MARCH 2025

BE PART OF THE BIGGEST
TEAM FOR UPTON

UPTON JUNIOR SCHOOL PROULDY
PRESENTS

OFSTED PARTY

TO CELEBRATE OUR EXCEPTIONAL
PUPILS WE WOULD LIKE TO INVITE
THEM TO OUR OFSTED PARTY

SPECIAL GUESTS
DJ SMITH & DJ NOBLE

**MONDAY
3RD MARCH
2025**

YEAR 3 & 4 3:05PM - 4:15PM
YEAR 5 & 6 4:20PM TO THE OFFICE FOR REGISTRATION - 5:30PM

FREE ENTRY
REFRESHMENTS WILL BE AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE

WORLD BOOK DAY[®]

6 MARCH 2025
Dress to celebrate! This could include sparkles,
bright colours or a book character costume.