

Newsletter – 23rd May 2025



Dear Parents and Carers,

As you know, we hold the wellbeing of all children as a top priority here at Upton Junior School, and it is with great excitement that I write to announce our transition to operating as a Thrive school. The Thrive Approach is a pioneering framework designed to provide emotional support for children, equipping them with the resilience and skills necessary to flourish both within the school environment and beyond.

The implementation of the Thrive Approach will come through the integration of various components into our everyday teaching methods, as well as through specific activities designed to bolster each child's mental health and wellbeing. By fostering a nurturing environment, we aim to ensure that every child is supported in their emotional development. In addition, we will utilise an innovative online tool to pinpoint the key aspects of the social and emotional curriculum that would provide the greatest benefit for each class. This tailored approach will allow us to address the unique needs of our children effectively.

We are genuinely enthusiastic about the positive impact the Thrive Approach will have on our children. By providing them with the confidence and emotional strength to navigate life's challenges, we believe that they will be better equipped to thrive. We invite you to learn more about the Thrive Approach and the philosophy behind it by visiting the official website at www.thethriveapproach.com.

In our commitment to fostering a collaborative environment between home and school, we will be hosting a coffee session on **Tuesday 3rd June, at 1:10 pm**. This gathering will provide an opportunity for you to engage with us and learn more about Thrive. Our Thrive practitioner, Miss Arthur, will be sent to introduce the principles of the Thrive Approach, explain how it will be implemented in school and discussing ways in which we can collectively support our children's wellbeing.

Thank you for your continued support as we embark on this exciting journey together. We look forward to seeing you on the 3rd of June, Miss Arthur Head of School



Year 3

This term has truly been a whirlwind — full of learning, laughter, and memorable experiences.

One of the highlights has been diving into the fascinating world of the ancient Maya. The children have loved discovering how this incredible civilisation lived, their beliefs, their architecture, and even their number system. It's sparked some brilliant questions and discussions in the classroom! Our trip to Kent Life was another standout moment. It was a fantastic day filled with hands-on learning, outdoor fun, and opportunities for the children to see history come to life. It's always special to take learning beyond the classroom walls and see the children so engaged.



In Maths, we've been building confidence and deepening our understanding of fractions. It's been wonderful to watch the children tackle new challenges with growing independence and enthusiasm. English has been full of creativity. The children have absolutely loved reading '*The Great Chocoplot*'. Inspired by the story, they've been writing for different purposes and audiences- from character descriptions and journal writing to imaginative narratives. Their ideas have been full of humour, excitement, and rich vocabulary.

It's been a busy term, but one full of progress, joy, and a real love of learning. We can't wait to see what the next term brings!

Year 4

This term in Year 4, our afternoon lessons have been hands on with exploring rivers and the water cycle. The children made rivers out of soil, sand and water and created their own diorama of the water cycle. We also learnt a song to help us remember the steps. We looked at rivers from across the UK and around the world and used our oracy skills to present the information to our classmates. We finished the term by exploring why people live near rivers and compared the temperature and rainfall of the UK to Kenya.



In English, we read the book 'Song of the Dolphin Boy'. The children were fully engaged with the story and enjoyed discussing the environmental issues it addressed. Across the term, the children wrote a poem about the sea, wrote an entwined character and setting description of Finn transforming in the ocean, created their own folk tale with an imaginary mythical creature and wrote a persuasive letter to stop the release of the balloons. We focused on using a range of sentence openers and subordinating conjunctions within our writing and used expanded noun phrases to add description and detail.

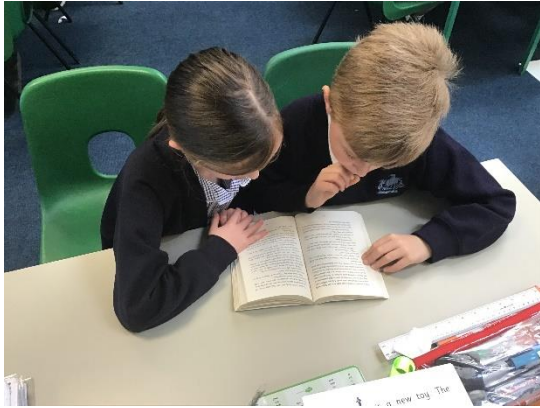


During our maths lessons this term, we explored area and perimeter and used different methods to calculate both. We drew rectangles to scale on the playground in chalk and converted between measurements. We finished the term by completing money and measure problems, including capacity, mass and length.

The children have worked incredibly hard this term and we are looking forward to an exciting final term 6.

Year 5

In maths this term, the children have been multiplying and dividing whole numbers and decimals by 10, 100 and 1000. They used this knowledge to convert measures such as weights and lengths. The children have also learnt how to add and subtract decimals using a formal written method.



In English, we focused on the text 'Street Child,' which follows the story of Jim, a street child, and his journey to finding Dr Barnado. The children wrote diary entries, setting descriptions, character description and created a non-chronological report about Barnadoes. This term, year 5 started the term with PSHE. They focused on health and safety and what to do in an emergency situation. Our thematic

for this term is 'Tides of Change' and this is such a fantastic topic, it also expands into term 6. The children will learn about the history of Broadstairs and Ramsgate, how it has changed historically and geographically throughout time.

This term, we kick-started the topic with a visit to the Hurricane and Spitfire museum. This was a fantastic way for our children to look into historical sources to show the history of Ramsgate and Manston during the second world war. On our return, we focused on different sources we found and discussed whether they were primary and secondary and what they could teach us.



The children moved onto learning about Ramsgate's history as a port and how it looked during Victorian times. This links to our class text, 'Street Child.' Continuing their learning, they learnt about Ramsgate's involvement in Operation Dynamo and how it sent its little ships to help with the evacuation of hundreds of thousands of soldiers. In science, the children have learnt about friction, pressure and buoyancy. Our thematic continues next term and we cannot wait to find out more about our local areas history.

Year 6

This term, in English, Year 6 have embarked on the captivating story *Kensuke's Kingdom* by Michael Morpurgo. Inspired by the natural world and the work of Sir David Attenborough, the children wrote thoughtful and informative commentaries. They also explored the eerie and atmospheric short film *Alma*, using it as a springboard to craft their own imaginative narratives.

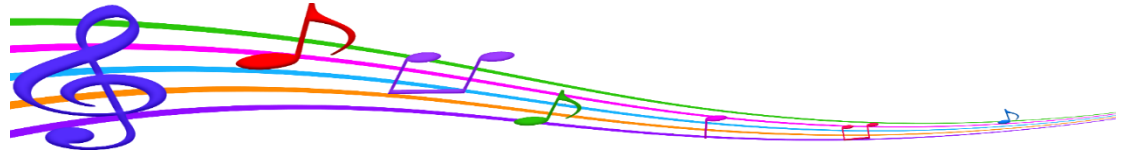
In maths, the focus has been on revising the full Year 6 curriculum, with pupils working diligently to strengthen their arithmetic skills and deepen their understanding of key concepts.

Our Thematic Curriculum has continued to centre on the Second World War, with pupils exploring the lasting impact of the conflict on both a global and local scale. This powerful unit has prompted thoughtful discussion and reflection.

Above all, the Year 6 team are incredibly proud of the children's hard work, focus, and resilience in the build-up to and during SATs week. They approached the challenge with maturity and determination—and now it's time to celebrate their efforts with a well-deserved Activity Week!



Music News



This term, the music department has been a hive of activity, buzzing with preparation! Our various clubs have been diligently learning and rehearsing new musical pieces in anticipation of the summer concerts scheduled for June. Meanwhile, within classroom lessons, exciting performances are being crafted and honed.

The Junior and Senior Choirs have been working incredibly hard on their fresh repertoire. This includes a much-loved Disney tune, a captivating ballad by Florence & The Machine, an energetic indie anthem, and a rather intricate song sung in the round. The Senior Choir has also been revisiting some of their earlier successes from this year, polishing their vocal skills in preparation for their performance at this year's Broadstairs Dickens Festival.

The String Group has welcomed a renewed focus on our younger musicians. Our Year 3 and 4 students have been enthusiastically learning three brand new pieces, all set to be unveiled at the summer concert.

Drum Club members have taken on the exciting challenge of composing their very own track for an upcoming performance. Their second performance promises an electrifying experience that will leave you feeling truly 'Thunderstruck'!

Ukulele Club has chosen a well-known classic by Gotye for their summer concert performance. With four distinct parts that weave together, this piece presents a considerable challenge, but the students are tackling it with impressive skill and determination.

All three of our Rock & Pop Bands have started building their new sets for the concerts. Their diverse selection of songs ranges from the funky sounds of Lips Inc.'s 'FunkyTown' to the poignant notes of Greenday's 'Good Riddance', promising a vibrant showcase of musical styles.

In their class lessons, Year 3 students have been exploring their creativity through songwriting. They each selected a song based on its genre – Pop, Rock, Hip-Hop, or Ballad – and then collaborated in groups to write their own original lyrics and melodies. Year 4 have embarked on a fascinating journey through the world of drumming, studying different styles from around the globe. From the disciplined rhythms of Taiko drumming to the lively energy of Samba, students have been learning about the cultural significance and meaning behind these diverse percussive traditions. Year 5 have immersed themselves in the captivating world of Film Music. They have been learning about the various types of music used in films and the art of creating a memorable motif. Their learning culminated in composing their own pieces of film music to accompany the charming Disney short, 'Paperman'. Year 6 have begun their preparations for the upcoming 'Upton Music Festival'. More details about this event will follow soon, but the Year 6 performances are already shaping up to be truly unforgettable.

Please make a note of the important dates for your diaries: our Summer Concerts will take place on the 23rd and 24th of June, the Dickens Festival performance is on the 13th of June, and the Upton Music Festival is scheduled for the 11th of July. Further information regarding each of these events will be shared with you in due course.



Sports News

This term, our students have truly outdone themselves, showcasing remarkable talent, teamwork, and determination across a variety of sporting events

At the recent rugby festival, our team not only displayed exceptional skill on the field but also demonstrated their creativity and school spirit by winning the 'Best Banner' award. Their vibrant and imaginative design stood out, reflecting Scotland perfectly

Our swimmers made waves this term! After securing a top 3 finish in the Kent School Relay Finals, they advanced to the Southeast competition, representing our school with pride and determination. Their hard work and dedication have set a new benchmark for excellence in swimming.



In cricket, our Year 3/4 team clinched an impressive 2nd place in Thanet, showcasing their growing skills and sportsmanship. Similarly, our Year 5/6 girls' team mirrored this success, securing 2nd place in their category. Both teams demonstrated resilience and teamwork, making us incredibly proud



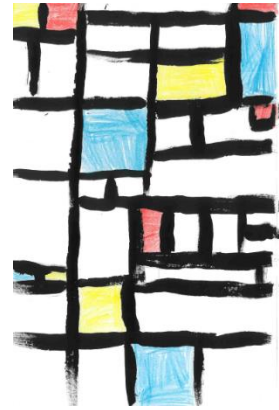
Our Year 3/4 hockey team delivered an outstanding performance, emerging as champions in Thanet. Their coordination, strategy, and relentless pursuit of victory were evident throughout the tournament. Not to be outdone, our Year 5/6 hockey team represented the school with exceptional skill and sportsmanship, leaving a lasting impression on all who watched.

These achievements are a testament to the hard work, dedication, and spirit of our students. Each event was an opportunity for them to shine, and they did so brilliantly. We couldn't be prouder of their accomplishments and look forward to celebrating even more successes in the future.



Art News

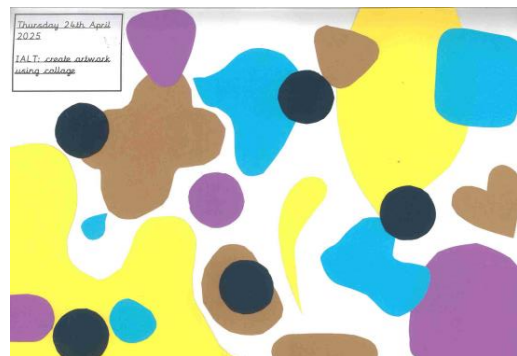
We have been exploring lots of different ways to create art in term 5 and discovering even more artists to learn about and take inspiration from. Year 3 are looking at design, specifically Mary Quant and her Mondrian inspired clothing, understanding how art and fashion can go hand-in-hand.



In year 4, we have been creating African masks, exploring the strong links between Africa and the artworld; using clay to bring our ideas to life.

Collage is the focus in year 5, specifically Henri Matisse and his colourful creations. Finally, Year 6 have been looking at 3 very famous but very different sculptors. They have used a combination of mediums to create their own work based on these sculptors, such as wire, foil and clay.

Next term, we welcome the Blues and the Greens. I am sure they will have just as much fun and create some outstanding pieces of work!



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 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 2ND JUNE 2025




Viking Academy Trust

Viking Games!

Wednesday 21st May 2025
 Reception - Host School RAPS

Thursday 22nd May 2025
 Years 1 and 2 - Host school Chilton

Tuesday 3rd June 2025
 Years 5 and 6 - Host School Upton

Thursday 5th June 2025
 Years 3 and 4 - Host School Upton


Children should come to school in their PE kits on the day with trainers. If the weather is hot, children should bring a hat, wear sun cream and have a water bottle with them. If it turns out to be a chilly day, jogging bottoms and a jumper will be needed!




CROSS COUNTRY AT UPTON

SATURDAY 7TH JUNE 2025

BE PART OF THE BIGGEST TEAM FOR UPTON

Class photo's will be on the 18th June 2025, all students are to come in wearing their full school uniform.

Please note all Year 6 children will need to bring in their PE kits for the afternoon.

All school dates and events are on our website calendar at www.uptonjunior.com

