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HEAD TEACHER

Upwood School Newsletter January 2014

Access to the Internet

Many children will have received new electronic games or gadgets this Christmas, but did you know, many of them allow your child to have access to the Internet? Playstation, X-box and Nintendo Wii are capable of connecting to the internet via a home internet connection, just like other computers. Media players, tablets, Smartphones, iPods and iPads can also connect to the internet.

If unmonitored, this can be an issue as your child could:

- Have access to age-inappropriate material. Some games available online may contain violent or sexually-explicit content. The quality of the graphics is extremely high making games appear very realistic. Many devices allow users to browse the internet and watch films or TV.
- Be exposed to offensive or aggressive language from other players or be bullied by others. Young people can also make themselves vulnerable to contact by those with a sexual interest in children if they give out their personal details.
- Inadvertently run up large bills whilst playing online.

We recommend that you make sure you have either disabled the internet function on these devices, put in a secure password and have the correct settings so that your child will not be compromised online. Try to monitor the access your child has to the internet.

E-safety

Help your child(ren) to understand that they should never give out personal details to online friends they do not know offline. Explain to your children what information about them is personal: i.e. email address, mobile number, school name, sports club, arrangements for meeting up with friends and any pictures or videos of themselves, their family or friends. Small pieces of information can easily be pieced together to form a comprehensive insight in to their lives and daily activities. Make your children aware that they need to think carefully about the information and pictures they post on their profiles. Inform them that once published online, anyone can change or share these images of them. It can be easy to forget that the internet is not a private space, and as result sometimes young people engage in risky behaviour online. Advise your children not to post any pictures, videos or information on their profiles, or in chat rooms, that they would not want a parent or carer to see.



Dates for the Diary

Pancake Lunch: Tuesday 4th March
World Book Day: Thursday 6th March
PTA Disco: Friday 7th March
Bags 2 Schools Collection: Friday 13th March
Non-uniform Day: Friday 14th March
PTA Quiz Night: Friday 28th March
Easter Lunch: Thursday 3rd April
Egg Day: Friday 4th April
School Inset Day: 22nd April
First day of Summer Term: Wednesday 23rd April
May Day: 5th May
KS2 SATs Week: Monday 12th – 16th May
Seaside Lunch: Friday 16th May
PTA Disco: Friday 16th May
School Photographs: Thursday 22nd May
PTA Tuck Shop: Friday 23rd May
Last Day Term: Friday 23rd May

Please make a note in your diaries. Any questions, please see your child's class teacher.

PTA News Article

Written by Mrs Howell

The PTA committee would like to thank you all once again for your help and support which makes our events possible. We had a really successful Christmas Fayre and now been able to commit an amount of money to pay for the handwriting scheme and the pantomime visit.

Ongoing schemes continue to bring in income with the Bags 2 School, School Clothing Labels, Easy Search and the Weather Lottery. The prize bingo, which is on a Tuesday evening every fortnight, is proving still to be a great success, so please ask the office for details of any of the above.

We are busy with upcoming activities, we have the last day of term tuck shop, school disco, Bags 2 School (good opportunity to have a spring clear out) and a non-school uniform day. We are also planning to hold a pop and popcorn evening, and an Easter Raffle again, details will follow for these.

We would like to ask again if you can help with any of the PTA events, we can only run these if we have the help and support to be able to do so. If you think you can help in anyway please leave your contact details at the Office or come along to our next meeting, the date will be on the PTA notice board.

Thank you

Upwood Small to Tall

Article Written by Mrs Dean

Upwood Small to Tall has already made a busy start to 2014.

Breakfast, Pre-School and After School Clubs are filling up fast so please come and see us if you would like a place within this school year.

For the coming term we will be planning activities around the children's interests with a focus on 'Wildlife in the Winter Months'.

We are planning a trip to the Countryside Classroom and then they will visit us back at Upwood Small to Tall for some fun activities.

Some of the children in the After School Club have been organising donations and fundraising opportunities for some equipment that they have selected themselves. We are proud of their achievements so far and wish them well on their continued venture!

Parents' Evening

Parents' Evening this term will be taking place on Thursday 13th March, 6pm – 8pm, and Tuesday 18th March, 4pm – 6pm. An additional afternoon slot will be provided for Years F, 2, 3 and 6.

A letter will be circulated the week beginning 27th January asking parents/carers to request Parents' Evening times. The Book Fair will be available for both Parents' Evening if you would like to have a look. Parents' Evening appointment times will be sent out the week beginning 24th February.

School Dinners

Parents/carers are welcome to join us for a school dinner any day of the week; parents/carers need to book and pay for the meal by 9am at the latest via the Office Staff. Look out for Special Menu days taking place this year too.

Pantomime

There will be a whole school pantomime show on 5th February. The school will be watching a performance of 'Peter Pan' led by M & M Productions. We are looking forward to the performance which is being funded by the PTA.

Thank you PTA!

Yours sincerely
Mrs S Whitelaw
Head Teacher

Sports Day will be taking place on Tuesday 8th July; if cancelled due to poor weather the reserve date is Thursday 10th July. KS2 sports will take place in the morning and KS1 during the afternoon. Please make a note in your diaries.