



Newsletter
July 16th 2018

Ursula Taylor Church of England School

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'Living God's Love, together we flourish'

A message from our Senior Leadership Team,

We find ourselves at the end of what has been a busy, productive and thoroughly enjoyable year at Ursula Taylor.

It has been a year of new experiences, not least for our Year 5 children who have been a wonderful group to have for our 'First Year 5' they have worked really hard, and achieved great standards in their learning. They have laid a really solid foundation for moving into their final year at Primary school.

The academic standards across the school have risen again this year, with ALL year groups achieving the highest standards ever achieved at UTS. This is the result of a lot of hard work and also:

- ◇ Your children, whom have worked really very hard to make progress and are such enthusiastic learners. The children at UTS are a credit to you all and the support and care they show towards others is wonderful to see.
- ◇ We have also been fortunate to have such supportive parents, whom help our children at home with reading, times tables, general homework and by raising well mannered and polite children. This home /school partnership is so important and something we want to further develop in the future
- ◇ We are also extremely proud of our staff, whom have worked with commitment and dedication to provide the best education they can. The staff at UTS pride themselves on going the extra mile to support children and build positive relationships with our families.
- ◇ Our Governing Body is a positive driving force, whom give their time freely to our school to support our journey of improvement and ensure that all our children have the best provision possible.

We have enjoyed a fruitful new partnership with 'SSG' whom have provided us with high quality sports provision, lunchtime and afterschool clubs which have been available for all children . We have organised this to continue into 2018/2019 to further develop our sports and extra curricular provision. Information about the first clubs will be coming home before the end of term.

We would like to thank you all for your on going support and wish you all a very happy summer break. Please enjoy the sunshine (while it lasts...) eat some ice creams / lollies, play in the fresh air and enjoy some very well earned precious family time! See you all on the 4th September (10th for Foundation new starters!)

Our very best wishes, Mrs Morrall, Mrs Hall and Mrs Lee

A Fond Farewell to...

Mr Burton

Mr Burton is leaving us to start a new post in September, we would all like to wish Mr Burton a fond farewell and to thank him for all his hard work with our children over the years. We all look forward to seeing Mr Burton in the future when we meet up as local schools.

Mrs Tapping

Mrs Tapping who works as a 1:1 Teaching assistant is leaving us at the end of term. Our thanks to Mrs Tapping for her hard work and commitment to our school and for really supporting our 1:1 children with a nurturing and supportive manner. We wish Mrs Tapping well for the future

Miss Harper

Miss Harper is leaving us at the end of term to start a new part time role and to complete her degree! Miss Harper has been a 1:1 TA for sometime, supporting children with individual needs and working closely with our families. Miss Harper also enjoys an early morning, working in our breakfast club! There will be a few less breakfasts to prepare now! Thank you Miss Harper for your support and efforts since your time at UTS.

Mr Hills

Mr Hills, works as part of our site team, cleaning the school and working to maintain the building. Mr Hills is going off to University, we would all like to wish him every success for the future and hope that cleaning the staffroom has prepared him for life in student accommodation! Thank you Mr Hills and all our very best wishes for the future.

Mrs Hartley

Mrs Hartley is part of our Lunchtime Team, she will be leaving us at the end of the year to start a new role as a 1:1 Teaching Assistant at a local school. We would like to thank Mrs Hartley for her nurturing, calm support and wish her every success for her new role.



Welcome to...

Miss Harris, our new Foundation Teacher

Mr Masterson our new Y1 Teacher

Mr Matthews our new Y5 Teacher

Mrs Shaw our new Y6 Teacher

Miss Barker and Mr Braxton our new 1:1 Teaching assistants

and

Mrs Wright, Ms Beevers and Mrs Wakefield, our new Lunchtime Supervisors

Important Dates for your diary 2018/2019

Christmas Play week: w/b 10th December exact days/ times TBC

September 27th - School Photos - Individual and sibling (Info in Sep)

Parent Consultations:

16th / 17th / 18th October

2nd / 3rd / 4th April

18th / 19th / 20th June

June 7th 2019 - Sports Day

July 5th 2019 - Proms



TERM DATES for 2018 / 2019

We have chosen to mirror the Bedford Borough Schools term dates to ensure that we provide the correct number of school days plus 5 Training Days.

Autumn Term 2018

September 3rd TRAINING DAY 1

September 4th (10th for New Foundation Stage) - December 19th 2018

Half Term week 22nd - 26th October

October 29th TRAINING DAY 2

Spring Term 2019

January 2nd TRAINING DAY 3

January 3rd - April 5th 2019

Half Term week 11- 15th February

Summer Term 2019

April 23rd TRAINING DAY 4

April 24th - 19th July 2019

Half Term week 27th - 31st May

July 22nd TRAINING DAY 5

Events Coming up in the Autumn Term 2018

Following feedback about the Christmas Carol Concert, we have decided to return to the traditional Christmas Plays / Nativities.

These will take place in the week beginning 10th December. Exact times / days for each year will follow in the Autumn Term.

The performances will be as follows:

Reception

Year 1 and 2

Year 3 and 4

Year 5 and 6



Bedtime Story (4th October 2018)

This is a very popular event which we have been running for a number of years. Children return to school at 6pm, dressed in PJs with teddies etc. for stories with their teachers.

We will be asking Year 5 and 6 if they would like to continue with Bedtime Story or have a PJ film night instead.

Further information will follow in the Autumn Term

Harvest at St Alban's Abbey

Some of our choir, approximately 40 children, will be selected and taken to sing and take part in a Harvest festival at the Abbey in St Albans. Miss Wintle, Stephen and Mrs Morrall will be attending along with the children. Selected children will be informed in the Autumn Term of arrangements.



School Dinners

We are awaiting information from Caterlink and Bedford Borough about the costs of school dinners for September. The contract has only just been awarded to Caterlink which is why we have not been able to let you know the cost of dinners as yet.

We have also requested that all children in Year 4, 5 and 6 are provided with bigger portions, as we, along with a number of parents, feel that the amount provided to our oldest children is not enough to sustain them through a busy school day.

We hope to know before the end of term if this will be possible. If we still have not been told, we will let you know as soon as we find out (via a text if during the school break) so you are aware of the costs ready for September.

(Foundation, Year 1 and Year 2 will all still qualify for free meals)

Science Club at UTPS!

We have had so much fun this term in our Year 3 Science Club. We have extracted our own DNA, learnt how to use a microscope with our brilliant loaned microscopes from the Royal Microscope Society, launched paint rockets in the playground, tested who could make the loudest paper banger, made some super slime creations and dissected owl pellets finding many small animal bones (see picture). It has been wonderful to see how engaged and excited the children have been about science and we have made a small amount of money to spend on some new science resources for school! Thank-you to everyone who attended! Watch this space for the next club from September!

Thank you to Mrs Castle and Miss Mayston for running the Science club, judging by the noise and excitement - the children had an excellent time!



Something Scientific for the Summer....

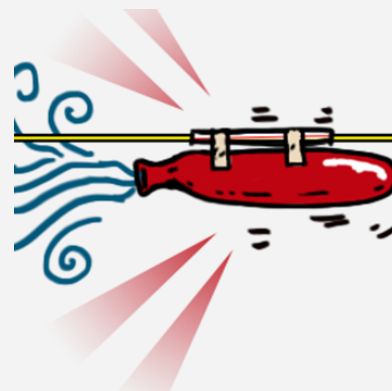
SCIENCE TO TRY AT HOME

You will need:

- 1 balloon (round ones will work, but the long balloons work best)
- 1 long piece of kite string (about 3 or 4 metres long)
- 1 plastic straw
- Sellotape

What to do:

1. Tie one end of the string to a chair, door handle, or other support.
2. Put the other end of the string through the straw.
3. Pull the string tight and tie it to another support in the room.
4. Blow up the balloon (but don't tie it.) Pinch the end of the balloon and tape the balloon to the straw as shown in picture. You're ready for launch.
5. Let go and watch the rocket fly!



How does it work?

As the air rushes out of the balloon, it creates a forward motion called **THRUST**. Thrust is a pushing force created by energy. Different sizes and shapes of balloon will create more or less thrust. In a real rocket, thrust is created by the force of burning rocket fuel as it blasts from the rockets engine – as the engines blast down, the rocket goes up! This is a great example of Newton's third law of motion – **for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction** – the air leaving the balloon is the **ACTION** and the forward thrust motion is the **REACTION**.

Possible things to do over the summer break...

The Higgins, Bedford.

Summer Holidays, family activities.

Every Wednesday - Explore with Kevin the Platypus. Workshops start at 11, 12:30 and 2pm. Enjoy all kinds of craft fun at these Wednesday workshops.

Every Friday - STEM specials. The Higgins has teamed up with popular local providers to bring you spectacular STEM themed activities.

Workshops start at 11, 12:20 and 2pm.

Further information including dates, times and costs (Very reasonable) can be found at: http://www.thehigginsbedford.org.uk/whats_on/family_events.aspx

Embankment Gardens and Russell Park

Plenty for you all to do in the park, play in the equipment, have a picnic or have an ice cream!

Stockwood Discovery Centre, Luton.

There's plenty on offer at this attraction and museum with interactive displays, gardens, play areas, special events, bee gallery and much more. Open 10am - 5pm Free entry to the Museum.

The Forest Centre - Marston Vale.

Lots of open space to enjoy, walks to go on and space for bike riding. Play areas and space for games and picnics. Lots of different events to take part in - very reasonably priced. Marston Mud, Pond Dipping and Underwater Bingo, Dragonfly Safari, wild art in the woods, Krisgars Magic show, symbol Spot trail and more.

<https://www.marstonvale.org/Pages/Events/Category/events-whats-on?Take=12>

Visit the website for more information and to book online.

Box End Aqua Park - giant size Aqua Park with lots of water and obstacles to avoid. Great fun for ages 6 and upwards. Sessions need to be pre-booked online.

<http://www.boxendpark.com/watersports/aquapark.php> Website contains all the information required about required heights, parental accompaniment etc.

Irchester Country Park - open everyday and free admission. Lovely woodland walks and a good play area suitable for all.

Enjoy the Summer - get out and about and try some new things!