


NEWSLETTER

 School Road, Upwell, Wisbech,
Norfolk, PE14 9EW

 office@upa.eastern-mat.co.uk

 01945 773 220

 www.upwellacademy.co.uk

Dear Parents, Carers and members of our community,

The first half term of 2026 has been filled with purposeful learning, community spirit, and wonderful achievements across the Academy.

We will continue to strengthen our sense of belonging, with a renewed focus on our uniform expectations: particularly PE kit. Following feedback from our House Captains, we are reminding families that correct PE kit keeps children safe and promotes fairness. To support this, the Academy will now provide standard indoor kit for any child who needs it so that everyone can take part confidently.

Children have also enjoyed fantastic learning beyond the classroom, including visits to Welney Wetland Centre, St Peter's Church and Pizza Express, as well as an exciting Roman Day in Year 2. These experiences enrich curriculum learning and help our pupils develop curiosity, confidence and wider cultural understanding.

Thank you to all families who attended our recent Parents' Evening. Your feedback was overwhelmingly positive, and we deeply value your trust and partnership.

Finally, our Pupil Leadership Team has chosen our Spring 2 values: Science and Kindness. These themes promote curiosity, problem-solving, and the importance of caring for one another, which are perfect foundations for the term ahead.

Thank you for your continued support.

Chris Harris – Acting Principal

Latest House Points

Earth – 17,737



Air – 19,219



Water – 19,312



Fire – 19,030



**Key Dates
for your
diary**

**World Book Day
Thurs 5 Mar 2026**

**Easter Service
Tues 24 Mar 2026**

**FOSA Easter Disco
Thurs 26 Mar 2026**

Fostering Belonging Through Our School Uniform

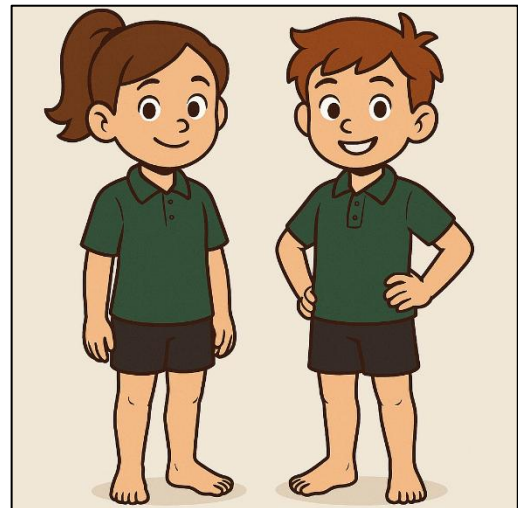
At Upwell Academy, one of our core aims is to ensure that every child feels a strong sense of belonging. A shared uniform plays an important role in this. When children wear the same school colours and follow the same expectations, it helps create a community where everyone feels included, equal, and proud to be part of the Academy.

Recently, our House Captains met to discuss how well the school is doing in promoting this sense of unity. They raised an important point: on PE days, some children are choosing to wear sports kit that is not part of our school uniform. While we understand that coming to school in PE kit is convenient, it's essential that the clothing worn still reflects our uniform expectations.

Why Uniform PE Kit Matters

Our PE kit is designed with **safety and equality** in mind.

- **Safety** is especially important for indoor activities such as gymnastics and dance, where children need to wear their school PE t-shirt, black shorts, and often work in bare feet. The correct kit ensures that all children can participate safely and confidently.
- **Equality** matters too. We know some families may choose sports kit from well-known or expensive brands, while others may not be able to afford these items. To prevent children feeling different or uncomfortable, and to remove any pressure on families, we ask that any joggers or hooded jackets worn on PE days are plain black with no logos.



This simple expectation helps ensure that no child feels singled out because of what they're wearing.

Supporting Every Child

To further promote belonging and ensure every child can take part fully in their PE lessons, the Academy will provide standard indoor PE kit for any child who arrives without the correct uniform to borrow for their PE lesson. This means all children can participate alongside their peers and no child misses learning because of their clothing.

It is important to emphasise, this is not a sanction: it is a support. Our priority is that every child feels welcome, prepared, and part of our school community.



Learning beyond the classroom

The Spring term saw lots of our children take their learning outside of the classroom. Some highlights include:

Year 4 Explore Welney Wetland Centre

Year 4 had an amazing time on their recent trip to Welney Wetland Centre, discovering so much about the ecology of our local area. Throughout the day, the children took part in a range of hands-on activities, including animal spotting, exploring food chains, and even investigating owl pellets - which they found absolutely fascinating!



They also learned about the impact of pollution and human activity on wildlife, and how the Wetland Centre works hard to protect and preserve local habitats. It was a brilliant opportunity for the children to see real conservation work in action.



To finish the day, Year 4 enjoyed some lovely arts and crafts, and were delighted to receive magnets, keychains, and stickers to take home as souvenirs.

Overall, it was a fantastic learning experience that truly brought their scientific studies to life. Well done, Year 4!

Year 6 Explore St Peter's Church!

Earlier this half term, Year 6 visited St Peter's Church for an engaging and informative learning experience. Lay Reader Thorrold led a brilliant session, guiding the children through the different parts of the church and explaining how each area is used during services. One of the most exciting discoveries for the children was spotting the carved wooden gargoyles along the edges of the nave roof! Having previously explored classical architecture in art, they recognised several architectural features and the gargoyles were definitely a favourite.

During the visit, pupils also discussed the role of the congregation and the importance of showing respect and appropriate behaviour in a place of worship.



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Queen Mary Road, King's Lynn, Norfolk, PE30 4QG

01553 779 685

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The children then had time to explore the church independently, visiting the areas they had learned about. The trip finished with some wonderful observational drawings, where Year 6 demonstrated fantastic focus and produced accurate, detailed line drawings of architectural features.

We were incredibly proud of their exemplary behaviour throughout the visit, and it was lovely to hear church wardens' comment on how polite and respectful the children were.

Year 3 Became Pizza Chefs!



Year 3 had an amazing time at Pizza Express this week, stepping into the shoes of real chefs for the day!

The children learned all about how pizzas are made — from preparing the dough to choosing fresh, tasty toppings. They even took part in a fun taste-testing session, trying out cheeses, vegetables, herbs, and a few new flavours they'd never had before. Lots of brave tasters discovered brand-new favourites!

Then came the really exciting part: making their own pizzas! Each child rolled out their dough and carefully created their own delicious design. The Pizza Express team were fantastic, guiding the children through every step and sharing fun facts about Italian food and cooking.

Of course, the highlight of the trip was enjoying the pizzas they had made themselves — and they were delicious!



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We were so proud of their enthusiasm, great listening skills, and brilliant table manners throughout the visit.



Year 2 Roman Day

This term, Year 2 have enjoyed some fantastic trips and special events that have truly brought their learning to life! One of the highlights was our amazing Roman Day, where the children arrived dressed as real Romans and fully immersed themselves in the past.

They took part in exciting role-play activities, stepped into character during “hot seating” sessions, and showcased their creativity by making beautiful mosaic fish inspired by traditional Roman art.



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Reflecting on a Successful Parents' Evening

Thank you to all the families who joined us for our recent Parents' Evening. It was wonderful to welcome so many of you into the Academy, and staff thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to talk with you about your child's progress, achievements and next steps. The event was exceptionally well attended, creating a warm and positive atmosphere throughout the school.

Strong Partnership, Strong Outcomes

We know that strong relationships between home and school make a significant difference to children's learning. The overwhelmingly positive feedback we received from families reflects the strength of that partnership. Many parents commented on how happy their children are at school, the quality of teaching they receive and the supportive environment we aim to provide every day.

Parent Survey Results

As part of our commitment to listening to our community, we surveyed parents during Parents' Evening. We are delighted to share a snapshot of the results:

- **95% of parents feel that when the academy makes decisions, it has their child's best interests at heart.**

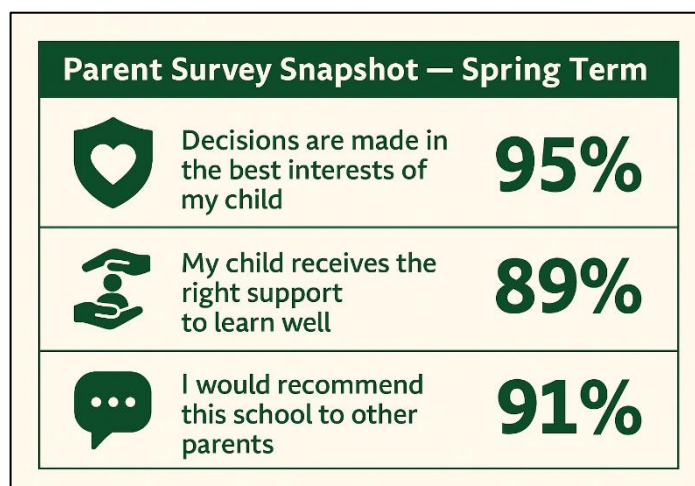
This is central to everything we do, and we are pleased that families recognise our commitment to children's well-being and learning.

- **89% of parents feel the academy gives their child the right support to enable them to learn well.**

Our staff work hard to provide high-quality teaching and personalised support, and this level of confidence from families is hugely encouraging.

- **91% of parents would recommend this school to other parents.**

This is a powerful endorsement of the work taking place across the Academy, and we are grateful for the trust our community places in us.



Looking Ahead

We will continue to act on the feedback shared and build on the strengths identified in the survey. Your views help us to reflect, develop and ensure we are providing the very best for every child.



PLT Values – Science and Kindness

We are proud of the role our Pupil Leadership Team (PLT) plays in shaping the direction of our school. Made up of elected representatives from across the Academy, the PLT meets regularly to discuss school priorities, share pupil voice, and help lead positive change.

This term, the PLT has chosen our Spring 2 values focus, and after thoughtful discussion, they selected two powerful themes: **Science** and **Kindness**.

Why Science?

With British Science Week taking place in March, the PLT felt this was the perfect opportunity to shine a spotlight on curiosity, investigation and the joy of discovery. They talked about how much they enjoy practical lessons, exploring big questions, and deepening their understanding of the world.



By choosing **Science** as one of our Spring 2 values, the PLT hopes to:

- encourage all pupils to see themselves as scientists,
- celebrate problem-solving and critical thinking, and
- inspire excitement around experimenting, exploring and learning new things.

Why Kindness?



The PLT were keen to remind everyone that kindness is one of the most important values in building a happy, safe school community.

They talked about the small acts of kindness they see every day: from helping a classmate, to including someone new, to speaking respectfully. The PLT felt that focusing on **Kindness** this half-term would help everyone remember the importance of:

- treating others with thoughtfulness and care,
- using kind words and actions,
- supporting friends and adults, and
- helping everyone feel valued and included.

Pupils and staff will be recognising “moments of kindness” across the school and celebrating those who go the extra mile to make a positive difference.

