


# NEWSLETTER

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

 [office@upa.eastern-mat.co.uk](mailto:office@upa.eastern-mat.co.uk)

 01945 773 220

 [www.upwellacademy.co.uk](http://www.upwellacademy.co.uk)

Dear Parents, Carers and members of our community,

As we come to the end of this term, I have been reminded once again of the strong sense of belonging that defines Upwell Academy. Our Easter Service at St Peter's Church was a wonderful example of this. With the church filled with children, staff and families, the thoughtful performances, readings and singing created a moment of togetherness that captured the spirit of our community perfectly.

Across the school, pupils have shown that same sense of unity in many ways. From celebrating stories on World Book Day, to supporting each other during Science Week, to enjoying time together at the FOSA Disco, the term has been filled with shared experiences that bring our school family closer.

Thank you for your continued support. I wish all our families a peaceful and happy Easter break, and I look forward to welcoming everyone back for an exciting summer term.

Warm regards,

Chris Harris - Principal

## Latest House Points

**Earth – 24,636**



**Air – 25,895**



**Water – 26,151**



**Fire – 26,223**



**Key Dates  
for your  
diary**

**Staff Training Day  
Mon 13 Apr 2026**

**Children Back to School  
Tues 14 Apr 2026**

**Bank Holiday  
Mon 4 May 2026**

## Easter Service at St Peter's Church

Our whole school community came together for a truly memorable Easter Service at St Peter's Church. With more than 200 children and staff in attendance, along with another 150 parents and carers, the church was filled. The atmosphere was warm, joyful and deeply respectful as we shared this important moment in the Christian calendar.

A highlight of the service was the thoughtful and heartfelt performances by our Year 3 and Year 4 children. They acted out the Easter story with maturity, confidence and real understanding. Their retelling helped everyone present to reflect on themes of hope, renewal and compassion, which sit so closely with our Upwell Academy values.

Our Year 6 Pupil Leadership Team read beautifully throughout the service, offering clear and reflective narration that supported each part of the story. Their contribution showed real leadership, responsibility and pride in representing the school.

The school choir then added something truly special. Their singing at the most poignant moment of the service created a stillness across the whole church. Their voices lifted the entire gathering and reminded us all how powerful it can be when we work together in harmony.



The event was a wonderful celebration of community. It showed our values in action through kindness, respect and teamwork. Most of all, it demonstrated what our pupils can achieve when they support one another and strive to give their very best.

We are grateful to St Peter's Church for welcoming us so warmly and to every family member who joined us. It was a beautiful way to end the term and a moment of togetherness that we will remember for a long time.



We're a proud member of the EMAT family



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

01553 779 685

office@eastern-mat.co.uk

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## World Book Day

Our school was filled with colour, creativity and excitement as we celebrated World Book Day this month. Children and staff arrived dressed as their favourite book characters, transforming classrooms and corridors into a vibrant celebration of stories and imagination.

The effort that pupils put into their costumes was outstanding. From classic characters to modern favourites, every outfit showed pride, thought and a love of reading.

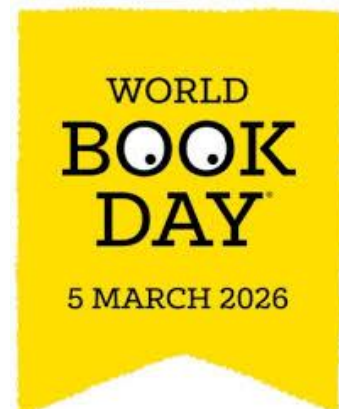
We held our annual costume competition. The judging was almost impossible because the standard of creativity was so high. Every child who took part helped to make the day special.



Across the school, pupils took part in reading activities that celebrated our values. They collaborated with friends, shared stories with younger year groups and talked proudly about the books they love. Their enthusiasm showed teamwork, respect and a strong sense of community and belonging.

World Book Day is always a highlight of our year because it reinforces our belief that reading opens doors to new ideas, builds confidence and strengthens learning. Seeing our children embrace books with such excitement is a reminder of why reading sits at the heart of our curriculum at Upwell Academy.

Thank you to all families for supporting the day with such creativity and positivity. The smiles, stories and costumes made it one to remember.



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## FOSA End of Term Disco

The end of term finished on a high with our fantastic FOSA Disco. It was wonderful to see so many children coming together to celebrate their hard work and enjoy a fun filled afternoon. The energy, laughter and enthusiasm across the hall made it clear that everyone was ready for a well-earned break.

Our Friends of School Association worked incredibly hard to organise a safe and enjoyable event that brought the whole school community together. From music and lights to snacks and surprises, every detail helped create a memorable experience for the children.

A special moment of the evening was capturing a rare photo of some of our Year 6 boys dancing, something that always brings smiles to staff across the school. It was lovely to see them letting their hair down and making the most of their final primary school discos.

Events like this are more than just a fun way to end the term. They also help raise valuable funds that directly benefit our pupils. FOSA's support plays an important part in enhancing school life and providing extra opportunities and experiences for all children.

We are incredibly grateful to all the volunteers who gave their time and energy, and to every family who supported the event. Together, we created a joyful end to the term and helped raise money that will make a real difference



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## PLT Selects Next Half Term Values: PE and Respect

Our Year 6 Pupil Leadership Team has continued to play an important role in shaping the culture of Upwell Academy. This week, they met to discuss which values the whole school should focus on next half term. After listening to feedback across classes and considering what would benefit pupils the most, they chose **PE (Physical Education)** and **Respect** as our shared priorities.



The PLT explained that PE is much more than exercise. It supports teamwork, confidence, resilience and a healthy lifestyle. They felt it was the perfect focus as the weather improves and pupils begin to take part in more outdoor activities, sports clubs and summer term events. They want everyone to enjoy being active and to recognise the positive impact PE has on both physical and mental wellbeing.

Respect was chosen because it helps maintain a positive and supportive school environment. The PLT talked about how respect can be shown in many ways, including kindness, good manners, listening to others and looking after shared spaces. They want to encourage all pupils to think carefully about how they treat one another and how small actions can have a big impact on the school community.

These two values will be reflected throughout the next half term in assemblies, displays and classroom discussions. The PLT will also be championing them in their daily roles and looking out for pupils who demonstrate them consistently.

We are incredibly proud of our Pupil Leadership Team for their thoughtful and proactive approach. Their choices help guide the whole school and support our aim of developing confident, responsible and considerate learners.



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# British Science Week 2026: A Whole School Celebration of Curiosity

Science Week at Upwell Academy has been a huge success, with every year group taking part in exciting investigations that encouraged curiosity, teamwork and a love of discovery. The theme of the week inspired children to ask questions, test ideas and think like real scientists. Walking around the school, it was clear that pupils were fully engaged and enjoying hands on learning at its very best.

## Reception: How Drinks Affect Our Teeth

Reception pupils became dental detectives as they explored how different drinks can affect our teeth. Using eggshells as a scientific model, they tested liquids such as water, milk, cola and juices to see which caused the most staining. They watched closely as the colours changed over time and learned why choosing water and milk helps keep our teeth healthy. Their enthusiasm for brushing teeth and caring for their smiles was wonderful to see.



## Year 1: Investigating Germination

Year 1 focused on plants and set up a germination investigation using cress seeds. They explored the question: does sunlight affect how quickly seeds grow? The children placed their seeds in different locations, including cupboards, shady spots and sunny windowsills. Although the experiment needed more time, their research helped them conclude that plants grow best in direct sunlight. Their scientific thinking was impressive.

## Year 2: Designing Space Rovers

Year 2 explored the theme of curiosity by thinking about life on the Moon. They designed and created their own space rovers, carefully considering which features would work best on a rocky surface with low gravity. After presenting their rovers to the class, they evaluated each design and thought about improvements. Their creativity and teamwork shone throughout.



## Year 3: Magnet Detectives

Year 3 investigated magnetism and made predictions about which materials might be magnetic. They tested paperclips, wood, plastic, keys and different metals, discovering that only certain metals are attracted to magnets. Iron, nickel and cobalt became their new favourite scientific words. The children worked brilliantly together and enjoyed being magnet detectives.



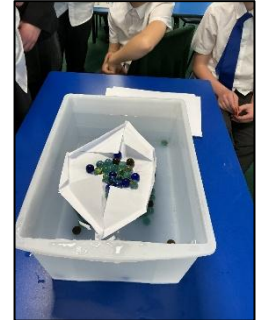


#### **Year 4: Static Electricity Dance Party**

Year 4 explored static electricity by creating tissue paper characters and using balloons to make them dance. By rubbing balloons on jumpers or hair, they generated static charge and watched their paper figures lift and move. The classroom was full of excitement as the children saw science in action and learned how electrons move between materials.

#### **Year 5: Building Boats from Paper**

Year 5 took on an engineering challenge. They designed and built boats using just a single sheet of A4 paper. Once built, each boat was tested in water by adding marbles until it sank. The class discovered that boats with wider surface areas and strong sides stayed afloat the longest. Their problem solving skills and perseverance were excellent.



#### **Year 6: Light, Reflection and Refraction**

Year 6 explored how light travels and changes direction. They created kaleidoscopes using foil, card and tracing paper, producing colourful reflection patterns when light entered the tube. They then moved on to refraction, observing how objects appear to bend in water and oil. Their curiosity led to lots of discussion about how light behaves.



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