


NEWSLETTER

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Dear Parents, Carers and Members of our Community,

As we move through another busy and rewarding term, we are proud to share a range of recent highlights that reflect the breadth of learning and opportunities available to our children. From purposeful learning beyond the classroom to sporting achievement, enrichment through the arts and a continued focus on safety, there is much to celebrate.

Our Year 1 pupils enjoyed an inspiring visit to Wicken Fen, bringing their learning to life through hands-on exploration of a unique natural environment. We are equally proud of our young athletes, with our Year 3 and 4 girls representing the school so positively at the Downham Cluster Football Tournament, showing resilience, teamwork and growing confidence throughout the day.

We are also delighted to welcome Mrs Smith as our new music teacher, expanding inclusive opportunities for pupils in Key Stage 2 to be part of bands and orchestras through our new partnership with MITI in West Norfolk.

Finally, we remain firmly committed to pupil safety, with the majority of our support staff now first aid trained following our recent Professional Development Day.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Warm regards,

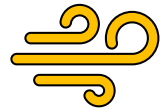
Chris Harris - Principal

Latest House Points

Earth – 29,068



Air – 30,057



Water – 30,539



Fire – 30,799



**Key Dates
for your
diary**

**Y6 SATs Week
w/c 11 May 2026**

**Colour Run
Fri 15 May 2026**

**Half-Term
w/c 25 May 2026**

Wicken Fen National Nature Reserve

Year 1 enjoyed a fantastic educational visit to Wicken Fen National Nature Reserve, one of Britain's oldest and most important wetlands. The trip brought classroom learning to life and gave pupils the opportunity to explore a truly unique natural environment.

During the visit, the children explored the boardwalks and fenland habitats, learning about plants, minibeasts and the animals that live in this special landscape. They were fascinated by what they discovered and asked thoughtful questions, showing real curiosity and enthusiasm throughout the day.



We were extremely proud of the behaviour of all our Year 1 pupils. They listened carefully, followed instructions sensibly and represented the school brilliantly at all times. Staff at Wicken Fen commented on how well behaved, polite and respectful the children were, which made the day even more enjoyable for everyone involved.

The trip supported learning in science and geography while also helping the children develop

independence, teamwork and confidence outside the classroom. Experiences like this are a vital part of our curriculum, giving pupils hands-on opportunities to learn about the world around them.

A huge thank you to our staff and volunteers who supported the visit and helped make it such a success. We are very proud of Year 1 and the excellent way they represented our school.



We're a proud member of the EMAT family



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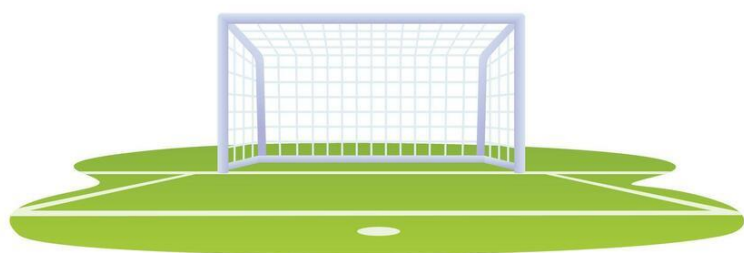


Downham Cluster Girls Football Tournament 2026

Upwell Blues proudly took part in the Downham Cluster Girls Football Tournament on Tuesday 21st April, held at Hillcrest. Representing the school was a newly formed team of enthusiastic players from Years 3 and 4, many of whom were experiencing competitive football for the first time.

The team faced a challenging start against a strong and well-organised Nelson United side, resulting in a 5–0 defeat. However, the girls showed great resilience and quickly began to grow in confidence. In their second match against Denver Dynamos, a physical and determined team, Upwell demonstrated clear improvement in both movement and teamwork, despite a 3–0 loss.

A change in positions proved to be a turning point. The Blues began to work more cohesively, with excellent link-up play between Eleanor and Isabelle. Although they narrowly lost 1–0 to Hillcrest Harriers, the scoreline did not reflect the outstanding effort shown across the team. Eady's energy and Maddison's determination stood out as both players worked tirelessly.



After a well-earned break, Upwell returned to the pitch refreshed and full of determination. Their hard work paid off in an exciting 3–2 victory over Nelson City, with Eady scoring twice and Summer adding a fantastic goal. This win gave the team a huge confidence boost, which carried into their next game against Denver Athletic. The Blues secured an impressive

2–0 victory, with another goal from Eady and a brilliant strike from Madison. The team continued to press forward and were unlucky not to score more, hitting the crossbar on several occasions.

Poppy also impressed in goal, making a number of excellent saves during her first experience as goalkeeper. Across the team, there was clear development in passing, communication, and positional awareness as the tournament progressed.

The final match against Hillcrest Hotspurs was a thrilling end-to-end game and arguably Upwell's strongest performance of the day. Every player showed fantastic teamwork, resilience, and sportsmanship. The match ended in a well-earned 0–0 draw.

Upwell Blues finished in a very respectable **4th place out of 7 teams**—a fantastic achievement for such a young and developing squad.

Well done to all the girls for their outstanding effort, determination, and positive attitude throughout the tournament—you did the school proud



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Welcoming Mrs Smith – Our New Music Teacher

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Smith to our staff team as our new music teacher. Mrs Smith brings great enthusiasm for music education and is deeply committed to ensuring that all children have the opportunity to take part, regardless of background, experience or confidence.



As part of this exciting development, during the Summer Term we are offering free instrumental music lessons to the first 20 children in KS2, allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Pupils will learn either the flute or the recorder, with lessons taking place in small groups. This inclusive group-based approach allows children to learn alongside their peers, support one another and feel that they belong from the very start.

Music has a powerful role to play in helping children feel connected. Learning an instrument as part of a group gives pupils the experience of being part of a band or orchestra, where everyone's contribution matters and success is shared. For many children, this sense of teamwork, identity and belonging is just as important as the musical skills they develop.

From September 2026, instrumental music lessons will continue to be available at a heavily subsidised cost of £25 for a block of ten lessons. This reduced cost is a deliberate commitment to inclusion, ensuring that financial barriers do not prevent children from accessing high-quality music education and the wider benefits that come with it.

This affordability and breadth of opportunity is only possible through our new partnership with The Musical Instrument Tuition Initiative (MITI) in West Norfolk. MITI is a well-established programme serving over 200 pupils, with a strong focus on widening access to music and building a sense of community through shared musical experiences.

A key feature of MITI is its emphasis on collective music-making. The initiative runs regular, termly workshops held at Marshland High School, often bringing together around 100 pupils from different schools to form orchestras and wind bands and perform together on stage. These events are designed to build confidence, encourage collaboration and help children experience what it means to be part of something bigger.

MITI also plays an important role in supporting transition from primary to secondary school by creating transition ensembles, allowing pupils to build familiarity, friendships and confidence before moving on. This is particularly valuable for children from small or rural schools, helping them feel part of a larger musical community.

We are very excited about what this means for music at our school and look forward to seeing our pupils grow in confidence, skill and a strong sense of belonging.

Further details about signing up for the free Summer Term places, along with information about lessons starting in September 2026, will be shared shortly.



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Professional Development Day: First Aid Training



During our most recent Professional Development Day, while pupils were not in school, staff took part in important training focused on first aid and pupil safety.

We are pleased to share that the majority of our support staff are now first aid trained. This training ensures there are knowledgeable, confident adults across the school who can respond quickly and appropriately if a child becomes unwell or is injured during the school day.

Having a large number of first aid trained staff strengthens our daily provision and gives added reassurance that children are

cared for in a safe, calm and well-prepared environment. Support is available across classrooms, playgrounds, lunch areas and throughout the school whenever it is needed.

Although children are not present on these days, Professional Development Days play a vital role in maintaining high standards of care. This focus on first aid reflects our continued commitment to keeping every child safe and well at school.

Thank you to our staff for their professionalism and dedication, and to families for their continued support.



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ROOTED IN OUR VILLAGE, SHINING THROUGH OUR COMMUNITY

- A MESSAGE FROM UPWELL ACADEMY'S
NEW PRINCIPAL



Over the past few months, Upwell Academy has once again shown why it remains such an important part of village life. Our school continues to stand proudly 'rooted in our village, reaching for the future,' and this winter has been filled with moments that truly reflect our values of Empowerment, Achievement, Motivation and Transformation.

A Season of Celebration and Togetherness -

December brought a wonderful sense of community spirit. Our youngest pupils delighted families with their magical Nativity performance, filling the hall with joy and pride. The whole academy then shared the excitement of a festive pantomime trip to the Corn Exchange in King's Lynn, where Jack and the Beanstalk had children cheering, laughing and experiencing the magic of live theatre. This treasured annual tradition was made possible thanks to the generosity of FOSA who provided the transport and whose continued support ensures every child can take part.

Our Christmas Carols and the Christingle Service at St Peter's Church were beautiful reminders of the deep



bonds between the school and our village. With singing, readings and thoughtful reflections these gatherings brought our community together in a moment of reflection and hope.

We were also humbled by the kindness of local businesses. Snap-On in King's Lynn gifted advent calendars for every class, and Outwell Post Office donated sweets for all pupils. These gestures created moments of joy across the school and highlighted how deeply our community values its children.

Learning That Inspires and Connects - 2026 has already provided exciting opportunities for pupils to explore, discover and grow.

Year 4's visit to Welney Wetland Centre gave them hands-on insight into ecology and conservation. Year 6 explored the incredible architecture and history of St Peter's Church, a landmark that continues to shape the identity of Upwell. Our Year 3 children enjoyed becoming chefs for the day at Pizza Express, while Year 2 immersed themselves in Roman life through role play, mosaic-making and historical exploration. These experiences enrich learning, build confidence and allow our children to see the world beyond the classroom.



Belonging, Voice and Community Values - This term has also seen a renewed focus on belonging by ensuring every child feels proud to be part of Upwell Academy. With a shared approach to uniform, high expectations and supportive guidance, we continue to promote fairness and unity. Our Pupil Leadership Team once again demonstrated maturity and insight in choosing 'Science' and 'Kindness' as our Spring values, encouraging curiosity and compassion across the school.

Working Hand in Hand with Families - Parents' Evening was a fantastic success, with strong attendance and overwhelmingly positive feedback. The parent survey results reflected how safe, happy and well supported our pupils feel - a testament to the commitment of our staff and the trust of our families. It is clear that Upwell Academy thrives because our community works together, listens to one another and shares a collective ambition for our children.

Looking Forward with Purpose - As we look towards summer, brighter days await - both in the seasons and in the life of our school. Upwell

Academy remains a place where belonging is nurtured, aspirations are encouraged and children are inspired to grow with integrity, confidence and joy. We are proud of everything our pupils have achieved and excited for the opportunities ahead.

Upwell Academy continues to be a place of warmth, pride and community spirit - a school rooted in Upwell's rich heritage and reaching confidently toward the future.

Chris Harris

Principal, Upwell Academy
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