



Upper Arley Primary School

Newsletter 7th November 2019

Website: www.upperarleyprimary.co.uk

Tel: 01299 861260

Dear Parents

Welcome back from the half term break. I hope that you were able to spend some time doing the things you enjoy the most.

The build up to Christmas is always a busy one so I will try to keep you updated as soon as I can with events happening in school. Please be sure to pop the dates below on your calendar so that you don't miss out on events involving your children.

The school continues to be monitored closely by the Local Authority, the Diocese of Worcester and school Governors who visit the school regularly to challenge leaders. I will keep you updated with the progress the school is making and welcome any feedback from yourselves. We have arranged the next Post Ofsted Parent meeting to report on the progress the school is making to get the school to a 'Good' rating. This is to be held on Tuesday 3rd December in the school hall at 6pm.

As always, please do not hesitate to come and talk to teaching staff or myself about any concerns or queries you may have.

Thank you for your continued support and positive feedback. It really does make a difference.

Mrs Langfield

THIS WEEK'S ATTENDANCE

The schools overall attendance so far this year.....96.21%

Class	Percentage
Little Owls (YR)	100%
Owls	98%
Swifts	95%
Falcons	98%%
Attendance figure for whole school	
97.25%	

If you need to report your child is absent, please ring the school before 9.30 am on the first day of absence. Please do not report to the staff on the gate, as they do not

FUNDraising for the school

This half term we have organised a **book fair** open to all children and their families. This will be open each day after school in the Library to purchase books and gifts in time for Christmas. Every item you buy gives school commission to buy much needed books for children to use in school.

Also, some of you may already be aware of the **Giving Machine**.

<https://www.thegivingmachine.co.uk/sign-up/>

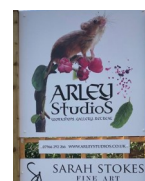
Please sign up for free and shop through this link to raise much needed funds that come direct to school.

REMEMBRANCE

All of the children will **visit St Peters Church** to pay their respects to the *fallen* and lay their crosses/poppies with a prayer on **Monday 11th November in time for the 2 minutes silence at 11am**. Families are welcome to join the children on their walk to church or join them there. If you would like to walk with the children please wait under the canopy at the KS 1 exit door at 10.20am. Please join your child's class as they leave the school building. Children will remain in their pairs and under the responsibility of their class teacher.

Artist in Residence

We are absolutely delighted to have been given the opportunity to work with local artist Sarah Stokes. Parents have also been invited on a *first come first serve* basis to join the workshop your child is attending. Please see separate letter giving further details and how to book your place.



HEALTHY CHILDREN SPORTING EVENTS

We will be welcoming visiting athlete **Amy Hillyard** into school to work with the children later this half term. Children will hear from first hand experience from this professional athlete and the challenges they have faced to succeed in their sport. Help them to collect sponsors for their activities to complete in school when she is here. See separate letter and sponsor form.

Sporting Clubs

We are currently trying to secure skilled coaches who deliver after school activity clubs to the children. If you can recommend reputable clubs or coaches who deliver sporting opportunities please contact myself or the office. The children have expressed interest in yoga, dance, archery, and golf amongst others. Ideally we would like to be able to offer at least two clubs per week.

WATER BOTTLES

Please ensure that your child has a water bottle in school every day. If they do not, they will be provided with a cup to drink from. It is important that they keep their brains and bodies hydrated.

HEALTHY LUNCHES AND BREAK TIME SNACKS

We continue to promote healthy lunch boxes and snacks in school. Thank you to those parents who are supporting us with this.

There is always fresh fruit available at break time for children in Early Years and KS1. We think it is important that children bring a healthy snack to eat at break time. This can be fruit, fruit bars, breakfast bars or anything that does not contain high levels of sugar, salt or fat. Please ensure that these are nut free.

HOMEWORK AND HOMELEARNING *Thank you for supporting your child with their homework and Homelearning activities.*

The children have been proud to share what they have been learning about at home and are becoming more confident in demonstrating their basic skills in reading, writing and maths as a result of the work you are doing at home. Consolidation and rehearsal are vital aspects of learning and memory, helping your child to carry out these short tasks really does help embed new information. Teachers will set new tasks this half term to link with their new topics. Please talk to your child's class teacher if you have any questions.

Charity events at Upper Arley

We believe that learning about the importance of charity work and the act of giving, even the smallest amount, is vital for children to appreciate what they have and realise how they can help others who may not be so fortunate.

This term we are supporting a number of charitable causes. We have already mentioned our visiting athlete **Amy Hillyard** and the **Shoebbox Appeal** for Christmas. It would not be the same if we didn't mention Pudsey Bear and of course the **British Legion Poppy Appeal**.



We really appreciate the support families at Upper Arley give. Poppy's will be available for a donation on the playground at the end of the day for parents. Children will have the opportunity to make a donation for a poppy during the school day. Unfortunately, we will not be able to give change for a donation.

This year to support Pudsey Bear (**Children in Need**) we are holding a **Wear One Thing Spotty** day to help **FUNd-raise** for this worthy cause. Children are allowed to wear one thing spotty for a donation of £1 to give to

Pudsey Bear. This will take place on **Friday 15th November.**



COLLECTIVE WORSHIP AND TEACHING OF BRITISH VALUES

At Upper Arley we aim to develop the whole child spiritually, morally, socially and culturally through the teaching and embedding of Christian values. Children will develop their personal understanding of these values through stories, examples, anecdotes and experiences. Being able to evaluate and reflect on their understanding as they grow. This term we focus on the value of **compassion**.



The literal meaning of the word 'compassion' suggests suffering with or alongside someone else.

In developing character, we encourage an attitude of empathy and understanding of others, trying to imagine what it is like to stand in the shoes of another.

Please help us to support your child's development this half term by talking about what this may mean or look like this at home.

This term our local **Police Community Support Officer** will be regularly visiting school to talk with children on subjects linked to safety. Cath will be talking with the children in assemblies and also in classrooms. These discussions will be about how to keep safe by water and on the roads as well as how to deal with pressure from their peers and keep safe online when playing games. Your children may come home and talk to you about some of these topics. Please talk to us if you have any questions about this.

PARENT CONSULTATIONS—19TH NOVEMBER

Parents are invited into school to review their child's progress with their class teacher. There will be an opportunity to look at children's work and hear how your child is progressing. A separate letter will go out inviting you to choose a suitable time frame/date. Once this has been returned you will be allotted an appointment time. During the same session, the book fair will be open for purchases and our Family Support Working Lucy Plowright will be available to talk to. If you would like to talk with her please contact the office to make an appointment as these are limited.

CHRISTMAS FAIR

This year we are joining together with the Memorial Hall to put on a Christmas Fair to fundraise for the school. We hope that you will support us by donating items for the bottle and chocolate tombola's and prizes for the raffle. We will let you know when to make your donations nearer the time. If anyone can support by suggesting or running a stall, we would really appreciate it.

Thank you



Music Tuition

The children continue to work with Mr Carrigan, our music specialist. If you are interested in your child receiving vocal training or piano lessons please speak to the office.

Mr Carrigan is preparing the children for future events both in school and at local venues. Please look out for these in the near future.

Diary dates Autumn 2019

November

Monday 4th – children return to school

Wednesday 6th

Friday 8th

Monday 11th

Tuesday 12th

Wednesday 13th

Friday 15th

Monday 18th

Tuesday 19th

Friday 22nd

Tuesday 26th

Friday 29th

December

Tuesday 3rd

Friday 6th

Friday 13th

Monday 16th

Tuesday 17th 1.30 & 6pm

Friday 20th

Friday 20th – school closes for Christmas

Monday 6th January – TED staff only in school

Tuesday 7th January – children return to school

PCSO Cath - KS2 children—Aspiration

Year 5 and 6 swimming

Remembrance Day—St Peters Church

Internet Safety workshop for KS 2 (Parent Zone)

Artist workshop for all children and parents

Children in Need—wear one thing spotty for £1 donation

KS 2 Cross Country competition

Hearing tests for Reception children

Book Fair in school until Thursday 21st

Visiting author for KS 1

School Photographs

Parent consultations 3.30-7pm

Young Voices Concert KS2 children only—Town Hall

Visiting Olympic Athlete sponsored activity

Christingle Service at St Peter's Church—parents welcome

Post Ofsted Progress meeting for Parents 6pm

Kho Kho sports activity

Christmas Fair in the Village Hall

Parents invited to Crafternoon in school

Dress Rehearsal Nativity

Christmas Nativity (Village Hall)

End of term carol service at the church

Christmas parties

News from the Governors Autumn No 3 2019

Each month I worry that the newsletter item from the Governors will be short of news, and each month I'm glad to say there is always plenty (just probably not very exciting).

There was a Premises and Finance meeting October 17th, the first one for this committee in this academic year and the first time the two committees have been combined so the agenda was rather lengthy and with the detailed financial scrutiny necessary during this time of deficit budget we did struggle to cover all the agenda items. It is important however to remember that detailed discussions and using the skills of our governors both scrutinises and supports the leadership helping to improve results in all areas. Mrs Hope attended to give feedback on the budget. Thank you.

There have been successful open days in school that were well supported, attended by parents and carers of current pupils wishing to look around the school and of course for prospective new pupils of all ages. Interested families looking to come to Upper Arley CofE Primary School do not have to wait for the next open day, they can make an appointment with the Headteacher to look around the school at any time. Phoning the office on 01299 861260

A governor was invited to, and able to attend on behalf of the school, a sports premium funding meeting at Six Ways Rugby ground in Worcester and three other governors attended a training session 'Governance in a Church School' at the Old Palace in Worcester, both sessions are useful in two ways, networking with other governors from different schools and of course the content of the training. The Six Ways Rugby ground session will be followed by a meeting for the sports premium governor with the schools PE coordinator where they will share what was discussed at the sports premium funding meeting and see how the school can continue to maximise the benefits of this ring fenced funding.

I was able to meet with the Headteacher during half term and appreciated seeing the continuing improvements and tidying up of the school as well as catching up on some discussions.

There was an unexpected visit to the school on Tuesday 5th November with interest in the school buildings. During this visit it was lovely to see the school in normal routine and appreciate the calm orderliness of the working day that the staff create for the children with secure routines and interesting lessons. Everyone accommodated this unannounced intrusion to their day without a hitch.

Training for Governors took place on Tuesday 5th November in the evening. There were governors from at least 6 schools together in the room. They were given plenty of time and opportunity to discuss and reflect upon current practice against the expectations for Governors in the OFSTED framework. All governors said that they found it very useful.

Looking forward to the next few weeks, the memorial service for school will take place on the Remembrance Day. The men on the memorial board within the school and the memorial board in the church will be mentioned and poppies laid in church and at the village war memorial. Older children in the school have done some work about this period of history this week.

There will be a support meeting from the Bromsgrove Primary School Teaching Alliance (BPSTA) as a follow-up for the recent leadership review. This group of schools are supporting Upper Arley CofE Primary School in its journey to OFSTED good.

A further Worcester Local Authority project board meeting is due later in November and then before the end of November the Governors have their Curriculum committee meeting and the monthly strategy meeting which has continuing financial monitoring included. Before Christmas festivities get underway some training in developing a Christian Vision for the school is taking place. This works on being inclusive of everyone, from any religion and from non to benefit all children in all areas of the curriculum.

Thank you for your continuing support for the school, it is a pleasure to serve on the board.

Freda Griffith

Chair of Governors

