



Upper Arley C of E Primary School

Newsletter 26th February 2021

Website: www.upperarleyprimary.co.uk

Tel: 01299 861260

Dear Parents, Carers and families,

We are looking forward to welcoming back all children into school on Monday. It is unbelievable to think that it was a year ago the pandemic began. But the community around Upper Arley C of E Primary School has been supportive and compliant, which I believe has helped us to remain well and reasonably unaffected. We are aware of the emotional support that may be needed for our young people and families at this time of readjustment and hope that you would approach us if there is anything we can do to support this.

As a staff we are planning for this return to school similarly to how we did in September with a Recovery Curriculum that is heavily focused on routines, structure and relationships, emotional support and development of basic skills. There will be an initial flexibility to the curriculum content and sessions as the children readjust. Teachers will plan content delivery in small, bite size sessions to enable children to access content without feeling overwhelmed, at their own pace and with a level of challenge to suit their needs. We will keep you updated with how this is going over the next few weeks.

Public Health England have provided a brief update of local situation regarding education.

Throughout the pandemic schools should be the last to close and the first to open.

· there is strong evidence children are not seriously ill with COVID. The rate across Worcestershire is going down which is a positive.

· Transmission in schools - evidence shows that the number of situations within schools are not spreading through the school environments.

· There is no great danger to the staff - within a school situation 80% of all schools have been affected but these have been bubble closures caused by external cases.

· Eighty primary schools have confirmed staff cases.

· Schools complete Risk Assessments and act quickly when there is a case highlighted.

· Re-opening and the new testing process is currently being given focus.

Vaccination centres all through Worcestershire have now been set up. The Three counties show-ground has opened this week for the vaccinations. Anybody who is over the age of 60 can now be vaccinated through these centre.

· Social distancing will be absolutely vital for next week—we need to ensure we prevent the infection transmission

*· Keep the bubble format and ensure all follow the **Hands, Face, Space** and system of controls and do not let the procedures slip.*

We heed the advice and guidance from the PHE and DfE and ask for your continued to support to protect our school and local community. We are looking forward to being together again and planning school events with safety for when the time is right to gather and share the children's experiences in school.

We will keep you updated on these dates as the remainder of the term unfolds. But spring and the warmer weather are on its way which will make things a little easier to manage, and we have use of our new Marquee, perfect for afternoon tea and outdoor gatherings. Watch this space...

Mrs Tracie Langfield, Head Teacher

Safeguarding and Mental Health and Wellbeing support

SafeToNet

<https://safetonet.com/>

SafeToNet is an app for parents to help them safeguard their children from online risks like cyberbullying and sexting, whilst always respecting their child's rights to privacy.

The SafeToNet Foundation is providing UK families with free-for-life access to the SafeToNet safeguarding solution during coronavirus.

Using the code: SAFE, parents can get free access to the app which has wellbeing activities and adds a safeguarding keyboard to the child's phone.

Updated Information for parents

How to support your child and family with mental health and well being the pandemic. [Link to DfE guidance](#)

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Keeping children safe from abuse and harm](#) Advice for parents and carers about the main risks children may be particularly vulnerable to at this time and information about available help and support has been updated to add extra links to support to help keep children safe.

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): keeping children safe online Advice and guidance to help parents and carers to keep children safe online](#) during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak has been updated to include links to extra resources added to help keep children safe from online harm.

Transferring to secondary school September 2021

Parents with children who are transferring to secondary education this September will have received notification of a confirmed place by now (1st March). Worcestershire County Council are encouraging parents to access further information through the Worcestershire website – www.worcestershire.gov.uk/schooladmissions

If parents do not have access to the internet they are being advised to visit their local library where access is free or telephone: 01905 822700 for assistance in obtaining information and applying.

SCHOOL VALUE FOCUS THIS HALF TERM—JUSTICE

This half term we will be exploring questions like the examples below together. You may wish to talk with your child about these as we move through Lent to the festival of Easter.

- *How are children encouraged to contribute to the way decisions are made in your school?*
- *If you have a strong opinion about how your school is run, how can you make sure your opinion is heard?*
- *What can you do when you feel that you or a friend has been unfairly treated?*
- *How does your teacher ensure that everyone is treated fairly?*
- *Why do you think Jesus called himself the 'Light of the World'? (John 8.12)*

Children will have the opportunities to discuss and reflect on these and other questions during class and assembly times.



World Book Day—activities to last all week long and beyond.....



[Bourneville Bookfest](#)—click here to find out how to access the activities at home

9am Monday 1st March

Poetry Day with **Michael Rosen** and **Benjamin Zephaniah**

Drawing Harry Potter with **Jonny Duddle**

9am Tuesday 2nd March

Writing Adventure Stories with **Katherine Rundell**

Poetry Writing for Beginners with **Matt "Poet with Punch" Windle**

9am Wednesday 3rd March

Funny Stories Draw-Along with **Steven Butler** and **Steven Lenton**

Making Up Hilarious Stories with **Serena Patel**

9am Thursday 4th March WORLD BOOK DAY

Football Stories: Writing About the Things You Love with **Tom Palmer**

Storytime: A Pot of Dirt with **Anna O'Brien**

9am Friday 5th March

Magic and Dragons with children's laureate **Cressida Cowell**

NEW *Drawing Tracy Beaker and The Cat & King* with **BookFest Patron Nick Sharratt**

9am Monday 8th March

The Great Shakespeare Mystery with storyteller **John Edgar** of the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust

For those children in school they will come home with the book token and those at home will be given them on Monday when they return to school. WE hope that they enjoy [choosing](#) something they would like.



COMPETITION TIME!

West Mercia Police are asking Primary aged children to make Easter bonnets and sent us the photo of them wearing it for the competition.

Start date 1st MARCH

Entries in by 28th MARCH

Winners announced on 1st APRIL

Name, age and year group.

Parent contact details and consent for use of social media.

There will be prizes for a few different age ranges.

Please send your photos

to [Kidderminstereast.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk](mailto:kidderminstereast.snt@westmercia.pnn.police.uk) with the above information by the deadline of 28th March 2021.



PLACES FOR SEPTEMBER 2021

The deadline for applying for school places was the 15th January 2021. This is for spaces in Reception September 2021

https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20099/school_admissions

We are still welcoming bookings for tours of the school out of school hours should you know anyone who is interested in considering Upper Arley C of E Primary school for their child. Please contact the school directly on 01299 861260 or via email head@upperarley.worcs.sch.uk to arrange a suitable time and date.

Nursery care for 3-5 year olds



Please contact the school office or HHWAC@upperarley.worcs.sch.uk directly if you would like a place in Nursery after Easter. We currently have funded and fee paying spaces available for 3-5 year olds. Our nursery staff work closely with school staff in Owls class, planning and assessing learning and development. This term, the children are enjoying learning with the older children in Owls class and accessing their resources as well as weekly music sessions with Mr Carrigan and Forest School with Sandra Hill. Please tell

your friends and neighbours and share our website and facebook pages.

Reading remotely.....

For some pupils, this area of the curriculum can be easy to continue with out of school but we recognise that for others locating a suitable book to read may be more difficult. Therefore, we have located some websites links where you may find the book you are looking for.

If you are in KS1 or Early Years, you will have access to the [Big Cat Collins](#) books that support your development of phonics and early reading. Please speak with Miss Robertson if you do not have a log in.

For pupils in KS2, your teacher may recommend books from the story shelf on your Showbie platform. But, you may also like to use the following links to choose something a little different...

[visit the Worcester Libraries](#)

[Oxford Owl](#)

[Top Ten Digital Books](#)

[Top Ten Storytimes](#)

[Top Ten storytimes for ages 7-11](#)

[Oak National Academy](#) share a new digital book each week

[CBEEBIES](#)

[World Book Day resources](#)

[The Book Trust](#)



HERE 2 HELP WORCESTERSHIRE



A reminder that Here2Help is here for families self-isolating and unable to get support from friends, family or neighbours.

On the Here2Help website families can find resources to help with staying at home during Coronavirus as well as an online form they can fill out to request the support they need. If the family does not have internet access, they can call **01905 768053** which is open Monday to Thursday, 9am-5pm and Friday 9am-4.30pm.

Here2Help will signpost callers to up to date advice and arrange volunteer support where required to help those who are unable to leave their homes as a result of needing to self-isolate.

- The types of support available include:
- Collecting and delivering food and supplies
- Arranging emergency food support
- Help collecting prescriptions
- Help with other commitments such as pet needs
- Support for those who are feeling isolated
- Advice around money, benefits and debt

For more information visit: www.worcestershire.gov.uk/here2help



Ready Steady Worcestershire provides information about food, activities and support available to families **during the school holidays**. We recognise some families find it difficult to feed their children during the school holidays. By clicking the interactive map link, you can find organisations in your local area that can provide families with either food items to cook a meal at home or prepared meals for children during the school holiday period.

We also recognise that when children do not have the structure and routine provided by being in school, keeping children active and entertained can prove difficult. The interactive map shows activities taking place in local communities during the school holidays. The webpage also contains lots of activity ideas which can be done at home, particularly useful if the family is self-isolating. School holidays can be a demanding time for parents financially, as well as in terms of managing household stress, relationships and mental wellbeing. Included on the website there are lots of help, ideas and support available for families to make the most of the extra time together and to ensure children are ready to go back to school.

For more information visit: www.worcestershire.gov.uk/readysteadyworcs

DIARY DATES — SPRING 2021

MARCH

Monday 1st	Alice in Wonderland workshop
Thursday 4th	WORLD BOOK DAY—Alice in Wonderland themed
Monday 8th	Science Week—Farming Robots
Sunday 14th	Mothering Sunday

APRIL

Thursday 1st	celebrating Easter
	End of term
Monday 19th	Children return to school
Wednesday 21st	Suitcase Project (Dementia) begins for Falcons class
Friday 30th	Teacher Education Day—children not in school

MAY

Monday 3rd	May Bank Holiday—Children do not attend school
Wednesday 5th	cadets workshop for Falcons class

Break up for half term

JUNE

Monday 7th	Children return to school
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JULY

Monday 5th	Whole School Dance Festival
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PARENT QUESTIONNAIRE FEEDBACK

Thank you to those parents and carers who completed the Parent Questionnaire. Your positive and constructive feedback really does help us to know where further improvements can be made. Can I ask that if there is something that you are not happy or sure about, you discuss this with a member of staff so that support can be given. If we don't know, it is not always easy to solve something or improve it.

A summary of the Parent questionnaire illustrated the following:

- All children feel safe in school
- There are **strong connections** between school and home
- Parents have been supported in a number of **different ways**
- School has encouraged children working at home and have had high expectations
- Almost all parents felt school provided suitable emotional support for their child/ren
- Parents felt their children did well at the school but the school could communicate this better.
- Children with SEND were well supported but there is room to further improve this when working from home.

We are constantly striving to improve the school further and appreciate your input and feedback, particularly throughout this difficult and unusual time, where teachers and supporting staff have adjusted their daily practice at short notice and without formal training. I am proud to lead them and provide a nurturing and stimulating environment where children can learn and develop whether at home or at school.

Mrs Tracie Langfield, head teacher