

Dear Parents, Carers and families,

We have had a wonderful last few weeks in school. The children have adjusted well to being back into the school routines and settled to learning quickly.

You will have heard how well your children are doing at the Parent/teacher consultations earlier this week. Teachers will have reported where children are in their learning and shared targets for what they are aiming to work on as they return for the summer term. Teachers and children have worked hard in the last few weeks to determine if and where there are any gaps in learning as a result of interruptions throughout the pandemic. Thanks to the support you have given your children whilst learning at home, basic skills in reading writing and maths have continued to be practised and some progress made. We would like to accelerate that progress and therefore teachers will plan to further develop these skills in the priority areas and in those where teaching content has not been possible through Remote Learning. This learning sequence will be available for you to view on the website class page once the children return after Easter. There will be ways you can support this accelerated progress at home. Teachers will communicate with you through Home Learning instructions and through your child's homework book. Please support them.

I would like to thank the schools **Governors** for their continued support, particularly this year where we have not only navigated our way through a global pandemic but also an academy conversion. They are an intrepid, supportive and strong group of people who give their time voluntarily to guide the direction of the school. I am grateful for their expertise and knowledge and for their sustained efforts to support the school and your children. If you believe that you have time and energy to give to collectively support the school governing body, a vacancy for a parent governor has arisen. I will be sending information regarding this later throughout the holiday. Please consider an application. It is an exciting time for the school.

I would also like to thank the **Friends of Upper Arley**. They have organised several fundraising events and streams, already a hit with the children this week. Thank you for supporting the children, they are already talking about ways to spend the money and how to generate more. Please join in if you can, it doesn't matter how small a task you can offer to do, it will be much appreciated.

When we return after Easter there may be an initial delay in some of the systems within school. For example Parent pay. This is because the finance systems and programmes we use in school have needed to be changed inline with the Trust systems and accounts. As this was converted on 1st April, many changes will happen during the Easter holidays whilst we are not in school. We will have no way of knowing their success until we return on 19th April. Therefore please be patient with us particularly in the school office. Mrs Hope will do her best to keep you updated but on the first day may not have all the answers.

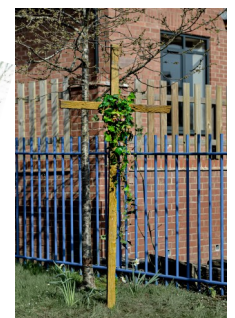
You may not be able to book/pay for meals so please just email the office with your order if that is the case. Please do not worry about payments, we can sort that out afterwards.

As I write the sun is shining, so lets us hope this continues for the Easter break as you have the opportunity to get together once again. I wish you all a peaceful and healthy break and look forward to seeing you for the summer term. Don't forget to plant your sunflowers!!

Best Wishes

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.

The festival of Easter and Lent

This half term we have explored Lent and the value Justice and what this means to Christians and ourselves today. The children have had time to reflect on questions raised and explored viewpoints from others in class and around the world.



They have shared their understanding and celebrated this festival together in their bubbles and compiled a snapshot of this in a video for you.

We hope that you enjoy this. <https://youtu.be/OMDLFQCHcMo>



Nursery care for 3-5 year olds

Please contact the school office or happyhareswac@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.



Happy Hares Nursery

We play, learn and wonder in a safe and natural environment. Our aim is to develop lifelong skills in a holistic way that supports the healthy growth of children from 3 years.

Play
Learn
Wonder...



Weekly open session for parents with children 0-3 years.



www.upperarleyprimary.co.uk
happyhareswac@upperarley.worcs.sch.uk

FREE sessions

'Forest Friends'

at Upper Arley Primary School

Families come along and join us for fun in our forest school.

Activities including leaf printing, mud pie mixing, mini beast hunting, den making, story times, songs and games, all in the wonderful surroundings of Upper Arley Primary School's Forest School site.

All you need to bring is a good pair of wellies, waterproof coat and trousers, hat, gloves and a willingness to embrace all that nature has to offer and we'll provide the rest!

Free sessions

(Includes refreshments for children and adults)

Please book with the school office 01299 861260 or hhwac@upperarley.worcs.sch.uk



Session dates and times

23 rd April	9.45-11.15
28 th April	1.15-2.45
12 th May	1.15-2.45
19 th May	1.15-2.45
26 th May	9.45-11.15

HALF TERM

9 th June	1.15-2.45
16 th June	1.15-2.45
23 rd June	9.45-11.45
30 th June	1.15-2.45
7 th July	1.15-2.45
14 th July	1.15-2.45

Bring along your child (ages 0-3) to make some 'Forest Friends.'

All sessions planned and delivered by a qualified Upper Arley Primary School Early Years leader. For details of how to reserve your place, please contact the school office: 01299 861260

Please share

During the summer term we will be offering FREE open sessions for parents and children between 0 and 3 years. These sessions will be run by our experienced and qualified Early Years staff. It will be an opportunity for you to make new friends and enjoy some time outside in the fresh air in our beautiful and peaceful setting.

There will be time for play, fun, games and songs and of course a drink and biscuit too!

Please book your place at the office by calling 01299 861260 or email

happyhareswac@upperarley.worcs.sch.uk or head@upperarley.worcs.sch.uk

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 — SUMMER 2021

APRIL

Monday 19th

Wednesday 21st

Friday 29th

Friday 30th

MAY

Monday 3rd

Wednesday 5th

Thursday 13th

Thursday 27th

Friday 28th

JUNE

Monday 7th

Monday 21st

JULY

Monday 5th

Wednesday 21st

Children return to school

Suitcase Project (Dementia) begins for Falcons class

Friends meeting (zoom) 7.30pm

Teacher Education Day—children not in school

May Bank Holiday—Children do not attend school

cadets workshop for Falcons class

DanceXchange work with school each Thursday

Rainbow Arts project—cross schools virtual

Break up for half term

Children return to school

Sports Week

Whole School Dance Festival (school outdoor site—pending weather)

End of term and year

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