

Dear Parents

My goodness the half term has flown by with an abundance of activity in school. The children have been so enthusiastic in their learning.

I was so proud of all the KS 2 children today. Not only were they keen to talk to the Governors about their learning but also to share their presentations to you their parents, publicly, in the village hall. It was incredible to see their confidence, teamwork and enthusiasm for what they have been learning about in Geography and Science this half term. Well Done everyone! I hope that you enjoyed being part of that session.

The school continues to improve the quality of learning for your children, with positive feedback from the Local Authority and Diocese of Worcester. We now have new laptops for children to use in school and am delighted to say the outdoor area for Owls is complete. We will invite parents for an opening day after the holiday to come and see it in use. Please look out for further information.

Thank you to parents who completed the questionnaire before Christmas. These have been passed onto the Governors who will report on them in the next newsletter. Thank you for your continued support in helping the school move forward.

Wishing you all a happy and restful half term

Mrs Langfield, Acting Headteacher

### JANUARY'S ATTENDANCE

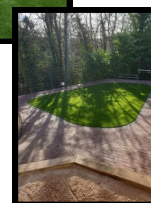
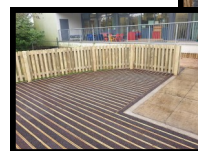
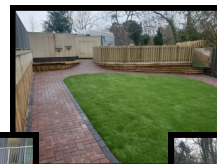
The schools overall attendance so far this year.....95.36%

Class	Percentage
Little Owls (YR)	90.91%
Owls	95.43%
Swifts	96.18%
Falcons	94.24%
<b>Attendance figure to date</b>	
<b>95.36%</b>	

**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 always get to Mrs Hope before 9.30 am. Thank you for your co-operation.**



From a mossy bank.....



### Upper Arley's campaign for new books...and reading

Thank you so much to those who have donated funds to the book appeal. Every little amount counts towards the books for our library. Thank you also to those of you who have donated books from home for others to enjoy. We can never have too many books!

Once we have raised our target amount, the children can take a trip to Peters Book shop in Birmingham to purchase books for the library. To pledge a donation use this link <https://supportyourschool.org.uk/upper-arley-cofe-primary-school/new-fiction-books-appeal> Our aim is to raise £500. We have until February 21st, so please help us to reach our target amount if you haven't already done so.

This coming half term we will be focusing on developing reading skills in school. We will be adjusting our approaches and systems for the teaching of reading across the school, supporting not only the development of decoding but also of comprehension and understanding the meaning of what is read.

Please look out for reading workshops, presentations and opportunities for you to get involved in supporting your child to learn how to read, fluently. World Book Day is on Thursday 5th March.

## HEALTHY CHILDREN

### PHYSICAL ACTIVITY CLUBS AFTER SCHOOL

After half term we will be offering sessions in **hockey, drama** and **yoga** club after school. Additionally, after Easter **Fit Fence** will commence. Children will be able to sign up for sessions that take place after school. Please book online to indicate your child's interest in these.

If you can recommend reputable clubs or coaches who deliver physical activity opportunities please contact myself or the office. We are working hard to secure high quality provision for your children, please support these and book in advance so that children may be catered for. Ideally we would like to be able to offer at least two sporting clubs per week.

### WATER BOTTLES

We have noticed an increasing amount of children bringing juice or squash in bottles to school. Please ensure that your child has **water** in 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 with water.

### 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. Can we remind parents that we do not permit chocolate and sweets. Please note these are not allowed in school under any circumstances and will be taken from the child and handed to parents at the end of the day. 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. Please support our safe and healthy eating ethos in school.

### 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. You can find these on the school website in the section of your child's class page.

This half term our local **Police Community Support Officer** will be regularly visiting school to talk with children on subjects linked to keeping safe. Cath will be talking with the children in assemblies and also in classrooms. These discussions will be about how to manage peer pressure, be more aware of hate crime and bullying and how to keep safe online when playing games or using the Internet. 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.

**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.

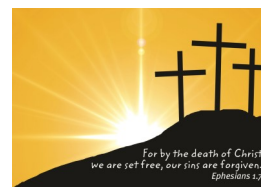
We would also like to thank Mr Carrigan for taking the time to repair our piano. Once tuned, we will be able to offer lessons as required.



### 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. Next term we will focus on the value of **forgiveness**.

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



### Friends of Upper Arley

Several enthusiastic parents have approached me to support with fundraising events for the school. There will be a meeting to determine a committee and way forward to enable this to run smoothly and legitimately. Please do come along even if you do not wish to be a committed post holder. There is always a cuppa, piece of cake and a chat. **Tuesday 25th February at 3.15pm with Mrs Langfield in the library.**

## **SATs information evening and Maths workshop for parents**

Thank you for attending the workshops and information evenings that are designed to help you to have knowledge of how to best support your child with homework tasks. These were very well attended and parents have given positive feedback to staff regarding clarity and usefulness of the sessions. Please look out for further opportunities this month in Reading, fractions and Forest School.

**FOREST SCHOOL** We are so pleased to welcome **Sandra Hill** from <http://www.theworldoutside.co.uk>/The World Outside to work with the children in Forest School. They have had an amazing start developing their teamwork and problem solving skills as well as becoming more independent and responsible for their own learning. We have spaces available for parent volunteer helpers in each session. You will need a school DBS and short induction to be ready to support the Forest School leader. Please contact the office or Mrs Langfield. Please note it is school policy that parents do not support/work in their child's class. The sessions are Tuesday morning, Tuesday afternoon and Friday afternoon.

## **Diary dates Spring 2020**

### **FEBRUARY**

#### **Monday 24th**

Tuesday 25th

Wednesday 26th

Friday 28th

### **March**

Thursday 5th

Friday 6th

Friday 13th

Thursday 19th March

Friday 20th

### **Sunday 22nd**

Tuesday 24th

Thursday 26th

Friday 27th

Monday 30th

Tuesday 31st

### **April**

Wednesday 1st

Thursday 2nd

Friday 3rd

### **Monday 20th April**

Friday 24th

### **May**

Thursday 7th

**Friday 8th May**

**Monday 11th**

Thursday 19th

Friday 22nd

**Summer half term holiday begins**

#### **School reopens for children**

Friends of Upper Arley meeting

Y6 PCSO—hate crime and bullying

Y3 and 4 Swimming

World Book Day

Outdoor Adventure Activities Y5 and Y6

Y3 and 4 Swimming

Kwik Stix Y5 and Y6

Y3 and 4 Swimming

Emotion Coaching and behaviour—parent workshop

Theatre production in school.

Y3 and 4 Swimming

#### **Mothering Sunday at St Peters Church**

Dance Festival for parents (2pm)

Dance Festival—all classes

Book Fair in school

Y3 and 4 Swimming

Book Fair in school

Book Fair in school

Parent Progress Consultations 3.30-5pm

Book Fair in school

Parent Progress Consultations 3.30-6.30pm

Falcons educational visit

Swimming Gala

Easter service at Church

Year 3 and 4 swimming

**school closes for Easter**

**children return to school**

KS2 Rowing

KS2 Athletics

**Bank Holiday—VE Day**

**SATs week (year 6)**

Girls cricket

Year 5 & 6 Orienteering

