



# Upper Arley Primary School

Newsletter 24th October 2019

Website: [www.upperarleyprimary.co.uk](http://www.upperarleyprimary.co.uk)

Tel: 01299 861260

Dear Parents

I am so proud of your children, they have worked incredibly hard this half term during lessons and impressed visitors to the school with their polite manners and enthusiasm to learn. It has been a long start to the school year but they really have made a great impression as fine young people.

Over the past few weeks teachers and school staff have participated in Continuing Professional Development (training). This can take place in school during lesson times, after school and also off site. We try to minimise the disruption to children's lessons as much as possible but sometimes this is unavoidable. Trainers have participated in lessons, you may have heard your children talk about Mr Reddy who is helping us with our Maths approaches.

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.

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

I wish you all a restful half term break with your children.

Mrs Langfield

Acting Headteacher

## THIS WEEK'S ATTENDANCE

The schools overall attendance so far this year.....96.17%

Class	Percentage
Little Owls (YR)	96.94%
Owls	92.23%
Swifts	95.83%
Falcons	97.57%
Attendance figure to date	
95.5%	

**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.**

## Thank you and Well Done children!

Thank you ALL for your donations at our Harvest Festival.

Fresh produce donated was sold in our community and raised XXXX for Tear Fund and preserved foods were donated to the food bank in Kidderminster. The children sang beautifully and shared their poems and prayers with confidence. Well Done and Thank You children!



## Shoebox Appeal

Should you wish to, we will be collecting completed shoeboxes for distribution on **Friday, 8th November**. Please return to school before this date.

## HEALTHY CHILDREN SPORTING EVENTS

We will be welcoming visiting athlete Amy Hillyard into school to work with the children after half term break. 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. See separate letter.

### BIKEABILITY

Well Done to those children who passed their level 1 and 2 Bikeability tests. Safety on the roads particularly around the village is so important. I am pleased to see these children cycling more confidently and being aware of the dangers they may face on the open roads.

### 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 have noticed that some children are bringing unhealthy snacks to school in their lunch boxes i.e. Chocolate bars and multiple packets of crisps.

There is always fresh fruit available at break time for children in Early Years and KS1. We insist 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** To support children's progress in basic skills in Reading, Writing and Maths learning, class teachers will set small tasks to complete at home on a regular basis. These tasks will be linked explicitly to work your child is doing at school. This work may vary in challenge depending on which year group your child is in. Your child will also be offered **OPTIONAL Homelearning** activities to engage in should they wish to. These will be linked to the topic or theme the class is focusing on. Please talk to your child's class teacher if you have any questions. Thank you for your continued support with this.

### Drama Workshop

The children enjoyed consolidating their new found knowledge of Ancient Roman people during their workshop today. They met with *Lucius* yesterday who took the children through dramatic re-enactments of battles and bathing, eating and playing. I hope that the children shared some of their new found facts (some really ghastly ones!) with you.



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.

**COLLECTIVE WORSHIP** Our school value this half term has been Generosity. During **Collective Worship** the children have reflected on how they can show qualities of generosity in friendships, at home in their families and at school. Children have listened to short stories and poems, and participated in brief sketches taken from the bible to learn about examples in everyday life.

**Psalm 65 and Let me Give poem**

#### Let me Give

Lord, isn't your creation wasteful?

Fruits never equal

the seedlings' abundance.

Springs scatter water.

The sun gives out

enormous light.

May your bounty teach me

greatness of heart.

May your magnificence

stop me being mean.

Seeing you a prodigal

and open-handed giver

let me give unstintingly,

like a king's son,

like God's own.

*by Archbishop Helder Camara*

## News from the Governors Autumn No 2 2019

Our monitoring visit last week focused on Engagement, without engagement learning cannot take place. To see how the children are engaged with the whole school day Governors watched how they arrived in school in the morning and their behaviour in the playground before school. The atmosphere upon arrival sets the tone for work before it commences in the classroom. The children quickly and quietly came to their lines for class and were made aware of the expectations for the start of the day; so they began the learning day knowing the expectations of the first moments in the classroom, getting on with the first learning tasks of the day independently and immediately. Governors then attended whole school worship and were introduced to the children so that they knew who the adults visiting school are. Once lessons had commenced Governors noticed the engagement in learning in each class and of children using the library. Every child should be using all time in school in the most effective way for progress in academic subjects and for their social and physical development. Active engaged children are happy and do their best learning.

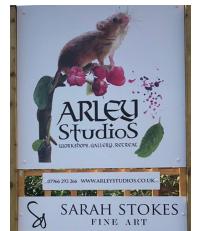
Finances are very tight in education as I am sure you are aware through the press. We are keeping abreast of spending at Upper Arley CofE Primary School with monthly financial monitoring meetings. This is in line with National Government and Worcestershire Local Authority expectations for a school with a deficit budget. We are not alone in this situation with many schools locally and nationally sharing this financial situation. I am very pleased that we are supported in this scrutiny by Mrs Hope. As well as monthly financial monitoring the Finance and Premises subcommittee of the Full Governing Board will next meet on 17<sup>th</sup> October to scrutinise spending, question and support the Headteacher in the difficult decisions regarding funding for the school. Minutes of these meetings are attached to the reports to Worcestershire Local Authority who take special notice of schools with deficit budgets.

Governors were delighted to hear about the very successful support the school offered the village with the Macmillan Coffee Morning held next door in the new village hall. The children sang to the parents and visitors from the wider community, and then enjoyed some refreshments before returning to school. Thank you to the support of parents who were able to attend and donate baking. There will be other events at varying times and days so that as many parents as possible can support the school and see their child perform or at work. Keep an eye on newsletters, Parent-mail and the website for details.

### Chair of Governors

**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.

**The Arts** children at Upper Arley have been invited to local studio artist Sarah Stokes for painting workshops during November. Please look out for a separate letter invited parents to join them. Be quick though, as there are limited spaces.



## Diary dates Autumn 2019

### October

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> 5.30pm**

Equality and Gender Diversity information for parents

**School closes for the half term**

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> - TED staff only in school**

### November

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> – children return to school**

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup>

PCSO Cath - KS2 children—Aspiration

Friday 8<sup>th</sup>

Year 5 and 6 swimming

Monday 11<sup>th</sup>

Remembrance Day

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup>

Internet Safety workshop for KS 2 (Parent Zone)

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup>

Artist workshop for all children

Friday 15<sup>th</sup>

KS 2 Cross Country competition

Hearing tests for Reception children

Monday 18<sup>th</sup>

School Photographs

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup>

Parent consultations 3.30-7pm

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup>

Young Voices Concert KS2 children only—Town Hall

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup>

Visiting Olympic Athlete sponsored activity

Friday 29<sup>th</sup>

Christingle Service at St Peter's Church—parents welcome

### December

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup>

Post Ofsted Progress meeting for Parents 6pm

Friday 6<sup>th</sup>

Kho Kho sports activity

Friday 13<sup>th</sup>

Parents invited to Crafternoon in school

Monday 16<sup>th</sup>

Dress Rehearsal Nativity

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> 1.30 & 6pm

Christmas Nativity (Village Hall)

Friday 20<sup>th</sup>

End of term carol service at the church

Christmas parties

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> – school closes for Christmas**

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January – TED staff only in school**

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January – children return to school**