



Upper Arley C of E Primary School

Newsletter 9th October 2020

Website: www.upperarleyprimary.co.uk

Tel: 01299 861260

Dear Parents and Carers,

At last.....

It has been a very busy start to the school year and I am pleased to say that the children have settled in quickly to their new classes. School is a place of calm and purposeful learning environment, supported by staff who are clearly dedicated and committed to the children of Upper Arley and their goals to do well in school. **Thank you parents and carers for supporting us here and adjusting to the protective measures necessary for everyone's safety.**

For those who have been watching and waiting carefully will know that we now have the approval from the Local Authority to open the doors of our **Happy Hares Nursery and be able to offer funded places for families in our local community.** We are so delighted to have welcomed the children into the setting today for the first time. The children were so well behaved and enjoyed their day, as did Miss Jeffery! If you are interested in finding out about a place (funded or otherwise), please do get in touch at the office or directly on Happyhareswac@upperarley.worcs.sch.uk or speak with myself.

I hope that you have enjoyed some of our new ways of engaging with you this term — notably, parent telephone consultations and our You Tube Channel to see children's work. Please keep a look out for more events and celebrations shared this way whilst we deal with the restrictions placed upon us due to COVID 19. I am afraid that this way of communicating may be with us for some time to come, so please do engage with us and if you have any ideas that we could use please do not be afraid to suggest them.

As we approach the next few months together, I again ask for your support with helping to reduce the risk of spreading disease by following government guidance, recommendations and procedures wherever possible. Your children are important to us and we want them to remain safe, well and happy. Please look out for further support and guidance from school as we navigate our way through what could be a tricky autumn term. I have provided more information about learning and what could be expected either should your child need to isolate or indeed staff not be able to attend in school. Please refer to recent letters detailing these scenarios (also on the school website).

Fingers crossed that we can remain diligent and COVID free.

Mrs Tracie Langfield

LEARNING AND THE CURRICULUM

In recent weeks your child has been assessed against last years curriculum to identify where there maybe gaps in learning. Teachers skillfully plan appropriate teaching sequences to fill any gaps and accelerate progress in learning, for children to meet their year group expectation and goals later in the year. For some children it may be beneficial to participate in **additional** learning sessions and support from home to encourage this rapid progress. Over the next few weeks, your child's class teacher will keep you informed as to the outcomes of the assessments and what your child needs to do to catch up or make rapid progress. After half term, additional morning sessions will be run by class teachers to support this for identified children. Please look out for notifications and further details.

HOMELEARNING

Children are always proud to share what they have been learning about at home and grow in confidence when demonstrating their basic skills in reading, writing and maths as a result of the work you are doing with them. **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 repetitive/routine tasks to support the children throughout term. Please talk to your child's class teacher if you have any questions. These will be available on the school website class page and on the online learning platform Seesaw (KS1) and Showbie (KS2) platforms that your child continues to access during school and whilst working from home.

REMOTE LEARNING

All children are being taught how to access online learning both in school and from home. Please make us aware of difficulties you may encounter with this. We may be able to access additional support, provide alternatives and teachers can train adults too!

SUPPORTING LEARNING THROUGH ISOLATION OR LOCKDOWN

A few weeks ago I explained that your child would bring home a **pack of work** for use **only** if they were to become isolated at home for a period of time. This may be because of family member being tested for Covid 19, them testing positive or having symptoms of Covid 19 or needing to isolate for another reason (potential surgery or hospital admission). These packs are provided to give each child bespoke learning activities that can be independently accessed without the need of their class teacher for a period of anything up to 20 days. The activities are sequenced and progressive, therefore must be attempted in the order of day number. Your child's class teacher will contact you throughout their absence to discuss work and provide feedback. Your child will be able to communicate with the class teacher and upload their work directly through their learning platform. **Please ask your child for the pack so that it can be kept safe should you need to use it. This is not homework or homelearning. It is specifically for times of necessary isolation.**

Should the staff need to isolate or not be able to attend school, other strategies have been implemented to reduce any interruption in your child's learning. Providing they are well, teachers will communicate and teach through the online platforms whilst the children are supervised in school by support/other familiar staff. Children in KS1 continue to use the Seesaw remote learning platform both in class and whilst they are at home. If you are not familiar with this, please talk to Miss Bridges who will explain what to do and how to access the learning from home.

All KS2 children will be using the learning platform Showbie, where their class teachers will post learning inputs and links for children to access prepared learning and activities. Should we find ourselves in a complete lockdown with everyone, including children working from home, these platforms will be already in use and will form the main channel for teaching and learning.

As I said in my previous letter, please contact us if you may have any difficulties with accessing electronic devices to access learning from home. We may be able to help.

Mrs Groome will be demonstrating how to access the KS2 platform Showbie on Thursday at 5.30pm via zoom. Please [click the link](#) and [sign up](#) should you wish to join us.

YOU MAY KNOW SOMEONE.....PROSPECTIVE PARENTS FOR UPPER ARLEY

At this time of year we would usually be welcoming prospective parents into our school to find out about what learning environment and curriculum we have to offer their children starting school next September. Unfortunately, due to COVID19 restrictions we are not able to do this in our usual way.

This year, I will be offering appointments for families wishing to come and see our lovely school once your children have left at the end of the day. This is to reduce any possible transmission of C19. Unfortunately, prospective parents do not get to see the workings of the school with the children in it, but hopefully will get a feel for what learning at Upper Arley is like. Please do share your experiences with families, friends and neighbours of your community. Appointments will be available for the week beginning 19th October from 3.30pm onwards and the week after half term beginning Monday 2nd November. Please contact the office or headteacher Mrs Langfield directly by telephone or email.

ROSE GOLD RECOGNITION

These children have been recognised this month:

Reggie Mills, William Charles-Ash, Annabelle Stelling-Cound and Isabelle Starling for settling in well to their first year.

Scarlet Hemmings and Charlie Perry for the best learning attitude and putting 100% effort into everything.

Lois Parker-Price and Thomas Perry for best learning attitude and hardwork in English

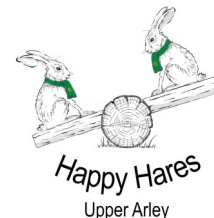
Olivia Winnall and Fearn Hemmings for working hard and rising to the challenge of Year 5 & 6



WRAP AROUND CARE AND ACTIVITY CLUBS

Upper Arley Primary school can provide **Wrap Around Childcare from 7.30am to 6pm Monday to Friday**. This service is provided within the school building and is run by school staff. We believe this provides consistency for the children who attend Upper Arley Primary School. If you are interested in a place or would like to make further enquiries, please contact the office, Miss Jeffery at happyhareswac@upperarle.worcs.sch.uk or Mrs Langfield and complete the booking form. Alongside the Wrap Around Care, we will also be offering activity clubs after school.

Due to the COVID restrictions we have not been able to confirm our activity groups that are usually run by external agents. We are hoping restrictions will be lifted after the half term break for us to resume our usual offer. However, we do have activity groups that run after school on Tuesday and Thursdays. These are organised in bubble groups to maintain our protective measures, hence Swifts (LKS2) on Tuesdays and Falcons (UKS2) on Thursdays. Please support these groups where you can. Suggestions taken from the children will form the activities planned. **If you have booked your child into Happy Hares Wrap Around Care and they wish to attend the activity club, there will be no charge for the club.**



SCHOOL UNIFORM

Please ensure that your child wears correct full uniform when attending school. Research shows that children have a greater sense of belonging when they wear a uniform. It also prevents that indecision in the morning of what to wear! Please see the [website](#) for more information on how to order. Thank you to those families who have organised PE kit in a suitable bag for their child's peg. This helps children to be organised and prepared, reducing unnecessary anxieties.

WATER BOTTLES

There are still children coming to school with unsuitable drinks and drinks bottles. Some are not sports caps which can spill over work, and/or contain juice or sugary drinks. Please ensure that your child has **water** in a water bottle in school every day. Ideally these bottles would have a sports lid. 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. And their teeth healthy from sugary drinks. **Fruit juices or squash is not allowed as we currently have staff and children with significant allergies.**

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.

We will be campaigning against using plastic in school. Please support us by reducing the use of plastic and wrappers in your child's lunch box where possible. Staff will ask children to return home any packaging for parents to monitor what is eaten/left at lunch time.

HARVEST CELEBRATION

At this time of the year, the children of Upper Arley are thinking about giving thanks for the food that our land provides us with. We would usually invite you all to join in that celebration at St Peter's church but this year, it will not be possible. However, we would like to invite you to **bring to share non perishable foods that would be donated to local charities for further distribution**. The children will compile a short video of their celebration to share with you on our YouTube channel.



Please bring your **non perishable** donations to the school on Friday 16th October.

New school application—School Ping

After half term, we will be introducing parents to our new School Ping app. This will make all your school communications in one application rather than through 2 or 3 via Parentmail and Parent pay. This app will also enable you to edit personal information directly and access school communications much easier. We are currently in the process of setting up parent information. It is vital that we have the correct email/telephone and address details for this to work successfully. Please contact the office by email or telephone as soon as possible if you need to update any details.

Before the end of this half term you will receive an email notification inviting you to download the School Ping App. Along with the school website, this will be the main form of communication to parents. If you have not received the email invitation by 23rd October, please contact the school office.

New telephone system

For those who may have already phoned into school will have noticed that there is now a facility for you to leave a message if your child is to be absent from school. However, if your child is absent due to COVID 19 symptoms please speak to either Mrs Hope or Mrs Langfield at the earliest moment.

Entrance security

The gates at the front of the school now can only be accessed via a buzzer system. These gates are closed at 8.50 am, after which, to gain access you will need to press the buzzer for the office. Mrs Hope will be able to see you and talk to you before you may gain access.

If your child is late into school, please allow your child to enter the gates independently. Mrs Hope will sign them in and take them to class. Please be reminded that the school gate closes at 8.50am for registration and these registers close at 9am.

This system is also to be used for the Breakfast and After school club access. Please press the Out of Hours buzzer to access Happy Hares Wrap Around Care staff.

During drop off and collection times, both blue gates will be open for you to collect/drop off your child safely along the school driveway.

Diary dates Autumn 2020

NOTE TED DAY CHANGE

OCTOBER

Week beginning 12th

Friday 16th

Monday 19th—22nd

Friday 23rd

NOVEMBER

Monday 2nd

Wednesday 4th

Monday 9th –13th

Friday 13th

Monday 16th

Tuesday 24th

DECEMBER

Friday 18th

JANUARY

Monday 4th

Celebrating the harvest—Bring to Share appointments for new parents

Half term starts

Teacher Education Day (children not in school)

Children return to school

Appointments for new parents (3.30pm onwards)

Diwali celebrations

Remembrance Week

Y5/6 Orienteering

Parent Consultations this week

STEM Challenge KS2

End of term

Teacher Education Day (children not in school)

To be confirmed—swimming dates, after school activity clubs whole school events and Christmas. We will let you know as soon as these can be clarified.