



Upper Arley Primary School

Newsletter 30th September 2019

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Tel: 01299 861260

Well it didn't take long to get back into the routine of the school term.

The children have settled very well into their new classrooms and routines around school. They continue to take responsibility with their belongings and do their part at keeping school a tidy and clutter free place to learn.

Last week we welcomed many visitors into school to continue the support and development of Teaching, Learning and Leadership at Upper Arley. I am pleased that some of you were able to meet some of our new governors on the playground and had the opportunity to give feedback on the schools direction. Thank you for your support and comments. These are invaluable as the school moves forward.

Leaders from the Bromsgrove Primary School Teaching Alliance carried out a whole school review looking at the Leadership and all aspects of Teaching and Learning. Your children may have spoken with these colleagues and were able to talk about them when they came home. We will share the findings from this review once we receive the report in a week or so. I am very proud of the children's interactions with our visitors, they are always so polite and helpful.

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

Mrs Langfield

Acting Headteacher

THIS WEEK'S ATTENDANCE

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

Class	Percentage
Little Owls (YR)	98.63%
Owls	97.53%
Swifts	94.47%
Falcons	96.49%
Attendance figure to date	
96.17%	

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



Thank you and Well Done!

What a wonderful Friday morning we all had in the village hall. We are so proud of the children for such a beautiful singing performance debut on the new village hall stage. Thank you so much to everyone who came and/or donated for this great cause. I am told that over £530 was raised for the MacMillan charity.

The organisers would like to say 'a massive 'THANK YOU!' to you all for being so amazing, it is greatly appreciated'

MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT

HEALTHY CHILDREN SPORTING EVENTS

We will be welcoming a visiting athlete 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.

BIKEABILITY

Year 5 and 6 children are encouraged to complete their Bikeability test later on this half term. Please ensure that your child signs up and can provide a bike in good working order and a helmet. See later letters.

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.

PARENT POP INS Thank you for your patience to those whose appointments were postponed due to teachers being off school unwell last week. I am pleased to say that Miss Hutton will rearrange her pop ins forshe will confirm dates and times with you directly.

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.

HARVEST FESTIVAL



We will be celebrating the Harvest with the village community on **Sunday 13th October** and **Monday 14th October**. Families are

encouraged to join the church service at St Peter's on Sunday. The school will be having their Celebration in the church together on **Monday 14th October** from **9.30am** where we will make our donations and give thanks for the Lord's provision of food again this year. All parents, carers and family members are invited to join us.

Donations can be fresh or preserved foods and money in a labelled envelope please. Our donations will join the churches/community donations which will be later auctioned and given to the local food bank for distribution.

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 is Generosity. During **Collective Worship** the children continue to reflect on how they can both give and accept generously without necessarily giving anything away. Children have listened to short stories and participated in brief sketches taken from the bible to learn about examples in every day life.
God loves a cheerful giver.... 2 Corinthians 9: 6-7

Thank you to Mike from the **Welsh Bird Of Prey Centre** for visiting us here at Upper Arley last week. The children were able to learn about a variety of falcons, owls and hawks and see them for real. *"They are actually real!"* one child said. Making it so important for children to have these experiences. Some children were selected to hold these majestic birds wearing a protective glove. Mike commented on how well behaved and enthusiastic the children were....*a pleasure* he said. Thank you for supporting this valuable experience.

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 17th 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 have now met 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.

Diary dates Autumn 2019

October

Wednesday 2 nd	10—11.30am 1pm	Open Morning for Owls Class—Owls Parents welcome PCSO Cath - Year 2 and Year 3 children—Water and Road Safety
Friday 4 th		Year 5/6 Cross Country
Tuesday 8 th	pm	Visiting author to Owls class
Monday 14 th	9.30am Pm	Harvest Celebration at St Peters church. KS2 girls football
Tuesday 15 th	6pm	KS 1 Information evening
Wednesday 16 th	pm	PCSO Cath - KS2 children—Peer Pressure
Friday 18 th	pm	Year3/4 Tag Rugby
Monday 21 st	10am and 1.30pm	School is open to prospective parents for September 2020
Tuesday 22 nd	6.30pm	Information evening for prospective parents

Thursday 24th

School closes for the half term

Friday 25th - TED staff only in school

November

Monday 4th – children return to school

Wednesday 6 th		PCSO Cath - KS2 children—Aspiration
Friday 15 th		KS 2 Cross Country competition
Friday 22 nd		Young Voices Concert
Tuesday 26 th		Visiting Olympic Athlete

December

Tuesday 17 th	1.30 & 6pm	Christmas Nativity (Village Hall)
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Friday 20th – school closes for Christmas

Monday 6th January – TED staff only in school