



Upper Arley C of E Primary School

Welcome Newsletter 1st September 2020

Website: www.upperarleyprimary.co.uk

Tel: 01299 861260

Dear Parents

Welcome back to school

I hope that you have all had a wonderful summer break and stayed well and healthy. Over the last week I have been thinking about our year 6 leavers and how they will be preparing for their first days at High School. I wish them all the very best wishes for their first day and hope to hear from them over the coming weeks. We shall miss them.

I am sure, like me, you have watched the news and continued to follow the nations progress on the pandemic and potential difficulties for the coming season. I want to reassure you that staff at Upper Arley take this very seriously and have worked hard together to ensure that all protective measures are in place without causing unnecessary alarm to your children.

We have conducted in-depth risk assessments for staff, children, premises and potential future interruptions to learning. All which have been scrutinised and approved by the schools Governing body, Local Authority and Public Health England. We will continue to work alongside these agencies and in the meantime have been given approval to open in September under the following protective measures:

COVID 19 – Protective Measures to reduce the risk of spreading disease

- **Children and staff remain in class bubbles and do not mix for any activities.**
- **Equipment and resources that must be shared are disinfected after use before another group may use them. This includes hall tables etc during lunchtime and any equipment used at play or during PE lessons.**
- **Staff must promote regular and routine handwashing with soap and water min 5 x daily before and after each activity/change of session.**
- **All staff to maintain as much distance between children and themselves (2 meters) where possible.**
- **KS2 children to maintain distance between each other where possible – reduce any physical contact whenever possible**
- **Remind children and staff of no contact rule wherever possible.**
- **Reduce movement around school to essential/minimum, disinfecting areas after use.**
- **Children enter and exit school through own class doorway onto school driveway (8.30am to 8.50am, 3.05pm –3.15pm all children)**
- **One parent/adult to drop off/collect child and leave the school premises as quickly as possible**
- **Prior appointment only at the school office**
- **External visitors to school—arrangements are to be made out of school hours where possible**
- **Staff and parents know what to do and who to notify if COVID 19 symptoms occur both personally and in school**
- **Adhere to the Test and Trace procedures and keep Head Teacher informed immediately of any developments**

These arrangements are very similar to the protective measures in place before the summer break. The emphasis will now be on continued, regular hygiene both personally and around the school site and reinforcing the **no contact rule** throughout the school groups. We will rely on families and staff adhering to the **Test and Trace** procedures to contain any further spread of the disease. This way, learning for your children will remain uninterrupted. We all need to do what we can to reduce the risk. Please support the school and community by doing your bit. If your child develops symptoms, keep them at home and indoors. Do not let them come to school or play out or at another friends house. The latest [guidance](#) for parents can be found here.

Along with reducing the risk of spreading this disease, the priority for us as educators is to support your child's recovery back into learning and fill any gaps that may have occurred due to absence or reduced engagement in the curriculum. I will explain how we intend to do this on the following page.

Mrs Tracie Langfield

LEARNING AND THE CURRICULUM

In the next few weeks your child will be assessed against last years curriculum to identify where there maybe any potential gaps in learning. Knowing where these gaps are, will help us to know what we need to teach in order to accelerate their progress towards meeting their goals in this years curriculum. This may involve additional learning sessions and support from home to support this rapid progress. Your childs class teacher will keep you informed as to the outcomes of the assessments and what your child needs to do to make rapid progress. We would usually have a *settling in* consultation with parents before the end of September, this will be when your childs class teacher will be able to provide this information and discuss the way ahead individually for your child.

Over the next few weeks your child will engage in a range of activities and be set regular homelearning opportunities. They will also be 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!

WRAP AROUND CARE AND ACTIVITY CLUBS

From this September, Upper Arley school will be able to provide **Wrap Around Childcare from 7.30am to 6pm Monday to Friday**. This service will be provided within the school building and will be 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 or Mrs Langfield and complete the booking form. Alongside the Wrap Around Care, we will also be offering activity clubs after school. These will be a range of activities such as crafts, science, drama and sports for children to sign up for each half term. 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. We were hoping to have confirmed these groups before the summer but Covid 19 has delayed this. We will therefore update you over the next two weeks as we plan to commence these activity groups the week beginning 14th September.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Please ensure that your child wears correct full uniform (see last page for the list) in September when returning to school. Research shows that children have a greater sense of belonging when they wear a uniform, something they may need support with on their return initially. It also prevents that indecision in the morning of what to wear! Please see the [website](#) for more information on how to order. It is also helpful for children to keep their PE kit in school on their peg. These items must be in a named pump bag, not a carrier bag please.

WATER BOTTLES

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. 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.

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) that your child has accessed during the lockdown.

STAFFING

There have been considerable staff changes over this academic year. I am pleased to say that we have been able to make a significant number of permanent appointments in the last few months, which has enabled the school to stabilise and set a course of direction to follow. Senior Local Authority and Diocese leaders and Governors have been fully involved in these processes and support these changes within the school.

Additional to these existing staff members, we have recently appointed an Early Years Practitioner and Wrap Around Care supervisor for Happy Hares provision, along with another Teaching Assistant with sports coaching qualifications to support physical development and activity for the children whilst in school. We welcome these people to our staff team and wish them a great start in September.

It is at this time of year that parents and children want to know which class and who their child's class teacher will be. Please see below for this break down.

Falcons - Year 5 and 6 - Mrs Groome (was Mason)

Swifts - Year 3 and 4 - Mrs Langfield and Miss Minto

Owls - Year 1, 2 and Reception - Miss Bridges and Mrs Stokes

Happy Hares (Pre school) - Miss Jeffrey

Supporting throughout the school will be

Mrs Stanley

Miss Lewis

Miss Stokes

Miss Cheadle

Mr Derrer

We would like to thank Mrs Turford for supporting the school over many years as the Cleaner in Charge. Unfortunately, Mrs Turford has resigned from her role due to poor health. We will be advertising for a Cleaner in Charge but in the meantime thank Mr Langfield for standing in to support the school and premises whilst we appoint someone permanently.



We continue to patiently wait for the Ofsted regulators and Local Authority to give Happy Hares approval to open their Nursery setting. This process has taken so much longer due to the C19 restrictions and workload for these organisations. It has been a frustrating time for the trustees and myself. However, we continue to be ready to open and are very excited to welcome our new children to the setting.

You can check if your child is eligible for any of the free childcare entitlements, worth on average £5,000 a year to parents of 3 and 4 year olds, on the [Childcare Choices](#) website. Nurseries and childminders are wonderful places for children to learn and have fun with friends, which supports their development and their overall wellbeing. Attending childcare can be an exciting and joyful experience for children and can also help provide a routine as they develop their social skills. Early years education is an important stage for children where they can flourish and get the best start in life.

New school application—School Ping

In September, 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.

Mrs Hope will keep you updated with the progress of this over the next few days.

Alliance in Partnership—school meals

AIP will be providing Universal School Meals for KS1 and Free school meal children only for the 3rd and 4th September. **There is no need to book meals for these days**, they will be sent a packed lunch on both of these days. You may provide a packed lunch of your own if you wish. Hot lunches will resume from 7th September and we will inform you of how to book these later this week.

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 after registration, where, 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.

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

SEPTEMBER

Tuesday 1st	Teacher Education Day (children not in school)
Wednesday 2nd	Teacher Education Day (children not in school)
Thursday 3rd	Children return to school
Monday 7th	Hot Lunches reinstated for all children
Thursday 24th	Parent Consultations— telephone appointments
Friday 25th	MacMillan virtual Coffee morning

OCTOBER

Week beginning Monday 19th	Dance Festival—local school network
Friday 16th	Celebrating the harvest
Monday 19th	Open Morning for new Parents
Tuesday 20th	Open Morning for new Parents
Thursday 22nd	Open Day and Evening for new Parents
	Half term starts
Friday 23rd	Teacher Education Day (children not in school)

NOVEMBER

Monday 2nd	Children return to school
	Remembrance Week
Monday 16th	Parent Consultations this week

DECEMBER

Friday 18th	End of term
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JANUARY

Monday 4th	Teacher Education Day (children not in school)
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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.

Upper Arley Primary School – Uniform

The wearing of school uniform is an expression of belonging to our learning community and all children are asked to adopt the following dress code:

Grey/black or navy trousers (long or short), skirt or pinafore dress
Sky blue polo shirt
Navy blue sweatshirt or cardigan* (with school logo)
Sky blue and white checked dress (in summer)
Black/navy blue school shoes (trainers should only be worn for P.E)

For P.E. Lessons the code is as follows:

White PE polo shirt with school logo*
Navy jogging bottoms
Navy shorts
Navy sweatshirt
Black pumps and Trainers for outdoor PE

Additional Items:

School Bookbag
Blue P.E Bag
Water Bottle
Wellington Boots, scarf, hat, gloves and thick socks for Forest School.
(Please keep these in school all of the time and during the winter. Boys and girls may need tights or thermals underneath jogging bottoms on Forest School days as well as two pairs of gloves)

Some items may be ordered from the [My Uniform website](#)

It cannot be stated too often that the naming of all clothes helps to avoid expensive loss.

Every effort is made to return lost property to the owner but identical items need to be distinguished by the child's name please.