



NEWSLETTER – APRIL 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

As we approach Easter, we reflect on the spring term and the amazing opportunities that the children have had in their learning. One of the highlights of the term has been our STEM project, which has involved all of the children across The Black Pear Trust, visiting Arley Arboretum as a stimulus for their projects. Forest School has continued to give the children a wonderful experience outdoors and it has been so exciting to see how innovative and creative our children are. Some new born lambs visited this week and the children were enthralled by them and Charlie in Swifts reported that he had had the best day ever at school with their arrival! Dance Exchange has seen Falcons and Owls exhibiting some great contemporary moves and Dance Club had the opportunity to showcase their skills in a recent Dance Festival, which they really enjoyed performing in front of a large audience.

Our value of **Forgiveness** has been our school focus as well as **Wonderful Walking**. The children have been consistently putting these into practice. Our value after the Easter holiday will be **Friendship**. You may have seen our banner outside school which is advertising a community website to promote this value: as-one.uk. It's full of great ideas, so why not get involved and make a difference where you live?



This term many children have had the chance to participate in Bikeability programmes and the take up has been fantastic with a 100% pass rate! Both Happy Hares and Little Owls took part in Balance ability and one of the instructors sent this message: *"I was so overwhelmed by your class's success in their Balanceability course that I forgot to send you their certificates. They were such a pleasure on Monday and are all riding well."* Well done to all of the children who took part.

We are planning on developing a spirituality garden and reflection areas in school in the near future and hope to have an outdoor Reading Shed in place in the summer, so look out for updates. The new basketball post has arrived and will be installed ready for the new term too

Parents evening was very well attended, and the questionnaires returned indicated a very positive picture of how things are going. We are going to follow up one or two issues raised in the upcoming term. We are always open to feedback, so please do talk to us if you have any concerns or ideas for improvement. If you were unable to attend, please contact Mrs Hope to arrange an appointment with your child's class teacher.

Reading, as always, continues to be a real focus. Please ensure that your child is regularly reading at home and remember to record any reading in your child's home school link book. Thank you so much for all of the parents, grandparents and carers who came to church for the Easter Service. It was lovely for the children at Upper Arley to be able to visit the church once again. Thank you to Louvain and Mr Carrigan for supporting us.

Wishing you all a wonderful Easter.

Louise Low

Mrs Louise Low
Head of School

Here's Bob and
Princess
(Visiting lambs)





Happy Hares

Over the past 6 weeks in Happy Hares we have been looking at “how does your garden grow” we have read books such as The Enormous Turnip, Jack and the Beanstalk, A Leaf Can Be...., The Tiny Seed, The Very Hungry Caterpillar and The Crunching Munching Caterpillar. The children have cut up different food to find seeds, they have then planted the seeds from apples, pears and peppers. We have looked for signs of spring in our outside area and in forest school, we found daffodils, blossom and newts in the pond. We Joined owls on their trip to

Arley Arboretum where we discovered lots of different trees, there are over 300 species of trees. After our walk around the Arboretum the children were welcomed with an Easter Egg hunt this was very exciting and the children enjoyed helping one another to make sure they found a chocolate egg each.

When we return to Happy Hares after the Easter break we will be looking at “What's at the bottom of my garden?”

Owls

We have had an action-packed time in Owls this half term. The little Owls have explored 'Someone Swallowed Stanley' they've retold the story through actions and created their own text maps. We were blown away by these. They have then used these to create their own stories changing the main character. They have learnt about recycling and created their own wormeries which we keep feeding with our left-over snack and tea bags. They have created their own animal art from recycled materials including bottle tops, made their own paper from the schools recycled paper and created recycled musical instruments. We have spoken to older relatives to learn how they used to recycle their rubbish and asked them lots of questions. We were shocked by how old they were compared to us.

On our trip to Arley Arboretum, the children loved exploring the different plants and trees. They worked together to read the labels and learn which continents they come from. They sang the continents song all the way around the arboretum and retold the story of 'We're going on a bear hunt'. The workers at the Arboretum loved the retelling! We counted how many raindrops fell on our tongues and got very wet walking back but we were happy and full of smiles as we sang on our way back to school.

Year 1 and Year 2 have explored the lives of Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole. We created double page spreads and diary entries from the information we have learnt. We have designed our own animal houses using saws, screwdrivers, and carving knives to cut our materials and create hinges. We made these and tested their durability and adapted our designs. We have learnt about capacity and mass this half term by measuring ingredients for our cakes and working practically in the water area.





Swifts



This half term Swifts have been busy with their STEM project. They have been designing and modelling their fairy houses with living roofs. Swifts enjoyed a trip to the Arley Arboretum to explore the grounds and the fairy houses they already have there.

Year Four had the opportunity to complete their level 1 in bike ability. They did extremely well and enjoyed it in the process.

Swifts also had their weekly swimming lessons this term, which have now finished. They enjoyed their last session, which included friendly races and some free time in the pool, with floats and balls.



Falcons



Falcons have been very busy this term, focusing on our STEM project of building a pulley system! They have been working really hard on creating some amazing projects, and they worked really well when tested inside! Unfortunately, the British weather took its toll, and they didn't last too well outside! Amazing resilience and problem solving was shown by the whole class!

The children have been working incredibly hard in all of their lessons, and I have seen their confidence in themselves grow and grow! They all deserve a long Easter break!

We also were given the news of Falcons getting a first in their tag rugby tournament! Congratulations to all those involved!



Sporting Achievements

TABLE CRICKET- 4TH MARCH

KS2 - 8 pupils from Swifts and Falcons took part in this new game, promoted by the ECB and gratefully presented by Worcestershire CCC. It's basically a cross between ten pin bowling and Subbuteo. Played on any size table with a mini bat, ball and scoring boards around the perimeter. I'm quite sure the children didn't know quite what to expect but came away excited and eager to play again. We hope to obtain a table set in the Autumn, which we can incorporate into our lunchtime activities and wet play schedule.

NATIONAL GIRLS KS2 FOOTBALL FESTIVAL- MARCH 9TH

12 Girls from KS2 were drawn 'out of the hat' to attend, and what a wonderful morning of skills and drills they had. Over 200 children attended the Festival at King Charles, Kidderminster, with over 90 000 girls taking part nationally, in a bid to increase participation levels.

INDOOR ATHLETICS COMP- 15TH MARCH

Children from Swifts and Falcons had been training hard for this event throughout this half term, getting to know their individual events and how the relays would be set up. We took a team of 23 in total (nearly 40% of on roll), and their enthusiasm, determination and team spirit was a joy to behold. Against 16 of the best schools in Wyre Forest we managed to come a very respectable 10th, with exceptional performances by our Girls in the Soft Javelin (2nd), Vertical Jump (1st), and Standing Long Jump (4th).

DANCE FESTIVAL – 1st APRIL

6 children from KS2 attended this event at the marvellous Baxter College studio. In total 9 school dance groups took part- ranging from Year 2 all the way up to Year 13. There was a lot of variation in style choices, ranging from traditional African and Indian themes to contemporary displayed by the older children. Our group had chosen a Bruno Mars/Imagine Dragons mix, which allowed them to showcase their individual skills in a solo section. A great technical performance from all our children. A special thanks to Charlie from Dance Xtreme for all the hard work she has put into getting the girls ready for this festival.

TAG RUGBY - 6th April

10 children (6 boys plus 4 girls) attended the Wyre Forest Tag Rugby Festival on Wed 6th April. The rain and wind held off until the start of our first game versus St Wulstan's, but this didn't deter our players who ran out very comfortable 4-0 winners. Our next game was against a very skilful and strong St Anne's team who quickly took the lead, but again our composure and support play allowed us to comfortably pull through 3-1. Our 3rd pool game was against St John's(A) and by now the tricky conditions were beginning to play a major part in proceedings. Losing 2-1 with 2 minutes to go we managed a superb end to end try, and then turned over possession to score again with less than a minute left. The 4th and last pool game was against the biggest and fastest team we'd seen (Holy Trinity). We took an early lead, but lost possession right near our line, to concede. The match ebbed and flowed, but by sheer determination and teamwork we managed to hold on for a 3-3 draw, which put us in 2nd place on tries scored. An unbelievable morning of our pupils really showing again that the tough really do get going when it's most needed. A very proud day for us all to celebrate.

The afternoons play was rained off, so overall standings meant we had come 6th out of 25 teams.....a truly remarkable achievement!

Swimming for Swifts has been a great success this term, with all children experiencing a great improvement in water confidence, stroke technique and stamina. There are lots of events planned for next term, including more football, cricket, orienteering, Tri golf, outdoor athletics and tennis. If you require any information regarding local clubs where your child can take further part in any of the Sports they have experienced, then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Mr Derrer



Upcoming Events

Forest School: Swifts – Tuesday mornings
Owls – Tuesday afternoons
Falcons – Wednesday afternoons

Dance Club: After school on Thursdays

Gardening Club: After school on Wednesdays

Swimming: Owls (Years 1 and 2)- Friday afternoons

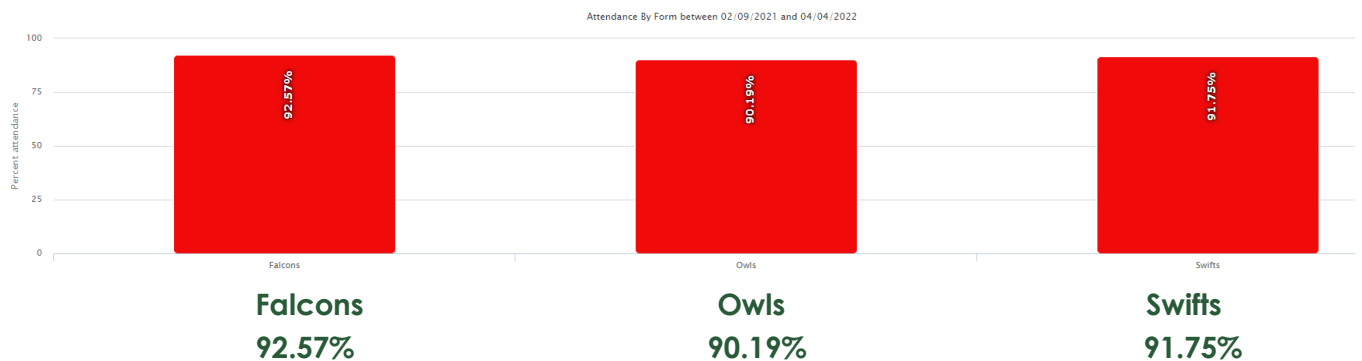
Multi-Sports - will continue to run as normal on Tuesdays and Wednesdays

KS2 SATS: Week beginning Monday 9th May

Nursery places

We do have Nursery places available. If you know of anyone who is looking for Nursery provision for three-year-olds, why not tell them about our beautiful setting? Contact the office to organise a look around.

Attendance for the School Year



**The target this year is to ensure all children have at least 96% attendance.
Attendance for the academic year so far is 91.93%**

Thank you to all Parents and Carers for ensuring that their child/ren attend school and are punctual for the start of the school day. **Good attendance has a positive impact on your child's well-being and educational outcomes.** We do know that from time-to-time children are too poorly to come to school. If this is the case, please **ring the school office by 9.15am** on 01299 861260 or email, if you prefer to office@upperarleycofeschool.org. It is important that you inform school if your child is unwell.

If your child has a medical appointment, please bring in the relevant letters to the office and if possible, try and arrange for these to be outside of the school day.



Safeguarding is Everyone's Responsibility

If you feel a child is at risk of immediate harm and needs immediate protection phone the police and the Family Front Door on **01905 822666**.

Internet Safety

YouTube - Parent Allow listing

The YouTube Kids app was introduced in the UK in January 2016 and was designed to allow younger children to use YouTube in a more managed (moderated) way whilst giving parents extra controls. Whilst it is a great app, my visits around primary schools over the years suggests that very few younger children use the YouTube Kids service. In conversation with the children and their parents, the biggest reason is usually because the channels/videos that the children want to watch are not available on the YouTube Kids app.

This has now changed. YouTube have introduced a new service called Parent Allow listing which can be used on mobile devices where a parent can approve a video/channel from the main YouTube app into their child's YouTube Kids account.

I think this is a great feature and would recommend you share this with parents/carers. There is a link to a video explainer on YouTube which you can find here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eVYsgC7-6ZM&list=WL&index=17>

Setting Up Devices for Children

Many of the parents/carers I speak to whose child has been involved in a serious child protection issue are not aware of the features that are available on devices, broadband etc. which can be used to help protect their children. Internet Matters have a huge range of advice and guidance, which includes simple guides to set up devices including tablets, phones, gaming devices and much more. A good page to help you with this is this one:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/e-safety-checklist-getting-your-kids-tech-devices-set-up-safe/>





COMPETITION TIME

Foodie Friday!



For Foodie Friday this month, we would like to challenge you to create an Easter themed meal! Once you have created your meal, take some photos to share with us. You could even share the recipe for others to give it a go! The School Council will judge all entries and the winner will be announced in the next newsletter. Have fun cooking - we look forward to hearing all about your new Easter creations!

Send entries to: office@upperarleycofeschool.org
Closing date: Friday 29th April

Wellbeing



Wyre Forest School Sport Partnership Easter Wellbeing Newsletter



Please use the link below to access the Wyre Forest School Sport Partnership Easter Wellbeing newsletter, which is filled with ideas to support the whole family (adults and children) in improving their overall wellbeing, through opportunities that are linked to the '5 Ways to Wellbeing'.

<https://jmp.sh/Kjz2UED>

'Your Turn to Learn' - Adult and Family Community Learning

Learning Services Worcestershire 'Your Turn to Learn' campaign launches today – FREE courses for any adult in Worcestershire over the age of 19 years.

It is now 'Your turn to Learn' on any of our free adult and family community learning courses! You can start your free learning journey with us, learning isn't just for children! We are delivering a range of courses from:

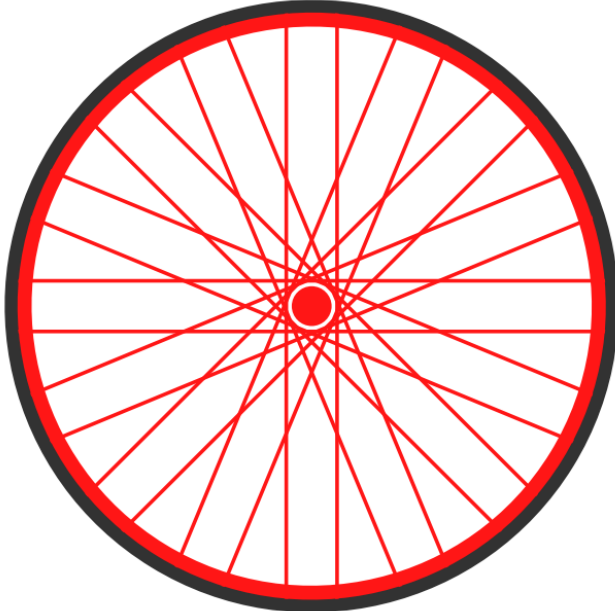
- Arts & Creative Skills
- Health & Wellbeing
- Family Learning
- Special Needs and Disabilities

For more information and to book your place visit www.worcestershire.gov.uk/adultlearning.



BEWDLEY BIKE WEEK

MAY 28 - JUNE 3



For more information:
www.bewdleybikeweek.info

Saturday 28 MAY		* Bike Jamboree - Queen Elizabeth 11 Jubilee Gardens Bewdley
Sunday 29 MAY		* Sunday Social Bike Rides - Bewdley Brewery
Monday 30 MAY		* Bikeability - Bewdley Leisure Centre * Rail & Ride - Severn Valley Railway
Tuesday 31 MAY		* Bikeability - Bewdley Leisure Centre * Rail & Ride - Severn Valley Railway * Evening MTB Ride - Bewdley Brewery
Wednesday 1 JUNE		* Bikeability - Bewdley Leisure Centre * Rail & Ride - Severn Valley Railway * Evening EBIKE Ride - Wyre Forest Discovery Centre * Ladies Track Ride - Stourport Sports Club
Thursday 2 JUNE		* Evening Road Ride - Bewdley Brewery
Friday 3 JUNE		* Young Riders Skills & Practice Session - Bewdley Leisure Centre * Family Ride With Severn Valley Velo - Burlish Meadow Car Park * E Bike Road Bike - Dog Lane Car Park
Saturday 4 JUNE		* Friend & Family Track Ride - Stourport Sports Club

For more information:
www.bewdleybikeweek.info

Easter Treasure Hunt

Treasure Hunt

Find the treasures, then use them to inspire you to write a story or poem!

Something to do with outer space 	Something you can eat 	Something you can read 	Something made of metal 	Something to do with monsters 	Something square shaped
Something star shaped 	Something with a number on 	Something a superhero would wear 	Something with lots of numbers on 	Something to write with 	Something a snowman would wear
Something that grows 	Something a cowboy would wear 	Something you can put on your head 	Something that could go in a sandwich 	Something a pirate would wear 	Something with a letter on it
Something you use in the shower 	Something triangle shaped 	Something with a flag on it 	Something used to play sport 	Something hexagon shaped 	Something to do with dinosaurs
Something a builder might use 	Something smooth 	Something you can open 	Something to measure things with 	Something rough 	Something you can see through



WORCESTERSHIRE
CHILDREN FIRST

Fostering



COULD YOU BE A BUDDY FOSTER CARER?

Become a Buddy Foster Carer with Worcestershire Children First Fostering. We are looking for people who can provide care to a looked-after child on a flexible part-time basis.

A weekend, a weekday evening, a week during the school holidays are you available? Can you provide regular short breaks to a local fostering family?

If this is something that you have an interest in, you can contact us today by visiting www.worcestershire.gov.uk/fostering or call us on **0800 028 2158**.



Buddy Foster Carers will offer children and young people the opportunity to live with them for short but regular periods of time giving them a positive, consistent, stable, and safe place to have time out from their usual foster care or internal residential care provision.

Buddy Foster Carers may be interested in fostering but are not able to do this full time due to other commitments. The minimum availability of a Buddy Foster Carer will be 12 weekends a year and a one-week holiday. In exceptional cases, there may be an additional need for an emergency short break with the Buddy Foster Carer.

As a Buddy Foster Carer:

- You will need to live in Worcestershire.
- Undertake the Foster Carer assessment and mandatory training programme.
- You will be valued and supported by our fostering services and you will receive opportunities for non-mandatory training, receive regular support visits and an annual review
- Have an agreed calendar of dates and times for the young person stays and contact so that you can manage your time well in advance.
 - Need to have dedicated sleeping space for the young person.
 - Need to be available for the child/young person and not work during the times you are acting as carer so that the child can really experience your care, time, and attention.
- You may or may not have children of your own but you will have a love of children and a commitment to helping them be happy healthy and safe.
- You will be paid for the time you are caring for the young person and the training session you attend.

WORCESTERSHIRE
CHILDREN FIRST
Fostering





TERM DATES

SPRING TERM 2022

Term ends: Thursday 7th April

Staff inset: Friday 8th April

SUMMER TERM 2022

Term begins: Monday 25th April

May Day: Monday 2nd May

Staff INSET: Friday 27th May

Half term: Monday 30th May – Friday 3rd June

Term ends: Thursday 21st July

School Term Dates September 2022 to July 2023

HOLIDAY	SCHOOL CLOSURES ON	SCHOOL TED DAYS	SCHOOL RE-OPENS ON
AUTUMN TERM 2022	N/A	Monday 5 th September	Tuesday 6 th September
AUTUMN HALF TERM	Thursday 20 th October	Friday 21 st October	Monday 31 st October
CHRISTMAS	Friday 16 th December	Tuesday 3 rd January 2023	Wednesday 4 th Jan 2023
SPRING HALF TERM	Thursday 16 th February	Friday 17 th February	Monday 27 th February
EASTER	Thursday 30 th March	Friday 31 st March	Monday 17 th April
MAY DAY	Monday 1 st May		Tuesday 2 nd May
SUMMER HALF TERM	Friday 26 th May		Monday 5 th June
END OF SUMMER TERM	Friday 21 st July	Monday 24 th July Tuesday 25 th July	N/A