



NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

The children have been working really hard in the run up to Christmas and it has been particularly pleasing to see how many have been making fantastic progress with their phonics and reading. Thank you so much for all of your support with this at home – it is really making a difference! Please keep up the reading over Christmas too! You can find out what the children have been up to in their classrooms later on in the newsletter under 'Class News'.

Everyone has been practising our value of **Compassion** and demonstrating their **Marvellous Manners**. Well done everybody, we are very proud of you. We have been joined by David Skitt for some of our assemblies and he has entranced everyone with his magnificent storytelling skills.

It has been such a shame that our end of term events were disrupted by the incidences of COVID-19, however the children have enjoyed their activities and we are planning to share these with you soon. The younger children performed their roles in the Nativity with confidence and their singing was a delight. We enjoyed listening to the Christmas story in the Carol Service with Reverend Nigel and Louvain and the children's voices were beautiful. Thank you to Mr Carrigan for doing such an amazing job with teaching the carols and for setting up the recording of the service.

Christmas dinner went down a treat.



The Festive Forest Fair was just magical. Thank you to our PFTA, staff and Sandra for making the evening so special for the children.



I wish all of our families a wonderful Christmas and hope that you all have a restful break and I look forward to seeing you all in 2022. Thank you for your continued support.

Louise Low

Mrs Louise Low
Head of School



Sporting News

Mr Derrer has been busy organising fixtures and events for the children. See the reports below to see how well our teams have done this term.

Kho Kho 26/11- M. Marshall

On Friday, some of the Swifts travelled over to the Stourport sports centre to participate in a 'Kho Kho festival. We were quite unsure of what to expect as we had never heard of it before. The children from Swifts did Upper Arley proud as they listened carefully to instructions and the aim of the game. The children had to weave in and out from the opposition without getting caught. If they succeeded in the time, a point was given. Swifts discussed great tactics and invaded the opposition. Out of three schools, they finished second, which was a wonderful achievement! The Swifts' team demonstrated perseverance, teamwork, passion and honesty. It was a very rewarding experience for all, to compete and engage with other schools once again.

5 a side Football Boys and Girls teams 3/12- T.Derrer

Our late entry into this comp didn't leave a lot of time to train or talk tactics, but that wasn't going to hinder us. Travelling to Worcester on a cold, wet November morning I'm sure the children were as nervous as me, but the way they all played you would have thought they were professionals. Both teams played in leagues of 6 school, with the top 2 in each league progressing to the finals. The boys came away 4th after a win, a draw and 3 narrow losses. A tremendous effort against teams with all, or most, playing for clubs. Well done Charlie, Tom, Max, Marshall, Harvey and Dylan.

The girls started cautiously with a 1-0 win, but then went on to beat their other opponents convincingly, until their last game, where they came up against an equally determined Hollymount team (who equalised right on the whistle. This meant they had reached the Final, where they again faced Hollymount. This time though we couldn't manage to beat their goalie and came away with 2nd place and the silver medal. Again, I can't say how proud we were of how they performed. Sterling work Olivia, Evie, Lily, Grace, Phoebe, Connie and Daisy.

Boccia 3/12- T. Derrer

Another comp at Stourport Arena, this time attended by the Years 3&4 children. We'd practised using tennis balls and a hockey ball in the P.E. lesson, two days before. This ensured the children weren't going into the event without any experience of the skills needed. Again schools were divided into leagues of 4, and after going behind 3-0 in the first frame, things didn't look good, but the comeback to win 4-3 was a joy to behold.

We went on to win our other 3 games and qualify for the finals, where we finished 4th. A supreme effort by all involved: Charlie C, Elizabeth, Rowan, Henley, Alice, Harrison, Harrison, Heidi and Olivia.

Now I'm off to get a proper Boccia set, so we can win it next year!





Owls

The Little Owls (Reception) have explored 'Why we celebrate this term?'. They have listened to and discussed Elmer's Birthday, Dipal's Diwali and the Letters to Santa. They have created their own Rangoli patterns and diya using clay. The children planned Elmer's Birthday party by writing invitations, making and decorating their own cakes, party hats and creating party games. They had a brilliant time and shared how they have celebrated birthdays with their families in the past.

Year 1 and Year 2 have thoroughly enjoyed exploring the Polar Express. They have retold the story using text maps and created their own characters' descriptions. The children have designed and made their own pots using clay in the style of Clarice Cliff. We have started to use our woodwork bench to measure and cut different lengths of wood to make the base for our moving vehicles.

Swifts

Swifts have worked so incredibly hard this term. They have finished off their stone age topic with a 3D model of a stone age settlement. They have written setting descriptions and factual reports. They completed a science experiment, using tools and rocks and they have been creating dances. Here is a picture of Swifts completing a Santa Dash. Well done Swifts, I think you deserve a rest over the Christmas holidays!





Falcons

In Falcons this term, we have been doing a lot of work on *The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe* which the children are really enjoying. They have created some beautiful pieces of work, such as character descriptions, diary entries and newspaper reports. The children became reporters for the day, interviewing Edmund about his first encounter with Narnia- they did brilliantly! We have even been watching the 1988 BBC version to help us visualise the story even better- the children found the animations hysterical!



The class's maths has really come along- they are now experts at division and multiplication and have worked incredibly hard on learning how to do this.

Last Friday, the children spent all morning researching and creating fact files all about Upper Arley. They were very independent, working in teams, using the laptops, and choosing their own research topics about Upper Arley- they told us some amazing stories and I am now definitely more knowledgeable on Upper Arley and its history from this!

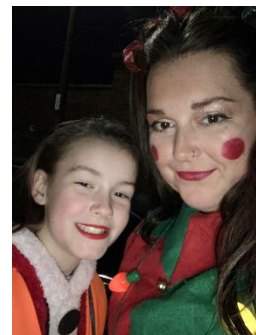
The children have now finished their swimming lessons and they all did fantastically well. They all worked so hard, and we could see them getting better every single week! After half term, we will be starting dance on a Friday.



The children took part in a Santa dash last Friday which was a lot of fun- Mr Derrer organised it at break time and the children were fabulous!

One of our Falcons, Grace, has been doing some amazing charity work over the Christmas period.

Grace has been collecting money for the local charity '*Wishfinder*', helping grant wishes to local people who need support. Grace is truly following our school value of compassion, and we could not be prouder; well done Grace!



Upcoming Events

Swimming: Swifts will start swimming lessons in the New Year.

Forest School: Owls have now switched their Forest School session from Friday afternoons to Thursday afternoons.

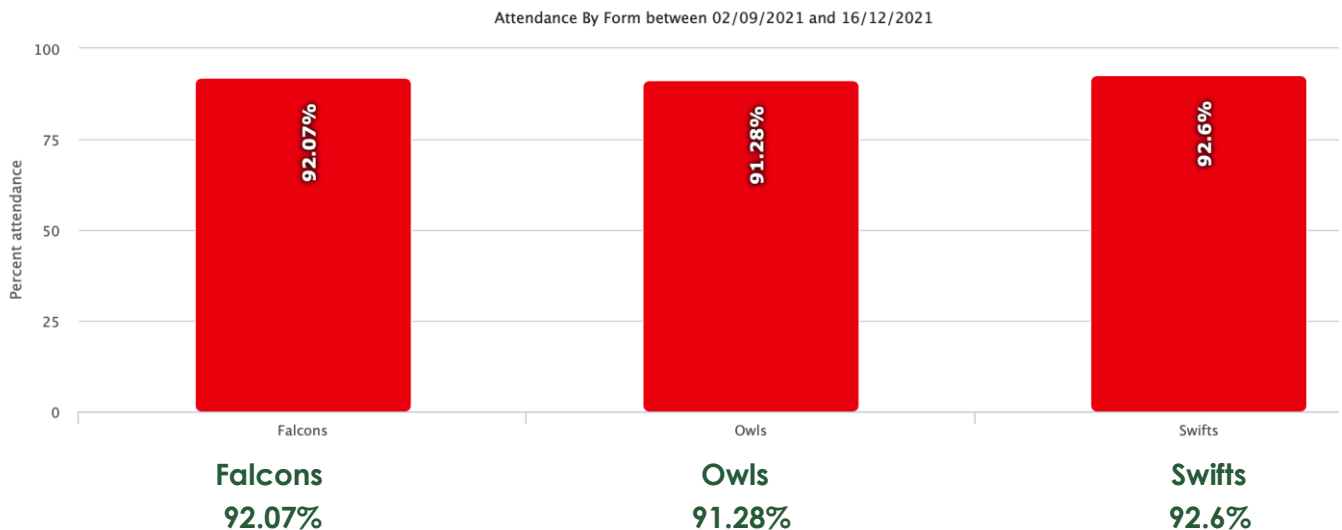
Dance Exchange: Falcons will begin their Dance lessons with dance Exchange on Fridays, along with Owls.

Dance Club: A Dance club will begin for KS2 on Fridays after school. Details to follow in January.

Gardening Club: We will be starting a gardening club in collaboration with Arley Arboretum in the spring term. Again, details to follow in January.



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 92.02%**

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 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**.



Purple Mash

The children now have access to an online learning platform called Purple Mash. Why don't you try it out over the holidays?

Merry Mashmas!

There's plenty for children to explore in Purple Mash over the holidays.

The [Christmas area](#) is packed full of activities to engage children over the break, including the [festive E-Cards folder](#). In here you'll find the 3 winning Festive Card Competition designs, as well as 3 blank templates, that can be written and shared with family and friends via Purple Mash.

It's also worth keeping an eye on the [Purple Mash advent calendar](#), where you can find a new activity and cracker joke every day up to the 24th.



Unfortunately, the links won't work from the newsletter but feel free to explore!



COMPETITION TIME

December Foodie Friday!

December Foodie Friday!

For Foodie Friday this month, we would like to challenge you to design or create a festive dish! This could be linked to Christmas, Hannukah or Diwali. Once you have designed or created your meal, take some photos to share with us. You could even share the recipe for others to give it a go! The Class Councillors 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 festive creations!

Send entries to: office@upperarleycofeschool.org
Closing date: Wednesday 19th January



Congratulations!

Congratulations go to Annabelle whose beautiful Christmas card won our recent Christmas card competition with her amazing design – ably assisted by her younger brother! It looks wonderful!

Below you can see our Upper Arley decorations adorning the Christmas tree in Arley Arboretum. There will be **Carol Singing** in partnership with St Peter's Church at the arboretum **Sunday 19th December at 7pm.**



on:

OH CHRISTMAS TREE



@ARLEY ARBORETUM



EARLY HELP IN WORCESTERSHIRE

Help and support for Children, Young People and their families or carers.



FOR MORE INFORMATION,
VISIT THE FAMILY HUB:

WORCESTERSHIRE.GOV.UK/FAMILYHUB

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WORCESTERSHIRE
CHILDREN FIRST





TERM DATES

SPRING TERM 2022

TERM begins: Tuesday 4th January

Staff INSET: Friday 18th February

Half term: Monday 21st February – Friday 25th February

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

Other Dates: Good Friday
Easter
May Day
Whitsun Bank Holiday
Platinum Jubilee Bank Holiday

Friday 15th April 2022
Monday 18th April 2022
Monday 2nd May 2022
Thursday 2nd June 2022
Friday 3rd June 2022

Teacher Training Dates: Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd September 2021

Friday 22nd October 2021
Friday 18th February 2022
Friday 8th April 2022
Friday 27th May 2022