



NEWSLETTER – MARCH 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you so much to the children, who brought in their ideas about what spirituality means to them as part of a whole school project last half term. We have had a whole range of ideas and it has really got everyone talking! We are happy to receive any more ideas if your child would like to share.



Focusing on each of our values every week is helping the children to practise them in their everyday life. We have linked each one to the Easter story this half term. Positive feedback from parents include this positive comment that *'Children use the school values in context out of school.'* It's great to see that children are truly living our values.

Parents' Evening was well attended, and we hope the discussion sheets were useful. If you have not had a chance to meet with your child's teacher, please contact the school office to arrange a consultation. Over the Easter break, Year 6 children have been provided with SATs packs and children in Year One have support for the Phonics Screening Assessment. Please encourage your child to read every day, practise their spellings and for the children in KS2, make learning times tables fun – it really helps in so many ways. Look out for 'Spring into Action' at Worcestershire libraries this Easter – there are lots of things going on to support with reading: <https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/news/spring-action-easter-worcestershire-libraries>

Developing responsibility and consideration for others are important skills to foster and develop in our children. Two children in Falcons have shown great initiative in creating a competition to 'Guess the name of the Toy' so that they can raise money for the RSPCA. It is lovely to see their conscious effort to help animals in need and should be commended for their idea. In church the winner was announced and a grand total of £77 has been raised. What a fantastic result and thank you to everyone who has supported.

Our latest Literacy Award winner is pictured below, they will be able to choose their own book from the amazing selection at Wyre Forest Books in Bewdley. Well done for their super writing!

In Forest School, this week, Miss Wildboar organised some fantastic egg hunts, now that spring is on its way, which the children thoroughly enjoyed. We all enjoyed a beautiful service at St Peter's Church, at the end of term, and remembered Jesus' sacrifice to the world. It was heart-warming to see the Easter bonnets and fantastic Easter gardens, which the children brought along as well as hearing their lovely renditions of Mary's Song and Jesus is Alive!

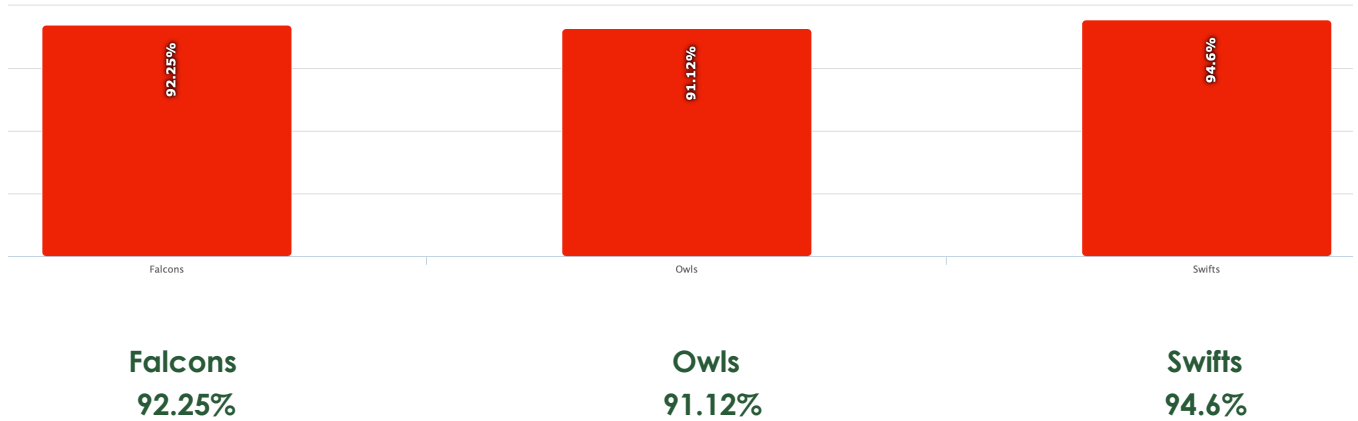
Thank you for all of your support this term and we wish you a joyous and restful Easter.

Kind regards
Louise Low
Mrs Louise Low
Headteacher





Attendance for the School Year



**The target this year is to ensure all children have at least 96% attendance.
Attendance for the academic year is 92.6%**

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 9.00am** 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**



Attendance Matters

We think that attendance matters!

It is essential that we continue to work together to do all we can to prioritise the children's attendance at school so that they can maximise their learning and secure the benefits achieved through socialising with their peers.

The profile of attendance is a key priority for schools and as such we have been instructed to start to implement stricter measures for unauthorised and repeated absences. Our school attendance policy has been developed to meet the criteria laid out in the Department for Education's Working Together to Improve School Attendance.

You will see that **our attendance target is 96%** again this year. **Our current whole school attendance is 92.5%**; therefore, we have work to do!

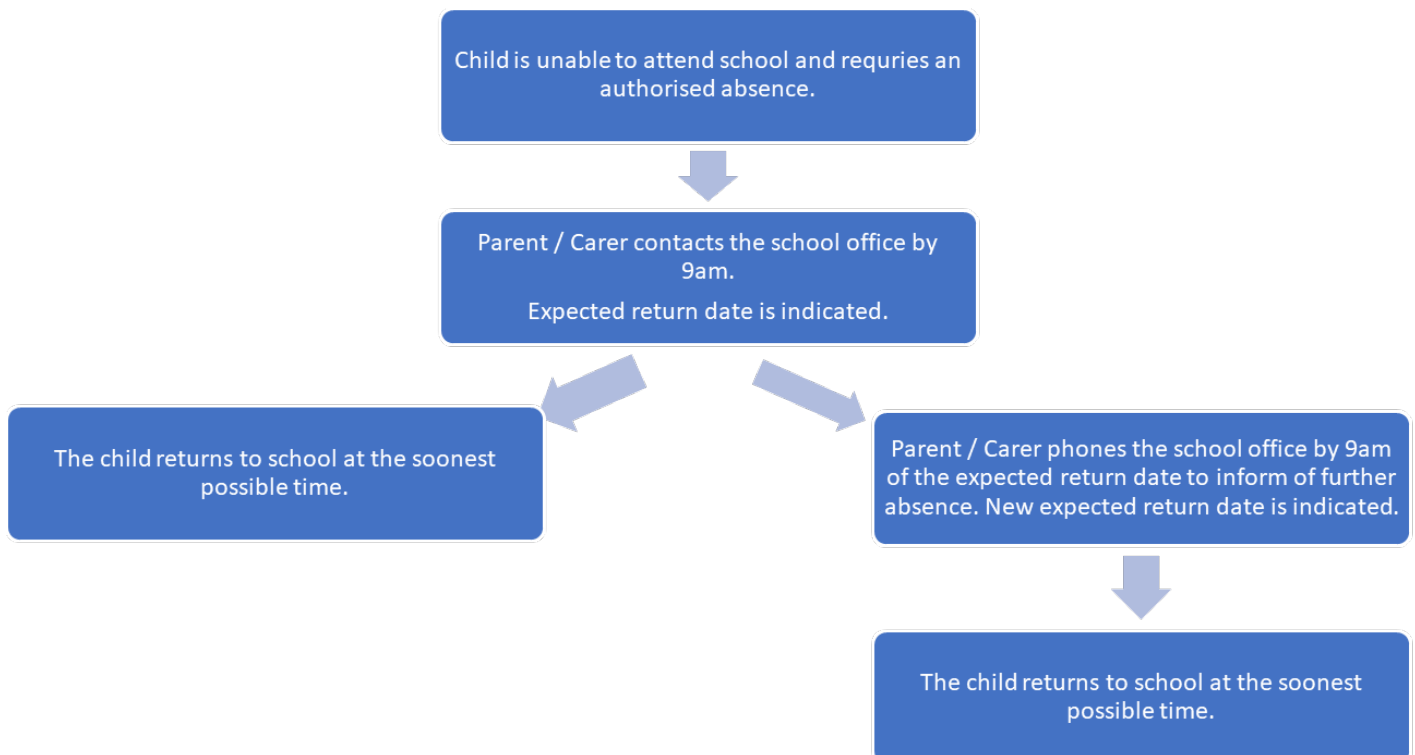
Good attendance is important because...

**MISSING
(SCHOOL) =
MISSING
OUT!**

Statistics show that pupils with good attendance have higher attainment in school and studies show that children with attendance above 96% make better progress socially and academically than their peers with lower attendance. When absent, children miss out on vital learning, which can quickly develop into substantial gaps. Following the considerable impact that COVID has had on children's education already, it is essential that children are in school as much as possible. For our younger children, both attendance and punctuality are doubly important as they move straight into their phonics groups after the register has been taken.

Recording Absences

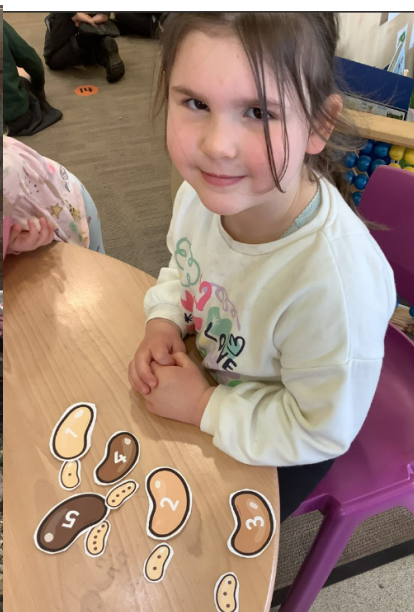
Unfortunately, there are circumstances when a child is unable to attend due to illness, medical appointments or unforeseeable events. In these instances, parents / carers need to follow the procedures indicated below. The school may insist on further evidence to support authorised absences, as outlined in the Attendance Policy.





Happy Hares

This term in Happy Hares we have been exploring farms. We looked at what animals live on the farm, making our own small world farms, what the animals eat and what shelter they live in. We then explored what grows on the farm where we looked at rice, cereal, vegetables, made our own bread and tried porridge. We went on to look at what jobs the tractors do on the farm where one of our year 2 children bought all of his tractors and machinery in and showed Happy Hares how they worked and what their job was. Finally, as the daffodils and tulips started to grow we looked at Spring, we went on a spring scavenger hunt and looked at the lifecycle of chicks where we got to go on a egg hunt during forest school looking for warm and safe places where eggs might be.





Little Owls

This term we have been working on our STEM project. We have been exploring how we can recycle everyday materials to make them into new things. We have designed, made and flown our own kites. We thought about what materials work best and how to make the structure so it can fly high on a windy day! In our maths this term we have been focused on composition of numbers and number bonds to 10! We have explored lots of different ways to make numbers to 10 and learned those pairs of numbers that add up to 10! We've even explored making numbers to 20! Our Talk 4 Writing story has been 'Little Rabbit Foo Foo' the cheeky rabbit is bopping all of the animals on the head! We learned the story off by heart and loved pretending to be Goonies!





Owls

We have had great fun exploring snowmobiles. Our paper prototypes helped us to understand how to use our designs to create a model. We found lots of problems to solve. We are very proud of the snowmobiles we made using lots of problem solving to attach the wheels to the axle so that they can still turn easily.



In our Maths learning we have been problem solving using multiplication and division. We can use a part whole model to help divide into equal groups.

We loved finding out about the adventures of Sophie in Antarctica. She travelled on an icebreaker called Aurora Astralis. We wrote instructions to help Sophie get dressed in her polar outfit. She was very cosy and safe.

Forest school has been amazing again! We have explored the changing season and met some adorable lambs. We know Spring is a time for new life with buds and blossoms growing in our Forest School area. They helped us to think about the Easter story.





Swifts

We have had another very busy term in Swifts class, focusing on our STEM project of 'Unlocking the River Diglis'. We have been researching, designing and making a device using linkages and levers that could be used to carefully catch and monitor the ancient twaite shad. The children were very passionate about looking after wildlife, and showed compassion, resilience, and trust in each other whilst building them!

On World Book Day, we took part in many activities to get us all excited about reading. Swifts had some fabulous costumes and enjoyed taking part in the BBC's live lesson about story writing using our favourite fairy tales.

In writing we have been practising our use of speech through 'The Papaya that Spoke', and some strange objects started appearing in Swifts with some strange scenarios to write about!

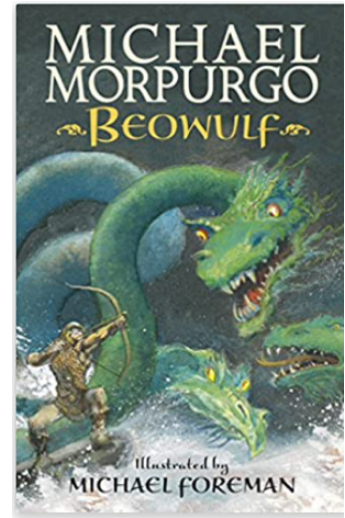
The children have also taken part in the girl's football festival and a hockey tournament, and once again made us very proud with their hard work and fantastic sportsmanship- well done Swifts!





Falcons

Falcons have settled really well with Mr Harris and Mrs Low and all of the children have been making a fantastic effort with their learning. Year Six, in particular, have been demonstrating their readiness for high school with their excellent attitude and application. Our history topic this half term has been the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings and the children have thoroughly enjoyed using primary sources to discover amazing facts and discoveries. Alongside this topic we have shared the story of Beowulf and focused on creating some vivid character descriptions. We cannot wait until we go on our trip to Bishop's Wood after Easter, to find out even more about this time in history.



Falcons have also been busy working incredibly hard tackling a STEM project that has required teamwork, problem solving and resilience. Posed with the challenge of recovering infrastructure following a natural disaster, the children have designed and are currently constructing scale models of cranes. They have given considerable consideration to the structural integrity required and will be progressing to the mechanical aspects when we return in the summer term. Throughout the project to date, they have impressed us with the attitude and commitment they have demonstrated to a very demanding task!!





Sports Events

Swimming this term was attended by our Year 2's, who have learned all things from entering and exiting the pool safely to swimming front crawl and backstroke unaided (Freddie and Spencer). Our last scheduled half term of swimming will be for our Year R and Year 3.

On Wednesday 8th March it was International Women's Day and it seemed appropriate that we took a group of girls from Years 3 and 4 along to King Charles Secondary to take part in the annual Football Festival. There were about 10 activities taking place, varying from warm up drills to passing, dribbling and shooting.

Friday 17th March saw us enter the KS2 Hockey Comps for the first time, with us entering Years 3 and 4 as well as Years 5/6 events. The Falcons team performed admirably well winning two of their group games and finishing 6th out of 10 overall. Astonishing defensive work from Ned and Harrison ensured we only conceded the odd goal, even to the competition winners. Max showed his goal scoring prowess by scoring 7 out of 8 of our goals, with five coming in one game! The Swifts team was superbly led by Mrs Wood to attain 6th place out of 16 teams, and winning 4 out of 8 games.

March has also seen us enter the Girls Netball League also for the first time. Despite coming up against teams with a lot more experience and height we managed to hold our own in most games, winning two and drawing two out of our seven fixtures. This will be a great learning curve for next year, when we will be a year better trained and hopefully a few inches taller!

Finally, a massive well done to Thomas who represented Wyre Forest in the recent County Cross Country Championships and came a fantastic 16th out of 40 runners, from Herefordshire and Worcestershire.

Next term is already fully booked with Tag Rugby, Tri-Golf, Athletics, Boccia, Tennis, Cricket and Rounders on the menu.





World Book Day

The children came in some fabulous outfits on World Book Day and had great fun accessing a range of book-related activities. Here is a selection of wonderful outfits:



Friends of Upper Arley C of E Primary School

Our annual AGM for our PFTA will take place on Tuesday 25th April at 3.30pm. Please come along and find out how you can get involved in some fantastic events which, in turn, support our children at Upper Arley.

We are looking forward to the Annual Plant Sale – see the details below. Any donations of seedlings/plants or cuttings will be gratefully received. Please drop into school before hand or on the day or contact the office who will pass your details on to the Friends Committee to arrange collection.





Friends of Upper Arley Primary School

ANNUAL PLANT SALE

&
Afternoon Tea

Upper Arley Primary School

Upper Arley

DY12 1XA

Saturday 20th 11am - 2pm

May

Join us to browse a varied selection of plants and help us raise funds for our village school. Refreshments available. Cash & card payment accepted. Free entry ~ all welcome.

Plant donations gratefully received. For more information call 01299 861260 or email friends@upperarleycofeschool.org



Upper Arley
C of E Primary School

ONE COMMUNITY. LEARNING TOGETHER.



Upcoming Dates

Friday 21st April: Falcons' trip to Bishop's Wood
Tuesday 25th April: AGM for PTFA
Wednesday 3rd May: Owls' trip to Dudley Zoo
Friday 5th May: Coronation Celebration
Monday 8th May: Extra Bank Holiday (school closed)
Saturday 20th May: Plant Sale

Multi-sports: Tuesdays: Swifts
Wednesdays: Falcons
Swimming: Tuesdays: Reception and Year 3
Forest School: Mondays – Falcons
Tuesdays – Swifts
Wednesdays – Owls
Gymnastics – Thursdays
Gardening Club will be starting soon – look out for letters

Upper Arley C of E Primary School

TERM DATES

Summer Term 2023

Term begins: Monday 17th April
May Day: Monday 1st May
Half term: Monday 29th May – Friday 2nd June
Term ends: Friday 21st July

Bank Holidays:	Christmas Day	Tuesday 27th December 2022
	Boxing Day	Monday 26th December 2022
	Good Friday	Friday 7th April 2023
	Easter Monday	Monday 10th April 2023
	May Day	Monday 1st May 2022
	Whitsun/Spring Bank Holiday	Thursday 29th May 2023

Teacher Training Dates: *Monday 5th September 2022*
Friday 21st October 2022
Monday 3rd January 2023
Friday 17th February 2023
Friday 31st March 2023

**ONE COMMUNITY, LEARNING AND GROWING TOGETHER,
SHARING GOD'S LOVE**