



NEWSLETTER – MAY 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

We have had lots of exciting events this term including celebrating the Coronation of King Charles III, trips out to Bishop's Wood, Dudley Zoo and Arley Arboretum. These have been great experiences and thoroughly enjoyed by the children.

All of the classes have had the opportunity to learn about road safety, particularly in Upper Arley and the surrounding areas. The children listened really carefully and Angie gave out stickers, quizzes and even a pencil to remind the children of **STOP, LOOK and LISTEN**.

We are so proud of our children who have recently completed statutory assessments. Their attitude and application during the tests were absolutely amazing. The children have worked extremely hard in the run up and we have been so impressed with their maturity. Well done!

Five golden retriever puppies visited all of the classes this half term and they have now gone onto their new homes after being looked after by Mr and Mrs Regen and all of the family. We wish them all the best in their new homes. Louvain's beautiful dog, Twiggy, came and ably assisted us with morning worship this week, as we focused on the value of **TRUTHFULNESS**.

Gardening club has been a great success this half term with yellow poppies and tomatoes being sown as well as the children growing beautiful red velvet plants. It has been wonderful having Heather - the head gardener from Arley Arboretum working with the children. Football and Gymnastics have been popular, as well as Mr Derrer's Multisports' clubs.

Our latest Literacy Award goes to Reggie who has been doing a fabulous job with his writing. Well done Reggie!

STOP PRESS! Some of the children in Swifts and Falcons attended a Boccia competition today. Mr Derrer reported that the children won three games, and lost one. Losing on points scored only. That now takes us to represent Wyre Forest at the County Games. Well done to everyone who took part!

Please encourage your child to read as much as possible over the half term holiday. The younger children have been sent some additional activities to support with this, so please take time to practise. This will really help with developing reading across the school and research shows that confident readers have the skills required to access the wider world and succeed in their learning.

Enjoy a well-earned bank holiday weekend, I hope the sun shines and you and your family have some time to relax.

Kind regards

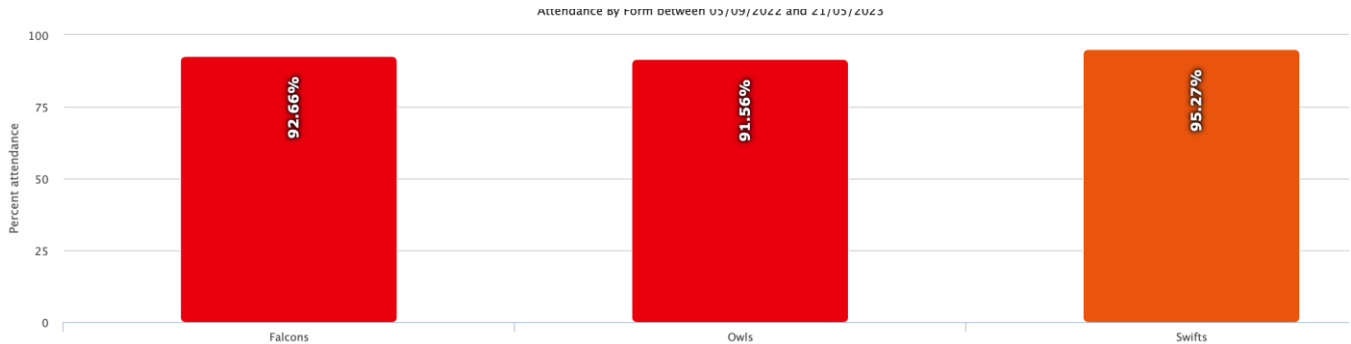
Louise Low

Mrs Louise Low
Headteacher





Attendance for the School Year



Falcons
92.66%

Owls
91.56%

Swifts
95.27%

**The target this year is to ensure all children have at least 96% attendance.
Attendance for the academic year is 92.11%**

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

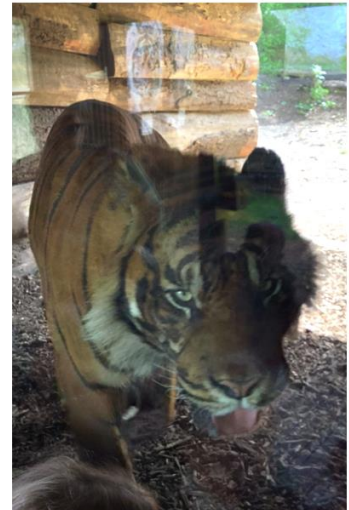
If you feel a child is at risk of immediate harm and needs immediate protection phone the police and the Family Front Door on **01905 822666**.



HERE'S THE NEWS

Happy Hares

This half term, in Happy Hares, we have been exploring "What is at the bottom of my garden?". We have learnt about spiders, Ladybirds and worms. We made a wormery that the children spray each day to keep the soil moist and feed the worms leaves. We have also started to build an ant farm. The children had an exciting week celebrating the King's Coronation where we had lots of activities using red, white and blue, castles and the Royal family characters. We had a very exciting visit to Dudley Zoo where the children were very excited to board the little red train to take us up the big hill. The children got to see a tiger up close and got to hear how the Lemurs communicate.





Owls


This term in Owls has been so exciting! We have been learning about traditional tales in Talk 4 Writing such as Jack and the Beanstalk. We have also been learning the story of Beegu, the funny yellow alien that lives on planet Zog! In topic we have been historians and learnt all about significant people in history that have inspired us and given us ideas into what our future careers and adventures will look like in the future! We have also celebrated the King's Coronation by dressing up and having a party to celebrate with our friends! Finally we were so fortunate to visit Dudley Zoo this term! We saw so many amazing animals and saw them in so many different habitats! It was so much fun! We cannot wait for next term to see what new adventures our learning will take us on!



2.07.24



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the nex day
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10.2.23



Beegu alien lost
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 because

I think that Beegu went to
 space there to the city in space
 I think Beegu was an alien because
 He was a yellow alien
 a alien

11.05.23



Neil Armstrong landed on moon
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 leap 5 man died.



Falcons

Over the past half term, Falcons have been incredibly busy achieving in the curriculum and embracing the opportunities that the summer brings. Our wonderful Year 6 children have also made us immensely proud with the hard work, determination and resilient mindsets that they have shown in their SATs. Whilst we go out of our way to minimise any potential stress caused by these assessments, we are aware that they can be nerve-racking for the children; we were seriously impressed with the way they approached them.

A few weeks ago, we visited Bishops Wood to participate in a Viking and Anglo-Saxon day. Through the day, we were immersed in a series of hands-on activities and impressed the leaders with our practical approach to the challenges provided. In particular, the children's Forest School skills were on show when it came to building a shelter in the woods!

In science, we have been focusing on the physics topic of forces. We have been investigating the effect of air resistance, water resistance and friction. Throughout these lessons, our enquiry skills have been tested as we have had to consider fair testing protocols and accurate measuring skills.



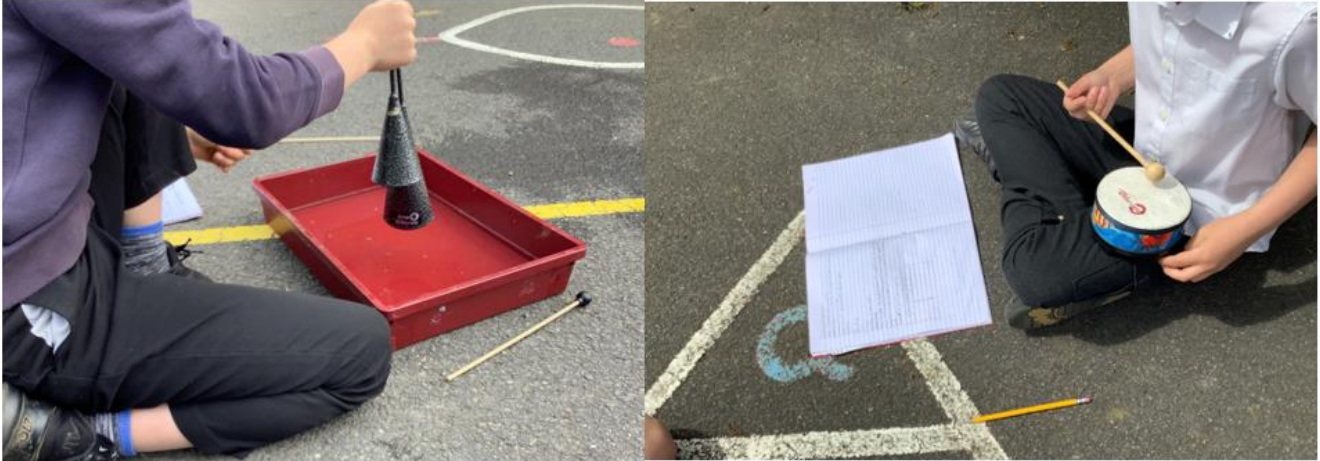
Falcons learned about managing distractions when crossing the road.



Swifts

This term Swifts have shown resilience and compassion as they supported the Falcons during their SATs and have been working harder than ever. In Science, we have been exploring sound through using instruments, playing games, and using chalk to create sound waves with varying pitch. We have also been exploring the Ancient Egyptians and looking at interesting 3D videos of inside a pyramid!

Swifts have also shown huge success in PE, working hard in all lessons, sporting their lovely new PE kit! Well done for your continued hard work Swifts!



Sports Events

Swimming has been slightly disrupted this term, but thankfully Years R and 3 have continued their excellent progress this half term after the short break. All of our children now have their school P.E. kit, and how fantastic they all look. It does make a great difference seeing them look so smart when playing sport or attending events. As per our normal routine they shall be bringing these home to wash on Friday and returning them on Monday 5th June in time for next half term's activities.

Tag Rugby- 26th April

We took a larger than normal squad of Year 5 and 6 children, and they again showed they are a match for anyone. We won our first 3 games 3-2, 2-0, and 5-1 and then we played Wilden to see who would win our group and progress to the finals. After a slow nervous start, we fell to 3-0, but pulled back to 3-2 with 2 minutes left. As we were pushing for an equaliser, Wilden broke away and scored again, leaving us a mountain to climb. Our resilience enabled us to score right at the end leaving us just short, but nevertheless proud of giving such a good account of ourselves. We finished the day 8th out of 25 schools.

Indoor Rowing- 28th April

Another first for our school! Twelve Year 5 and 6 children attended at Stourport Boat Club, where all the machines were set up outside for each school. Each pupil rowed as far as possible in a minute, as an individual challenge and also a team event. Our changeovers were perfect and we managed to attain 3rd position (10 schools) in the girls and mixed events.

Tri Golf- 4th May

Our Year 3 and 4 children had been excitedly waiting for this event, and as a result of our excellent practice sessions we all felt we could do really well. Fifteen schools attended at Bewdley Leisure Centre, and the field was awash with 9 golf activities set up on both sides. We had an excellent start in the first 4 events, and the team carried this quality right through to the end. As the scores were read out the tension grew. 7th, 6th, 5th... and then Upper Arley 4th!

Great effort again.

KS1 Girls Football Festival- 17th May(see photo)

Our annual trip to Westacre School for this event was attended by 8 girls from R, Year 1 and Year 2. They had a wonderful time in the sun, learning how to dribble, pass and shoot as well as playing other football related games. A lovely event for our young children to experience the opportunity of representing school.



Coming up next half term:
Mini Tennis – Yrs 3/4 and 5/6 on 9th June
Girls Cricket- Yrs 5/6 on 14th June
KS2 Rounders Festival on 16th June
KS2 Athletics on 23rd June



Tennis Coach

Owls have been having fun learning many new tennis skills with their coach. Thank you to Mr Derrer for organising this amazing opportunity. The children have certainly impressed us and we have some developing athletes!



Don't they look **AMAZING** in their Upper Arley PE kits!





Coronation

The children had an amazing day on Friday 5th May. We started off by having a celebration in St Peter's Church, Louvain even anointed the children with a special blessing, and we sang our Coronation song, along with 'God Save the King'. The children enjoyed Coronation activities and a street party on the playground. Each class then entertained us with their Coronation themed performances. We had marvellous poetry, Morris dancing and even 'God Save the King' all expressed in sign language.





Rose Planting to commemorate the Coronation of King Charles III

We have planted three roses just outside the main gates in a small patch of garden to commemorate the Coronation of King Charles III. It was a good job we had the assistance of the older children as the holes were quite hard to dig. It will be a lovely reminder as the roses grow over the years.



Coronation Wildflowers

All of the schools across the country have been sent wildflowers to sow in each school's grounds. We have put ours in the three flower boxes in our reading area.





Friends of Upper Arley C of E Primary School

We had a very successful plant sale on Saturday 20th May. Thank you so much for donations and to those who attended. The grand total has just exceeded £500 – what a magnificent effort and we would like to extend a special thank you to the Friends for organising this popular event.



Visible Consistencies

Each week over this half term, we have had a focus on one of our visible consistencies. Each consistency is reinforced throughout our school environment and referred to regularly. By using the dual coding symbols to associate the expected behaviours with a memorable phrase, high standards are evidenced throughout our school.

We will continue to support the children to recognise and relate to our visible consistencies over the remainder of the summer term and hit the ground running in September!



Ready to Learn



Wonderful Walking



Marvellous Manners



Lovely Listening



Pride in Presentation



School Governors - Meet our school governors:



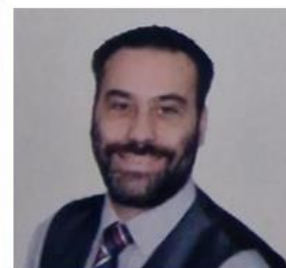
Freda Griffith
Chair of Governors



Lynne Morgan
LA Governor



Helen Grainger
Parent Governor



Paul Fearn
Co-Opted Governor



Kate Starling
Parent Governor



Samina Ahmed-Khan
School representative



Louvain Beer
Foundation Governor



Julie Greenwood
Foundation Governor

Mrs Low (Headteacher) is also part of the Governing Body

Our Chair of Governors, Mrs Freda Griffiths has put together some information to explain what being on the Local Governing Body entails:

In collaboration with the Headteacher and the Trust, Governors set and update the school's vision, ethos, and strategic direction. Our role is to hold the Headteacher to account and ask questions about the progress of the pupils and business of the school. We ask questions of the Trust representative about the financial performance of the school and the Trust.

Our support comes from the Headteacher Mrs Low, Black Pear Trust, and our clerk to Governors, Mrs Hope. We are: Louvain Beer (Foundation Governor), Lynne Morgan, Kate Starling, Julie Greenwood (Foundation Governor), Helen Grainger, Mrs Ahmed-Khan, Paul Fearn, and Freda Griffith (Chair).

We meet half termly, at school, and have a planned approach to the year. Black Pear Trust supports us at every meeting sending a representative. We receive presentations from staff about work in school. The housekeeping of safeguarding checks, assessments of our skills, and declarations of interest take place in September with other routine business being set out through the year. In the summer we scrutinise the results of pupil assessments and ask questions about the School Development Plan.

We volunteer in school as often as we can. Louvain leads worship in her capacity as our connection to St Peter's church in Upper Arley. Julie is a regular volunteer who supports work with pupils in the classroom. Other Governors help when they can and visit to monitor specific areas linked to the school development plan.

As Governors we must focus on pupil numbers, including attendance and exclusions. We ask questions about curriculum planning and financial management, which is the responsibility of the Trust. Most importantly safeguarding and wellbeing of pupils and staff is monitored by Governors with the support of school policies and the law.

We are all passionate about Upper Arley C of E Primary School, everything is considered with care and the vision is applied to all aspects of what we do.

As a church school the focus is very much on the Christian Values and how this underpins what we do as Governors and how this is woven into school life from behaviour, curriculum, and management. We strongly support the school's ethos that there is a welcome for children of all faiths and none, the Christian values of the school are upheld by all religions and are sensible for everyone to live by. There is no indoctrination.

If you have any concerns, please approach the school via the class teacher in the first instance, all operational issues are the responsibility of the school.

We are all working for the school to be the very best for the pupils to thrive in and serving Upper Arley C of E Primary School is a privilege.

**Freda Griffith
Chair of Governors**



Free School Meals

If you require further information about free school meals, contact the school office:
office@upperarleycofeschool.org

Online Safety

Please see the leaflets below that will give you some advice for safe searching online and also the use of Whatsapp:

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about WHATSAPP

UK AND EUROPE
16+
13+ REST OF THE WORLD

WhatsApp is the world's most popular messaging service, with around two billion users exchanging texts, photos, videos and documents, as well as making voice and video calls. Its end-to-end encryption means messages can only be viewed by the sender and any recipients: not even WhatsApp can read them. Updates to its privacy policy in 2021 (involving sharing data with parent company Facebook) caused millions to leave the app, but the new policy was widely misinterpreted – it only related to WhatsApp's business features, not to personal messages.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

SCAMS
Fraudsters occasionally send WhatsApp messages pretending to offer prizes – encouraging the user to click on a link to win. Other common scams involve warning someone that their WhatsApp subscription has run out (aiming to dupe them into disclosing payment details) or impersonating a friend or relative and asking for money to be transferred to help with an emergency.

DISAPPEARING MESSAGES
Users can set WhatsApp messages to disappear in 24 hours, 7 days or 90 days by default. Photos and videos can also be instructed to disappear after the recipient has viewed them. These files can't be saved or forwarded – so if your child was sent an inappropriate message, it would be difficult to prove any wrongdoing. However, the receiver can take a screenshot and save that as evidence.

ENABLING FAKE NEWS
WhatsApp has unfortunately been linked to accelerating the spread of dangerous rumours. In India in 2018, some outbreaks of mob violence appear to have been sparked by false allegations being shared on the app. WhatsApp itself took steps to prevent its users circulating hazardous theories and speculation in the early weeks of the Covid-19 pandemic.

POTENTIAL CYBERBULLYING
Group chat and video calls are great for connecting with multiple people in WhatsApp, but there is always the potential for someone's feelings to be hurt by an unkind comment or joke. The 'only admins' feature gives the admin(s) of a group control over who can send messages. They can, for example, block people from posting in a chat, which could make a child feel excluded and upset.

CONTACT FROM STRANGERS
To start a WhatsApp chat, you only need the mobile number of the person you want to message (the other person also needs to have the app). WhatsApp can access the address book on someone's device and recognise which of their contacts also use the app. So if your child has ever given their phone number to someone they don't know, that person could use it to contact them via WhatsApp.

LOCATION SHARING
The 'live location' feature lets users share their current whereabouts, allowing friends to see their movements. WhatsApp describes it as a "simple and secure way to let people know where you are." It is a useful method for a young person to let loved ones know they're safe – but if they used it in a chat with people they don't know, they would be exposing their location to them, too.

Advice for Parents & Carers

[CLICK HERE](#)

CREATE A SAFE PROFILE

Even though someone would need a child's phone number to add them as a contact, it's also worth altering a young person's profile settings to restrict who can see their photo and status. The options are 'everyone', 'my contacts' and 'nobody' – choosing one of the latter two ensures that your child's profile is better protected.

EXPLAIN ABOUT BLOCKING

If your child receives spam or offensive messages, calls or files from a contact, they should block them using 'settings' in the chat. Communication from a blocked contact won't show up on their device and stays undelivered. Blocking someone does not remove them from your child's contact list – so they also need to be deleted from the address book.

REPORT POTENTIAL SCAMS

Young people shouldn't engage with any message that looks suspicious or too good to be true. When your child receives a message from an unknown number for the first time, they'll be given the option to report it as spam. If the sender claims to be a friend or relative, call that person on their usual number to verify it really is them, or if it's someone trying to trick your child.

LEAVE A GROUP

If your child is in a group chat that is making them feel uncomfortable, or has been added to a group that they don't want to be part of, they can use WhatsApp's group settings to leave. If someone exits a group, the admin can add them back in once; if they leave a second time, it is permanent.

THINK ABOUT LOCATION

If your child needs to use the 'live location' function to show you or one of their friends where they are, advise them to share their location only for as long as they need to. WhatsApp gives a range of 'live location' options, and your child should manually stop sharing their position as soon as it is no longer needed.

DELETE ACCIDENTAL MESSAGES

If your child posts a message they want to delete, WhatsApp allows the user seven minutes to erase a message. Tap and hold on the message, choose 'delete' and then 'delete for everyone.' However, it's important to remember that recipients may have seen (and taken a screenshot of) a message before it was deleted.

CHECK THE FACTS

You can now fact-check WhatsApp messages that have been forwarded at least five times, by double-tapping the magnifying glass icon to the right of the message. From there, your child can launch a Google search and decide for themselves whether the message was true or not.

Meet Our Expert

Parven Kaur is a social media expert and digital media consultant who is passionate about improving digital literacy for parents and children. She has extensive experience in the social media arena and is the founder of Kids N Clicks: a web resource that helps parents and children thrive in a digital world.

NOS National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday



safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. Please visit nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

Part of our Online Information Series



Brought to you by



www.nationalonlinesafety.com

What you need to know about...

SEARCH ENGINES



What is it? 'Search Engine'

A search engine is something that helps you find what you're looking for on the internet. By far the most used and well-known search engine is Google, which powers more than nine out of ten internet searches in the UK, according to Statcounter.com. Search engines can be used to find results such as websites, images and videos, which is where the dangers start to arise.



Know the Risks

Bypassing SafeSearch

Whilst Google has 'SafeSearch', which is designed to filter out explicit content, even by Google's own admission it's not 100% accurate. Inappropriate content can still make it through, even with seemingly innocuous search terms. SafeSearch is very easy to switch off and most teenagers will know how to bypass it.

Accessing blacklisted content

Search engines can be used to access content on sites that are blacklisted by parental control filters. Parental control services should, for example, blacklist the major pornography sites, but search engines might still display images from such sites in their results, without the user having to visit the site itself.

Niche search engines

Google isn't the only search engine out there - there are many niche search engines, some designed specifically to hunt out pornographic or violent content. These aren't always obviously named or blocked by parental control filters, making it difficult for parents to monitor.

Misleading information

Search engines merely reflect what's on the internet - they rarely filter out misleading or dangerous information. A child searching for solutions to a health problem, for example, might be directed to dangerous treatments.

Keep an Eye on...

Browsing habits

Google and other search engines often leave a trail behind them. For example, search terms entered into Google are normally autosaved in the browser. Similarly, a browser history will reveal which terms a child has been entering into search engines, unless they've been using a private browser mode. If there is no browser history for the time your child has been online, then you might ask why.

Accessing VPNs

Although not strictly search engine related, keep an eye out for VPNs being installed on a family/child's device. Although there are legitimate and innocent uses for VPNs, they can also be a sign that a child is attempting to hide their internet activity or access content that is blocked by parental filters.

SafeSearch settings

Check that Google's SafeSearch remains activated on family computer browsers. Click Settings in the bottom-right corner of the Google home page and SafeSearch filters should be the first option at the top of the screen. It may also be wise to implement protective measures on children's personal devices to ensure they don't stumble across something they shouldn't.

Safety tips

Understand the code

There are ways to force Google to always have SafeSearch on, even if a child knows how to switch it off. These require a little bit of tinkering with code on the computers in your household, but Google provide detailed, step-by-step instructions on how to set this up in their support pages.

Set controls

If your child has their own Android or Apple smartphone or tablet and you're worried they're accessing stuff on Google they shouldn't be, you can use Google's Family Link service to place controls on the child's device. As well as SafeSearch, other safeguards such as controls over YouTube, are allowed on Android devices.

Encourage open dialogue

No matter how many technical barriers you put in your child's way, there will come a time when they come across something inappropriate on a search engine so it's important to let them know they can come to you if they find something that upsets them online and not to feel that they will get into trouble for seeing it.

Promote critical thinking

Children place a lot of faith in 'facts' they've found online and often aren't savvy enough to question the sources of information. Explain to children that not everything they read online is true and guide them towards reputable sources of information. For instance, reinforce that they should seek your advice for issues such as medical problems and be wary of what they read online.

Our Expert Barry Collins



Barry Collins has been a technology journalist and editor for more than 20 years, working for titles such as The Sunday Times, Which?, PC Pro and Computeractive. He's appeared regularly as a technology pundit on television and radio, including on BBC Newsnight, Radio 5 Live and the ITV News at Ten. He has two children and has written regularly about internet safety issues over the years.





Search Kidslox to find: [A parent's guide to ChatGPT | Kidslox](#)

Upcoming Dates

Arley Arboretum trails for Falcons and Swifts dates coming soon

Citizen's Challenge (Falcons): Thursday 8th June

Redditch – Gotta Sing (Swifts): Tuesday 13th June

Bewdley High School Transition Day (Year Six): Wednesday 5th July

Sports Day: Wednesday 12th July

Year Six Trip: Tuesday 18th July

Multi-sports: Tuesdays: Swifts

Wednesdays: Falcons

Swimming: Tuesdays: Reception and Year 3

Forest School: Tuesdays – Falcons

Wednesdays - Swifts

Wednesdays – Owls

Gymnastics - Thursdays

Term Ends: Friday 21st July

Forest Friends – see Flyer below:

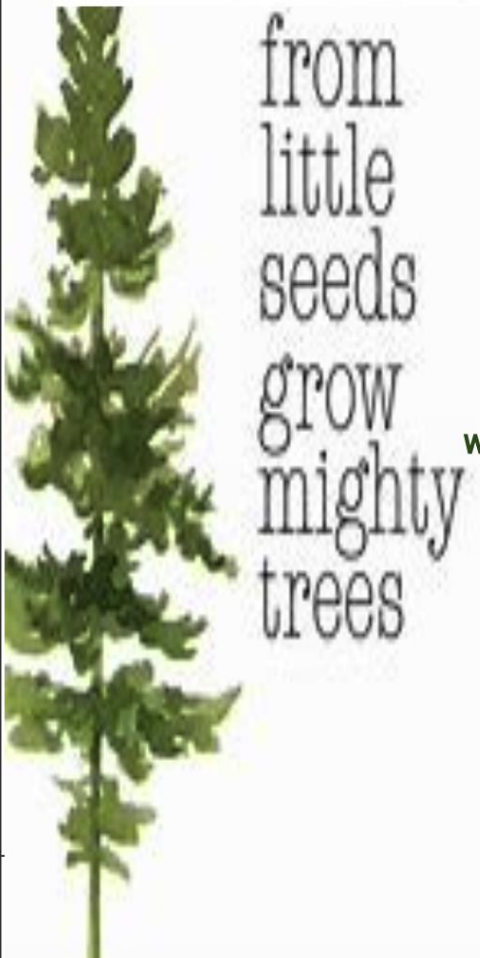


Forest Friends



Families come along and join us for fun in our forest school.

Activities including Leaf rubbing, Den making, Story times, Nature patterns, Mud mixing, Treasure hunt, Obstacle course, all in the wonderful surroundings of Upper Arley Primary School's Forest School site.
Arley Lane, Upper Arley DY12 1XA



Session dates and themes

Wednesday 7th June - The Three Little Pigs

Wednesday 14th June - The Little Red Hen

Wednesday 21st June - Jack and The Beanstalk

Wednesday 28th June - The Three Billy Goats Gruff

Wednesday 5th July - The Gingerbread Man

Wednesday 12th July - Little Red Riding Hood

Wednesday 19th July - Goldilocks and The Three Bears

From 10am to 11am

For children aged 5 and under.

Free Sessions

Includes refreshments for children and adults.



Please book with the office
01299 861260 or email:

office@upperarleycofeschool.org





Term Dates 2023-2024

Autumn Term 2023

Staff TED: Monday 4th September

Term begins: Tuesday 5th September

Staff TED: Friday 22nd September

Staff TED: Friday 27th October

Half term: Monday 30th October – Friday 3rd October

School re-opens: Monday 6th November

Term ends: Friday 22nd December

Spring Term 2024

Term begins: Monday 8th January

Staff TED: Friday 9th February

Half term: Monday 12th February – Friday 16th February

School re-opens: Monday 19th February

Term ends: Thursday 21st March

Staff TED: Friday 22nd March

Summer Term 2024

Term begins: Monday 8th April

Staff TED: Friday 24th May

Half term: Monday 27th May – Friday 31st May

School re-opens: Monday 3rd June

Term ends: Friday 19th July

Staff TED: Monday 22nd July

Bank Holidays: Good Friday Friday 29th March
Easter Monday Monday 1st April
May Day Monday 6th May
Whitsun (Spring) Monday 27th May

TED Days

Monday 4th September

Friday 22nd September

Friday 27th October

Friday 9th February

Friday 22nd March

Friday 24th May

Monday 22nd July

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