



NEWSLETTER – FEBRUARY 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been a very short half term and the children have been working hard on their Geography Topic of Around the World. Falcons have been finding out about Global biomes, Swifts have been learning about the Ring of Fire, South America, volcanoes and earthquakes, Robins have focused on Jamaica and Owls have been looking at African textiles.

Marian and Tony from Open the Book have visited and shared the story of The Creation from the book of Genesis, which made us all think about our wonderful world. We were also visited by an incredible creature – an axolotl – named Brian. The children were amazed and fascinated by its very rare abilities such as being able to regenerate itself.

Our school choir had the opportunity to join in with Young Voices, which was a very lively concert held at the Birmingham NEC. The children sang beautifully and were entertained by a multitude of talented musicians and singers.



Mr Harris, Mr Derrer and Mrs Wood accompanied our Year Six children on their residential visit to Llanrug, just before half term. The children had an amazing time, pushing boundaries and experiencing unforgettable activities. Year Six were an absolute credit to the school and we are really proud of their achievements.

We recently took part in highlighting the importance of Internet Safety, please talk to your children about how to keep safe on-line.

Please keep encouraging your children to read, read, read! Reading with your child at home is the most important way you can support them in their learning journey. Developing a love for reading not only has an incredible impact on a child's academic success, it also opens the doors to a never-ending world of pleasure!

We will be back with all of the latest class news in the next newsletter!

Kind regards

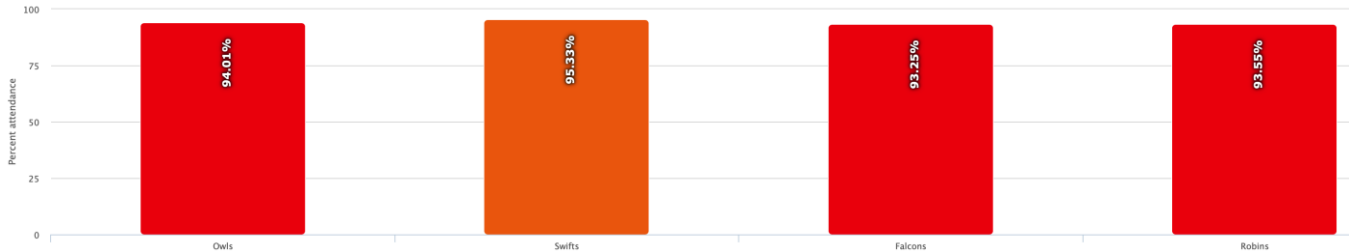
Louise Low

Mrs Louise Low
Headteacher





Attendance for the School Year



Owls
94.01%

Swifts
95.33%

Falcons
93.25%

Robins
93.55%

**The target this year is to ensure all children have at least 96% attendance.
Attendance for the academic year is 94.12%**

Thank you to all Parents and Carers for ensuring that their child/children 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**.

Our school vision:

Through our vision of ONE COMMUNITY, LEARNING AND GROWING TOGETHER SHARING GOD'S LOVE, we recognise everyone as a child of God. Through this learning, we encourage all to grow in their learning, so that everyone can achieve and flourish in all they do.

**"I can do all this through Christ because he gives me strength".
Philippians 4:13**



Step into Stories

'Step into Stories' with Bewdley Festival, is a one-day event, which is taking place on Saturday 13th April, and it aims to bring a host of fantastic authors, poets and storytellers to venues in our town, to celebrate all that is amazing about the world of children's stories. We have a wonderful line-up of award-winning authors, including MG Leonard who is taking over a special story telling carriage on one of the Severn Valley Railway steam trains from Kidderminster to Bewdley! See www.stepintostories.org.uk for our full line up for the day.



As you may already know, Bewdley Festival is a non-profit making, registered charity, which organises arts and cultural events each year which benefit our local community.

What else is happening on April 13th?

- There will also be a **free story trail** with the first 100 children to complete it getting a goodie bag.
- We would love to see everyone leave the festival with a book that is new to them, so we are organising **The Big Bewdley Book Swap**. Children can bring a good quality book to St George's Hall anytime from the 25th of March to the day of the festival at 11:30am and receive a book swap token. These can then be exchanged at our Bewdley Book Swap Shop on April 13th between 2pm - 4pm.

Why not come along and join in the fun!

Sports Events

On Friday 2nd February, our girls' football team played their quarter final match, against Abberley Primary at St George's C of E School, Kidderminster. We are pleased to report that the team won 2-4 and now progress to the semi-finals.

Other events this half term have included Panathlon, where the children had an opportunity to take part in a whole range of sports activities. Mr Derrer also hosted the first inter-school event for The Black Pear Trust in the local Memorial Hall in the middle of January. A number of schools joined us for Dodgeball and all of our KS2 children were able to participate. Our Team A won the competition - Well done to Upper Arley! All of the children had a fantastic time and showed great sportsmanship, as well as great enthusiasm for Dodgeball!

We are looking forward to the next events coming up in the next half term.

SENDCo



Sarah Carey

We are sorry to say goodbye to our SENDCo Marie Smith who has accepted a full-time position and has moved on to new pastures. She has been a key part of the school and has done an impeccable job in giving advice to parents and staff and in supporting our children. We wish her all the best in her future endeavours.

We would like to introduce you to our interim SENDCo, Sarah Carey, who has been working in The Black Pear Trust and has a wealth of knowledge and experience.

If you are at all worried about your child and their learning, please speak to their class teacher. No matter how big or small the issue, we are here to help.



Forest Friends

If you know anyone with young children from 0 – 5, let them know about our wonderful Forest Friends, which runs on the first Wednesday of every month. The next session will be Wednesday 6th March.

Contact Details

Please let us know if any of your contact details have changed so that we can maintain up-to-date records on our system.



School Ping

As you know, School Ping, is our communication platform at Upper Arley. If you are experiencing any difficulties with getting on to the App, please see Mrs Hope in the office, who will be happy to help. It is important that you receive all communications from school, so that you know what's coming up, if there are any changes or there are any key messages.

Solihull Approach – Understanding your child's feelings

It's important for anyone involved in a child's life to understand the importance of relationships and these relationships help to shape your child's emotional health and wellbeing. This short course offers parents, grandparents, carer a reflective space to think about your child's feelings and in turn how these relate to behaviour. Providing practical ideas, skills and techniques to better understand and nurture your child's feelings and behaviour.

Parents/ carers can take this short course to help you to connect with your child and provide the best support to nurture confidence, resilience and empathy, setting them up to thrive, the FREE '[Understanding your child's mental health and wellbeing](#)' course can help. This short course provides an introduction into understanding your child, their feelings and how to nurture their emotional development. Parents can access this course for FREE by visiting [In Our Place website](#) and using the access code PARENTSROCK.

Understanding your child's behaviour Workshop

Do you have a child aged 2-10 years?
FREE One-off sessions available to parents and carers


1 x 2-hour session on Microsoft Teams -Digital session
(Book for one of the workshops below)

Thursday 25th January (Morning) 2024 9:30-11:30am

Thursday 22nd February 2024 (Evening) 6:00-8:00pm

Tuesday 5th March 2024 (Lunchtime) 12:30-2:30pm

How to book: Simply scan the QR code which will link you to the bookings page, visit website <https://www.trybooking.com/uk/>
 Or call 01905 827391 to book your workshop.





Dates for your Diary

Forest School – Happy Hares, Owls and Robins is on Fridays
Forest School – Falcons and Swifts is on Wednesdays
Swimming – Mondays for Year 3 and 4
Random Acts of Kindness at UA- Tuesday 20th February
World Book Day – Thursday 7th March
(Dress up as your favourite book character)
Parents Evening - Tuesday 19th March 4 – 6pm
Parents Evening - Wednesday 20th March 3.30 – 5.30pm
World Poetry Day – Thursday 21st March
Easter Service – Thursday 21st March
(St Peter's Church – Easter bonnets and gardens welcome)

Term Dates 2023-2024

Spring Term 2024

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

Friday 9th February

Friday 22nd March

Friday 24th May

Monday 22nd July

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

