



NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been a very exciting time at Upper Arley, especially in the last few weeks before Christmas. Falcons visited Worcester Cathedral and learned all about King John, as well as the significance of Christianity symbols within the magnificent building. Robins deepened their understanding of 'The Great Fire of London' with their visit to Aston Hall. You can find out more in 'Class News' below.

We were thrilled by Happy Hares, Owls and Robins' rendition of 'Whoops-a-Daisy Angel' early on in December. Falcons and Swifts took part in a magical Carol service at St Peter's and the school choir sang beautifully at Arley Arboretum. They were rewarded with delicious shortbread, made locally in the kitchen tearoom.

We had some very special visitors last Friday when Mrs Regen brought in three Golden Mountain puppies and the children got to meet them. The puppies were so gentle and very friendly! We also met a bearded dragon this week and his name was Spike. Miss Davies also brought in her pet dachshunds – see George and Ozzy below and we also met Reggie's kitten: Bobby Sox.



The whole school had a wonderful time at the pantomime. The children thoroughly enjoyed the mayhem around Snow White and watching the rest of the characters as they sang, danced and entertained us right through to the fairy tale ending.

The Christmas Crafts afternoon was a fantastic way for our families to get together and prepare some beautiful items for our Fayre. The Fayre was a huge success and very well attended. Our thanks go to the PTFA for organising everything and for staff and children who helped along the way. A grand total of **£1450** has been raised this term.

One of the highlights of the term has to be our Trust Carol Concert at Worcester cathedral where all of our Trust schools, including the newest addition – Honeybourne came together to celebrate Christmas. The children looked so smart and sang beautifully. If you get a chance over the holiday, do go and see the Christmas trees and look out for our Black Pear Trust tree. Christmas dinner and parties rounded up the final events for the term.

On behalf of all the staff at Upper Arley, we wish all of our families a wonderful Christmas and Happy New Year. We look forward to seeing you all again on Monday 8th January.

Kind regards

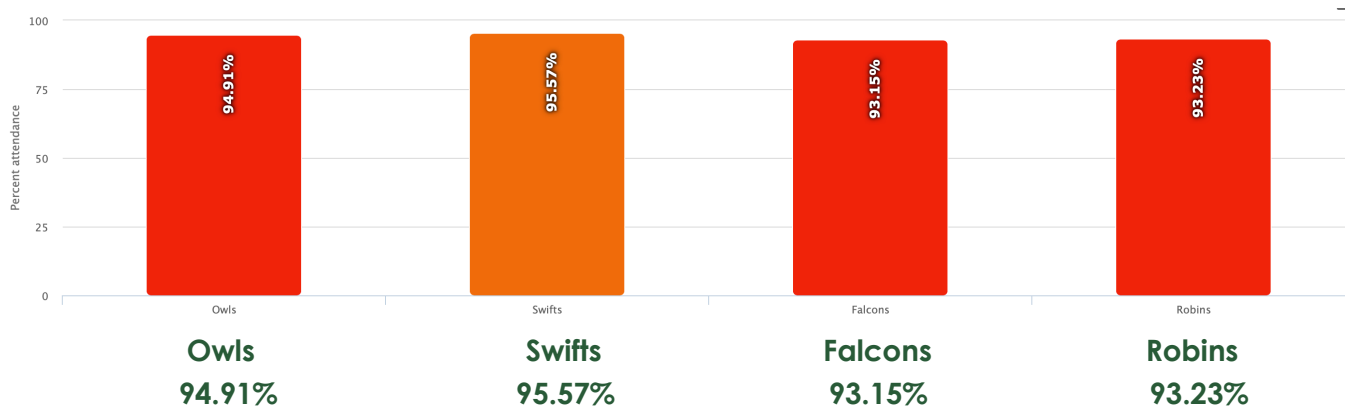
Louise Low

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 94.19%

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**



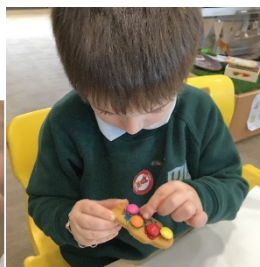
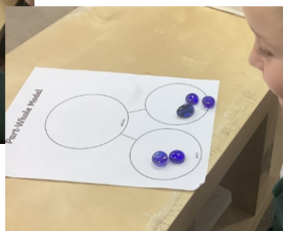
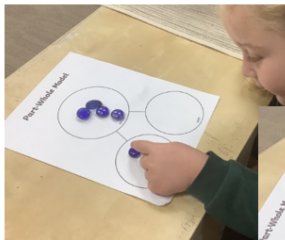
Happy Hares

This term in happy Hares we have been learning about Autumn colours, Light and Celebrate. We have been on walks around the field to spot signs of Autumn we watched the big tree on the playground change each week and took photos of the changes happening. We really enjoyed learning about light. We looked at how people celebrate Diwali, we made rangoli patterns, diva lamps and made our own mango lassi. The Children have had lots of fun making items for Christmas such as letters to Santa, Baubles, Cards, wrapping boxes and enjoyed making a stable in the construction area to create the Nativity scene.



Owls

Maths - We have been developing our understanding of numbers. We compared them, described them and found different ways to make them. We also used songs and calendars to help us to sequence events and find out how many days left until all the exciting experiences this term.



Talk for Write - We have enjoyed sharing and retelling some traditional tales. Owls had lots of fun exploring ginger smelling playdough. We designed bridges to help the gingerbread man escape safely then created a gingerbread man to gobble him up. Just like the fox in the story!
RE - We have been thinking about the Nativity story and how some Christians celebrate Christmas. The children used our construction resources to design, create and improve models of the stable to retell the story from the Holy Bible.

Topic - We have explored plants in our environment, planted lettuce seeds and shared how the signs of this season are changing as we draw closer to winter. We are fabulous artists and have created our own artwork inspired by Jackson Pollock. Owls enjoyed finding out about nocturnal animals and British woodlands especially learning about Owls!





Robins

In Robins this term we have been working on addition and subtraction. We have been using different methods to find the total of numbers using a variety of resources including base ten. In writing this term we have been writing all about the Great Fire of London, we have written a recount from our amazing trip to Aston Hall and have had a go at writing a newspaper report. To celebrate the time of advent we have been busy practising and performing our Nativity of 'Whoops-a-Daisy Angel', we were so pleased to have shared all our hard work with our families and friends by performing it in our village hall. In art this term we have been studying our artist Stephanie Peters, she is an artist that paints natural disasters and British wildlife! We have had so much fun creating our own Stephanie Peter's inspired artwork! We have had such a busy term and cannot wait for all our new learning after Christmas!



Swifts

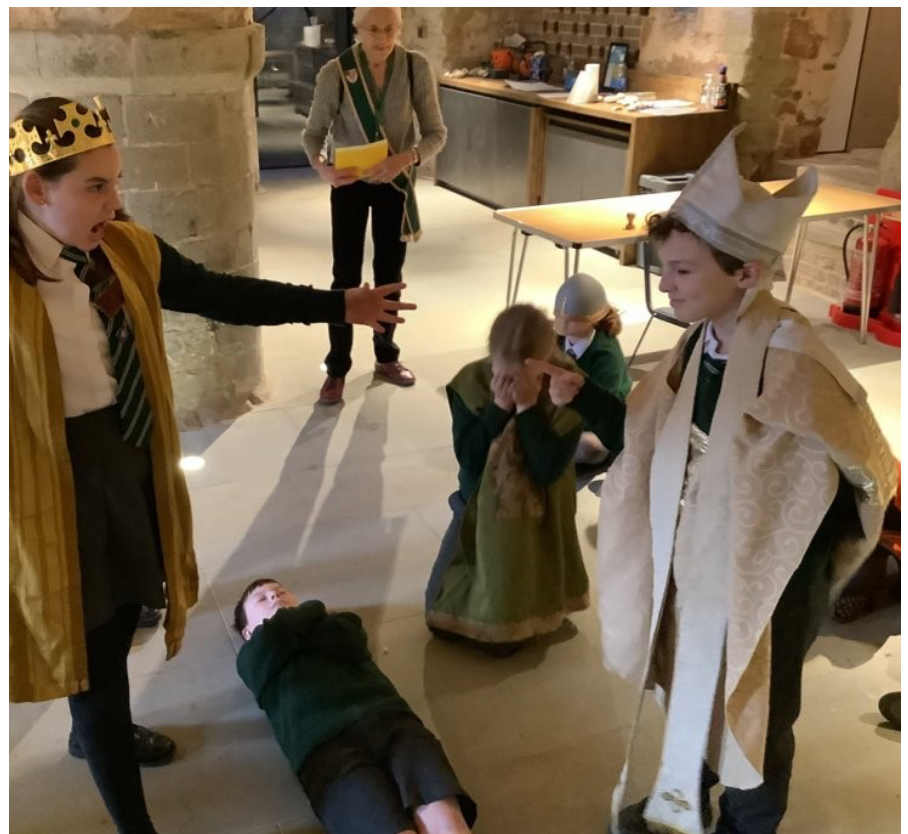
This term in Swifts we have had another busy term filled with wonderful learning. We have been exploring the Ancient Greeks through history and art, designing a Greek pot inspired by our learning. In science, year 3 and 4 completed their Rocks and Soils topic, learning all about the different properties of rocks and creating our own representations using sweets, rice and Modroc. This term, we have had a focus on French, learning how to describe our friends, and enjoying practising our French sounds. The children have been fabulous this term, and I look forward to another term after Christmas!



Falcons



To kick start this half term, we enjoyed a visit to Worcester Cathedral where we enjoyed a tour looking for Christianity symbols, discussing what each one represents and then drawing each one. To follow up, we loved creating a prayer stone by copying one of our symbols onto the large stone and we then all had a moment of reflection. During this trip, we took part in a King John workshop where we got to see King John's tomb and discussed what type of king he was through questioning and drama.



In French, we have been exploring different types of houses and learning the vocabulary for the different rooms you would find. We have been orally rehearsing our sentences and writing them down too. After practising the names of the rooms in French, we have been exploring vocabulary for some of the items we may find in our bedrooms.

In Music, we have been exploring Film music – the 'Jurassic Park' theme tune has been a favourite. We have been discussing how music can create different effects and the importance it has within films. We have been looking at a range of graphic scores for different pieces of music as well as creating our own. This is all building up towards us composing our own film music and performing this to an audience.

Sports Events

After a busy first half term, things turn a little quiet as schools build up to all the festivities at this time of year, however the two events we did take part in were a tremendous success. On Friday 10th November our Girls Cross Country teams took part in the annual competition against schools from across Wyre Forest. Our under 10 team were defending their title from last year, and they did not disappoint, winning again. A special mention goes to Lizzie who came in second, and Evie, 4th. Our under 11's came in 5th out of 11 schools. All the races had over



one 100 entrants, over a very gruelling and hilly course. Lizzie and Evie now go forward to represent Wyre Forest at the County competition.

On Thursday 30th November our girls' football team played their first ever match, in their nice new strips, against Holy Redeemer at Pershore High. On a bitterly cold day the team dictated proceedings and ran out 4-0 winners, With Lolly (2), Phoebe and Martha scoring. The team has now advanced to the quarter finals of the County Cup, which takes place on Thursday 18th January, another great achievement.

Swimming for year 6 was completed this week with their N.C. assessment. All children attempted to complete 25m of the pool, performed self-rescue and took a water safety quiz. The annual Santa Dash had to be delayed due to the weather, but eventually took place on Friday 22nd. A great time was had by all!!

Next term really starts to build up in earnest with Dodgeball, Football, Indoor Athletics and Panathlon amongst the main Events.



Our girls' Football Team



Our Under 10 and Under 11 Cross Country teams



Spotlight on our Christmas Activities





Bikeability

Bikeability training was well attended as usual this year, with the children in Swifts having the opportunity to further develop their cycling skills.



Santa Dash



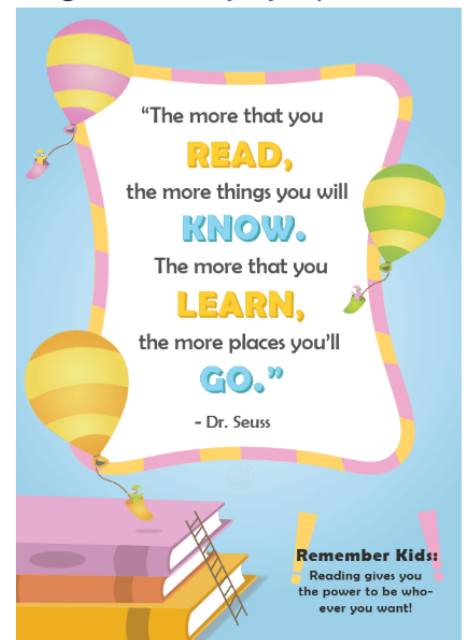


Reading

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 incredible impact on a child's academic success, it also opens the doors to a never-ending world of pleasure!

At school, our expectation is that all children read at least 5 times every week (but most will read more often!). As children become fluent readers, some of these reads may be independent; however, we encourage parents/carers to still take the time to share a book with them regularly. The opportunity to read aloud develops fluency and comprehension (and is an enjoyable time to spend together).

The home-school link books should have all reads recorded within and be in school every day. Children who are able to record their reads independently are encouraged to do so, but we ask that home-school link books are signed weekly by a parent/carer.



Supporting Readers at Home



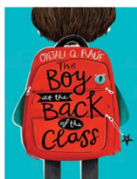
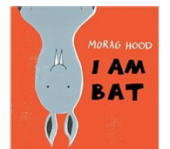
Open University research suggests there are three important ways to support readers and a love of reading.



Reading aloud to your children shows them reading is a pleasure, not a chore. Older children can read to younger ones too.



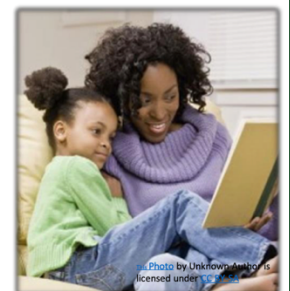
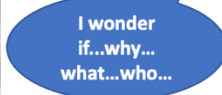
Making time to read alongside one another helps develop children's reading stamina and interest. Let them choose what to read and relax together.



Children who read, and are supported as readers, develop strong reading skills and do better at school.



Book Chats encourage readers. Invite them to make connections and share their views. Join in with your thoughts too!



For more ideas see the OU website:
www.ourfp.org



Reading Challenge

Here are some children from Falcons enjoying their hot chocolate treat for being fabulous at reading!



Memorial Hall Car Park

We would like to let you know that the Memorial Hall will be installing bollards and a chain over the Christmas period. Please park in the car park over the road, when dropping your child/children off.

Uniform

Please ensure that all uniform items are named. We have had a number of issues with uniform going missing and having a name in ensures that items are always returned to their owner.

Forest Friends

If you know anyone with young children from 0 – 5, let them know about our wonderful Forest Friends, which is currently running on the first Wednesday of every month. The next session will be Wednesday 10th January.

Forest Friends

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

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

from little seeds grow mighty trees

Session dates-
First Wednesday of each month, if the Wednesday falls in the school holidays it will be the Wednesday after. There will be reminders of the actual dates on our Facebook page.

Session times
From 10am to 11am
For children aged 5 and under.

Free Sessions
Includes refreshments for children and adults. Please book with the office 01299 861240 or email: office@upperarleycoteschool.org

Wyre Forest School Sport Partnership Wellbeing Newsletter



Wyre Forest School Sport Partnership Christmas Wellbeing Newsletter



As we approach the end of 2023, looking after our physical and mental health remains incredibly important and with a new year about to start is often a great time to reflect and reset. The information, tips and links you will find within this newsletter are to support the whole family (adults and children) to improve their overall wellbeing through opportunities that are linked to the '5 Ways to Wellbeing'.

Wyre Forest School Sport Partnership would like to wish schools and families across the district a very

Merry Fitmas & a Happy New Year!

Use this link to access the newsletter: <https://jumpshare.com/v/QFv18JaQG51uLNTMLXL5>



Dates and Curriculum Days

Forest School – Happy Hares, Owls and Robins is on Fridays

Forest School – Falcons and Swifts is on Wednesdays

Swimming – Mondays for Year 5

Tuesday 23rd January - Young Voices

Monday 5th February – Year 6 Residential to Llanrug

Term Dates 2023-2024

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

Friday 9th February

Friday 22nd March

Friday 24th May

Monday 22nd July

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

