



NEWSLETTER – OCTOBER 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

This half term has just flown by and the children have been extremely busy with their learning. Following our visible consistencies, they have exhibited excellent learning behaviours and been practising their learning superpowers. Our September topic **This is me** had a DT focus and gave the children the opportunity to explore food and recipes. My Time My Place has begun with a geographical focus and we will become historians after half term. Please see Parent Planners for more information.

We have loved having Louvain in on Wednesday mornings to share Bible stories and to hear her wonderful anecdotes. Open the Book have also brought the Bible alive, and the children love participating in the stories. We have focused on one of our values each week, this week has been **thankfulness**. We enjoyed the harvest service today: the children sang beautifully and entertained us with their wonderful performances.

Ann Mulders from HSBC has been in to support the children with their monetary knowledge. She also presented Upper Arley with the special Money Award for 2024, and we received another beautiful glass trophy. You can see a photo from our special assembly below.

Sports events have been high on the agenda at Upper Arley and Mr Derrer has more information about what the children have been up to later on in this newsletter.

Boom Reader is now up and running. Thank you to those who have made the move from recording reading in the paper record. If you have not had chance to download the App, please do so. Conversely if you are experiencing difficulties, get in touch and we shall try to help you get up and running.

Attendance has been very good since we started back in September. Some classes are regularly achieving 100% each week. Thank you for your support with this.

Thank you to the PTFA who have recently furnished us with some covered wooden units for our wellington boots. Miss Wildboar has put them all together and they will do a great job at keeping our boots dry, as well as neat and tidy.

We had a tremendous response to the non-uniform bring a bottle day. Thank you, as well, to all our families who attended our recent parents' evening. It is so important that we work together to support your child/children. If you haven't had a chance to meet with your child/children's teacher, please contact the office. Remember if you do have issues or concerns, however big or small, please get in touch.

I would like to wish you and your family a happy and relaxing half term break.

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 93.73%

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:

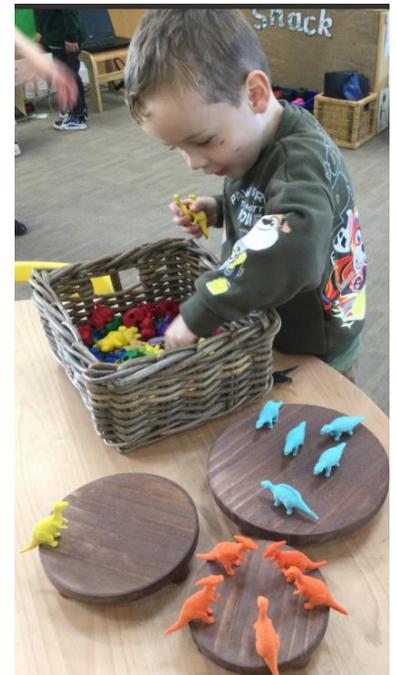
Through our vision of **ONE COMMUNITY, LEARNING AND GROWING TOGETHER SHARING GOD'S LOVE**, we recognise everyone as a child of God. Through this learning, we encourage all to grow in their learning, so that everyone can achieve and flourish in all they do.

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



Happy Hares

Happy Hares have had a wonderful start to the school year, they have been exploring their surroundings and getting to know new friends. The children have enjoyed sharing stories about their families and they were excited to share their family photos during circle times so thank you for sending them in. This really helps the children with their learning and retaining that sticky knowledge. The children have enjoyed joining Owls working on their mixing skills while making bread and muffins. I look forward to next term looking at Light, Autumn colours and celebrations.



Owls

RE

We have been thinking about what makes us feel we belong and how we might show we belong to different groups. The children discussed who was in their family, sports and recreation groups as well as any faith groups they belong to. We enjoyed thinking about the artefacts used in a Baptism and how ceremonies and celebrations help to make someone feel welcome in our groups.

Talk 4 Write

We love stories! Owls have been using lots of actions and expression to retell stories. We think it is very funny when the animals misbehave in 'The Squeaky Story' but we think the Little Red Hen should give her farm friends another chance to help her.

Maths

We have been developing our understanding of measures and patterns. We compared the size and length of items around the classroom and outdoors and created our own patterns using a range of resources. We have enjoyed baking cakes and bread using accurate counting



Creating a picnic counting to 3 items



Topic

We have loved learning about growing and changing. We chatted about ourselves and thought about milestones such as learning to walk before we started school. We had lots of fun exploring the leaves on our play area and in Forest School. We noticed which of our trees are beginning to shed their leaves and which are evergreen.



Robins

This term in Robins we have been busy in our learning!

We have been learning how to keep a pulse and rhythm in our music lessons. We have been singing songs and using percussion to support our pulse and rhythms. In Art we have been using clay to create tiles in the style of delft pottery. We have been using tools to sculpt and mould the clay to create patterns and texture. We have had lots of opportunities for sport this term including the multi sports festival and tag rugby events as well as our multi skills PE lessons each week, focusing on team building and being resilient Robbies! In geography we have been learning about where we live. We have learnt about the countries that make up the UK and the seas and oceans that surround us.





Swifts

This half term has been a wonderful start to a new school year, and we have been very busy! We began the term with our Design Technology unit where we designed a healthy soup that was suitable for a variety of people using seasonal vegetables. In art, we explored the work of Frida Kahlo, applying these learned techniques to our own self-portraits. We have then continued our learning into visiting our local community and practising our watercolour skills by painting the local landscape. The children thoroughly enjoyed the venture into the village, and we talked about our new knowledge of rivers as we looked at the (flooded!) River Severn. It has been a lovely first half term and I look forward to working with the children after half term.



Falcons

What a fantastic half term it has been! In English, we have really enjoyed writing our own suspense story using the video clip 'Alma.' We have been developing our setting and character descriptions, in order to write our own sequel and share our stories with our friends. Year 6 have loved swimming lessons this half term and we have all made excellent progress – Year 5 are really excited to begin their swimming after half term. As well as swimming, we have thoroughly enjoyed our weekly netball and hockey sessions – where we have been developing a range of skills and exploring characteristics of how to be a successful team player.

In Geography, we have been looking at different climate zones and their characteristics. Also, we have been learning about the main causes of flooding and the impact these have on our local area. To develop our understanding of flooding further, we looked at a range of photographs and newspaper articles and discussed how and why the flooding has affected specific areas and how these could be prevented in the future. Also, we used maps and 6 grid references to locate clues within our school grounds.



Art has been great fun this half term – we have explored the work of L.S Lowry and used his self-portraits to create our own in the style of his artwork. We used hatching, cross-hatching and blending techniques to create our fantastic final portraits. We have also enjoyed learning all about the circulatory system and even had the chance to investigate and observe a sheep's heart.



Sports Events

Autumn term is always a time for new faces to come to the fore. Sports Ambassadors, House Captains, Wellbeing Champions, Sports Crew places all need filling. All these posts are so crucial for a school as small as ours, and it is always a pleasure to see these children blossom as the year progresses. Badges, Certificates and letters (where applicable) have all been dished out and the final bit of training for the Sports Crew and Wellbeing Champions will be completed by mid-November.

The Sports Calendar kicks into gear in October and the first event saw us attend our KS1 Multisport Festival at Bewdley L.C. on Friday 4th October. The children from Robins class took part with five other schools in a circuit of around 12 games that included Football, Boccia, Athletics, Volleyball and Basketball...A lovely start to our year!





The next event on Tuesday 15th October saw us travel all the way down to Worcester to take part in a Tenpin Bowling Competition. Eight children from KS2 attended and took part in a 10 frame Competition, against 18 other schools from Worcestershire. There were some memorable strikes and spares from all our children, but a special mention must go to Jessie, who was one of only seven children (out of 123 that took part) to score over 100 for her 10 frames!



Finally for this half-term we attended the Years 3 & 4 Tag Rugby Festival at Kidderminster R.C. A squad of four Year 2s, three Year 3s and three Year 4s took part in a range of tagging, passing and small sided games. We then progressed in to a mini league of 3 schools (St Wulstan's, Burlish Park and Upper Arley) with each school playing each other twice in total. After a cautious start we soon got into our stride and won all of our games, with some outstanding passing, tagging and support play. A remarkable effort considering that our squad was of such a young age, compared to their opponents.

Year 6 have had their curriculum swimming lessons this half term and will be taking their assessments on Wednesday 23rd October. Year 4 and 5 will be swimming next half term. Next term we aim to defend our Year 6 Girls' Cross Country title, that we have won for the last two years, and all the KS2 children will take part in Netball and Hockey house competitions.





Pick a Pumpkin

The children thoroughly enjoyed finding their pumpkin in the pumpkin patch. A big thank you goes to the PTFA for organising all of the pumpkins and to the kind Pumpkin Lady for the donations.



Open Mornings

If you know of any families whose children are coming up to Nursery or Reception age, please let them know about our Open Mornings.



Reception and Nursery Open Days

Thursday 7th November 10:00am- 10:30am

Thursday 21st November 10:00am- 10:30am

Come and visit beautiful Upper Arley C of E Primary School. Looking for a smaller 'family feel' environment? Want a setting where relationships really matter? Look no further...we can't wait to meet you!

Outstanding in Personal Development and Behaviour and Attitudes



Contact our office for more information and to book your place
office@upperarelycofeschool.org



01299 861260

"The small school with a big heart"





Forest Friends



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



from
little
seeds
grow
mighty
trees

Session dates-

Friday 8th November
Friday 6th December
Friday 10th January
Friday 7th February
Friday 7th March
Friday 4th April
Friday 2nd May
Friday 6th June
Friday 4th July

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 861260 or email:



office@upperarleycofeschool.org





Men United
For Mental Wellness

UNITY 



Starting Well Wyre Forest
EVERY CONTACT SHAPES A LIFE

Men United, UNITY and the Starting Well Partnership are working together to provide a

Dad's Peer Support Group

Come along for a cuppa and to talk about your mental fitness.

Every Tuesday afternoon starting on
5th November 13:00 - 15:00

Brookside Family Hub, Borrington Road,
Kidderminster, DY10 3ED

For more information:
Telephone 07879 846630

Provided by:


Herefordshire and Worcestershire
Health and Care

In partnership with:



Delivered on behalf of
 **worcestershire**
county council



Internet Safety

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

YOUTUBE

Almost anyone with an internet connection knows YouTube. The Google-owned site lets anyone upload videos to be shared around the world, and as a result, it's an incredible resource with instant free access to material covering every conceivable topic. But with over 500 hours of video uploaded every minute, not all of it will be appropriate for young eyes.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

YouTube is free and can be accessed via numerous devices, even without creating a YouTube account. Some content is flagged as 'age-restricted' (requiring the user to be logged into an account with a verified age of 18), but children can still view some mildly inappropriate content. This can include profanity and violence, which some young users may find upsetting.

CONNECT WITH STRANGERS

YouTube recommends videos related to what the user has previously watched on their account, aiming to provide content that will interest them. This is intended to be helpful but it can also lead to binge-watching and screen addiction - especially if 'auto-play' is active. Users without an account are shown popular videos from the last 24 hours, which might not always be suitable for children.

RADICALISATION

YouTube's algorithm tends to promote content that's getting the most traffic - a lot of which can be quite extreme. This can be fine for harmless topics, but YouTube isn't regulated like television, and that means that conspiracy theories, fake news and hateful ideologies can occasionally surface to warp impressionable minds all too easily. Remember - the more they watch, the more they'll be recommended.

CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

YouTube is a social media platform which allows people to interact with other (usually unknown) users. Account holders can leave comments on any video they have access to, as well as message other users directly. Connecting with strangers online can potentially lead to children being exposed to adult language, cyberbullying and - in the worst cases - online predators. If a child is creating content themselves, this can increase the likelihood of them becoming a target.

TRENDS AND CHALLENGES

YouTube is teeming with trends and challenges, some of which are fun to watch and join in with. Children often find these immensely entertaining and might want to try them out. Most challenges tend to be safe, but many others may cause physical or emotional harm - children who watch or copy them. The painful 'salt and ice challenge' - where people use these two ingredients to burn their skin - is just one of many examples.

SNEAKY SCAMMERS

The comments sections of popular content creators regularly have scammers posing as that influencer, attempting to lure users into clicking on their phishing links. Scammers impersonate YouTubers by adopting their names and profile images, and often offer cash gifts or 'get rich quick' schemes. Children may not realise that these users aren't who they claim to be.

Advice for Parents & Educators

APPLY RESTRICTED MODE

For older children, Restricted Mode is an optional setting that prevents YouTube from showing inappropriate material (such as drug and alcohol abuse, graphic violence, and sexual content) to underage viewers. To prevent children from chancing across age-inappropriate content on the platform, we would recommend enabling Restricted Mode on each device that they use to access YouTube. It's worth also turning the auto-play feature off, to prevent YouTube's algorithm automatically recommending something inappropriate.



TRY GOOGLE FAMILY

Creating a Google Family account allows parents and carers to monitor what their child is watching, uploading, and sharing with other users. It will also display their recently watched videos, searches, and recommended videos. In general, a Google Family account gives a parent or carer oversight of how their child uses sites like YouTube and helps to ensure that they are only accessing appropriate content.

MONITOR ENGAGEMENT

YouTube is the online viewing platform of choice for billions of people, many of them under 18. Younger children will watch different content to older ones, of course. You may want to keep an eye on how children interact with this material - and, if applicable, with content creators - to understand what they're interested in. Remember that creators often share content outside of YouTube, so don't ignore their web presence elsewhere!

CONSIDER YOUTUBE KIDS

It's possible to sidestep most inappropriate content completely via Google's own YouTube Kids app for Android handsets and iPhone. This lets you filter content by "preschool" (4 and under), "younger" (ages 5 to 8) and "older" (ages 9 to 12). This isn't a perfect substitute for personal supervision, as the app's filtering system is automated, and Google can't manually review all videos.

CHECK PRIVACY SETTINGS

YouTube gives users the option of uploading videos as 'private' or 'unlisted' - so they could be shared exclusively with family and friends, for example. Comments on videos can also be disabled and channels that a child is subscribed to can be hidden. If the child is only uploading videos set as 'private', they are far less likely to receive direct messages from strangers.

LIMIT SPENDING

Although YouTube is free, it does offer some in-app purchases. For example, users can rent and buy TV shows and movies to watch. If you'd like to avoid children purchasing content online, limit their access to online payment methods. Many parents have discovered the hard way that a child happily consuming a paid-for series quickly leads to an unexpected bill!

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of Wired, TechRadar, Tom's Guide, The Evening Standard and The New Statesman.





Dates for your Diary

Forest School Swifts and Falcons – Tuesdays
Swimming Year Five and Four – Wednesdays
Forest School Robins, Owls and Happy Hares – Fridays
Please bring PE kits in at the start of the week

Friday 25th October - TED Day - school closed to children

Wednesday 6th November – Year 6 to Arley Arboretum

Thursday 7th November - Reception and Nursery Open Morning

Friday 8th November – Book fair arrives in school

Friday 8th November – Forest Friends - **10am to 11am.**

Monday 11th November – Anti Bullying Week

Wednesday 13th November – Wyre Forest Trail for Owls and Happy Hares

Thursday 14th November – School Photos

Friday 15th November – Children in Need Day – Wear your Spots

Friday 15th November – Swifts to The Shropshire Discovery Centre

Monday 18th November – Road safety Week

Wednesday 20th November - Falcons to Bishop's Wood

Thursday 21st November – Reception and Nursery Open Morning

Friday 29th November - Non-uniform Day - bring chocolate

Friday 6th December - Non-Uniform Day - bring another bottle!

Friday 6th December – Forest Friends - **10am to 11am.**

Friday 6th December - Christmas Crafts - Parents invited

Wednesday 11th December – Christmas performance 9am and 6pm

Friday 13th December – Christmas Fayre

Monday 16th December - Elfridges

Wednesday 18th December – Christmas Dinner

Thursday 19th December – Christmas service in Church

Thursday 19th December – Pantomime

Friday 20th December – Christmas Parties



Term Dates 2024-2025

AUTUMN 2024

TED Day - Monday 2nd September

TED Day - Tuesday 3rd September

Term begins – Wednesday 4th September

TED Day - Friday 27th September

Term ends – Thursday 24th October

TED Day - Friday 25th October

Half term - Monday 28th October – Friday 1st November

Term begins – Monday 4th November

Term ends - Friday 20th December

SPRING 2025

Term begins - Monday 6th January

Term ends – Thursday 13th February

TED Day - Friday 14th February

Half Term - Monday 17th February – Friday 21st February

Term begins – Monday 24th February

Term ends - Thursday 10th April

TED Day - Friday 11th April

SUMMER 2025

Term begins - Monday 28th April

Term ends – Thursday 22nd May

TED Day - Friday 23rd May

Half term – Monday 26th May – Friday 30th May

Term begins – Monday 2nd June

Term ends - Friday 18th July

TED Day - Monday 21st July

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

