

Spring One 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a great half term focusing on Geography with our 'Around the World' theme and we will be moving into our History focus after half term. There has been some amazing Art being created too – what wonderful artists we have at Upper Arley!



Year Six have been enjoying a new programme for maths which is completed on their very own Chromebook! It's called **Magma Maths**. Grayson and Roseann say, "It has lots of different tools to help us, Lava gives us hints and it's fun!" It is used extensively in Sweden and we are trialling it across our schools in the Black Pear Trust.



Ann Mulders from **HSBC** came and visited us again, sharing important messages about money. We also had a visit from our local constabulary who spent some time with Owls and Happy Hares.



Upper Arley competed in the **Panathlon** competition today and came fourth. Everyone was very proud of their shiny new medals! Well done to our competitors from KS2.

Our **9 days Attendance Streak** was a huge success! Well done to all those children who completed their streak and for their fantastic effort. See the best attending class in our 'Attendance' section.

We are looking forward to celebrating **World Book Day** on Thursday 5th March. We are inviting the children to dress up as their favourite book character on that day. World book day tokens are coming home today. Please keep up with your child's reading over the half term break – there are lots of rewards with our reading challenges!

We are pleased to announce that Upper Arley is excited to begin our **OPAL** (Outdoor Play and Learning) journey, which has the potential to bring significant benefits to children's play experiences. Ruth, our mentor, visited us today and she was really impressed with our site and the children's play behaviours. She also commented on the caring attitudes of children and the family feel. As the project develops, we hope to see our children enjoying richer, more imaginative play, increased physical activity, and greater independence. OPAL also aims to support children's wellbeing by encouraging creativity, resilience, and positive social interaction. We look forward to seeing how this approach can transform our outdoor spaces and enhance play for every child. We will share further details as the project unfolds as we will need help with resources.



Kind regards

Louise Low

Headteacher



Attendance Matters

Spring Half Term 1

The target this year is to ensure all children have at least 96% attendance.

Attendance for the month of January was 95.6%. This is broadly in line with National, so well done all!

Well done to Swifts again for the best attendance for the Spring 1 Half Term with 97.2%!

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 really too poorly to come to school. If this is the case, please ring the school office by **9.15am on [01299 861260](tel:01299 861260)** or email, if you prefer. Phones are manned from 8.30am but an answerphone service is available before this time. It is important that you inform school if your child is unwell. If you are unsure whether to keep your child off school or not, please see the visual across:

Streak week was a success. Well done to all of the children who achieved 100% attendance for the 9 days. Keep a look out for the next streak week!



Attendance percentage

Nursery	95.9%
Reception	92.9%
Year 5 and 6	96.0%
Years 1 and 2	93.0%
Years 3 and 4	97.2%
National	94.9%
Local Authority	95.1%

UK Health Security Agency

NHS

Should I keep my child off school?

Yes

	Until...
Chickpox	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	48 hours after their last episode
Cold and Flu-like illness (including COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
Measles	4 days after the rash first appeared
Mumps	5 days after the swelling started
Scarlet fever	they've had their first treatment
Scarlet fever	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
Whooping Cough	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics

No
but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

Hand, foot and mouth	Glandular fever
Head lice	Scarlet fever
Threadworms	Staged cheek

SCAN ME

Advice and guidance
To find out more, search for health protection in schools or scan the QR code or visit <https://qrco.de/minfoc>

Class News

Happy Hares



The children have been learning all about where they live. We have talked about different types of homes, such as houses, flats, and caravans and learned that everyone's home can look a little different. We have explored the features of a home, including windows and doors, and the children enjoyed pointing these out in pictures and in their own photos. We also learned the name of our town, or village, helping the children to begin to understand their place in the world.

Our weather topic has been lots of fun! The children learned that the weather changes from day to day and how this affects what we wear. We talked about different types of weather, including cold, rain, sunshine, and wind. The children enjoyed matching the correct clothing to the weather, such as coats, scarves, hats, gloves, and mittens for cold days, and sun hats, sun cream, and shorts for sunny weather.

We've also been learning about the people who help us. At school, the children learned about the important roles of the teacher, teaching assistant, cleaner, head teacher, and secretary. We talked about people who help keep us healthy and safe, including doctors, nurses, police officers, and the fire brigade, and what their jobs involve. We also explored other jobs in the community such as postmen, shop assistants, hairdressers, and dentists.



Owls



Trying fruit from Handa's surprise



Obstacle course



Africa

🧠 Phonics and Early Writing

The children have continued to learn all their Set 1 sounds and are becoming much more confident in using these to blend and read simple words. We have also been practising writing short words and simple sentences, celebrating each child's growing independence and confidence.

🤝 Teamwork and Collaboration

This term we placed a strong focus on building teamwork skills. The children took part in lots of team-building challenges, including working together to design and build their very own obstacle courses. It was fantastic to see their communication, problem-solving, and cooperation developing through play.

🌍 Topic: Africa

Our topic work has taken us on a journey to Africa! The children have been learning where Africa is in the world and exploring what makes it a unique and special continent. They have shown great curiosity as we've looked at animals, landscapes, and cultures from across Africa.

🎵 Music

In music, we have been exploring **tempo** and **beat**. The children have enjoyed listening to a range of music and clapping along to different rhythms. They've really impressed us with their listening skills and enthusiasm during these sessions.

Robins

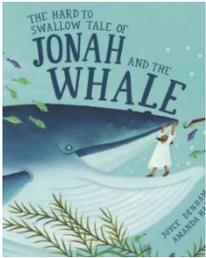
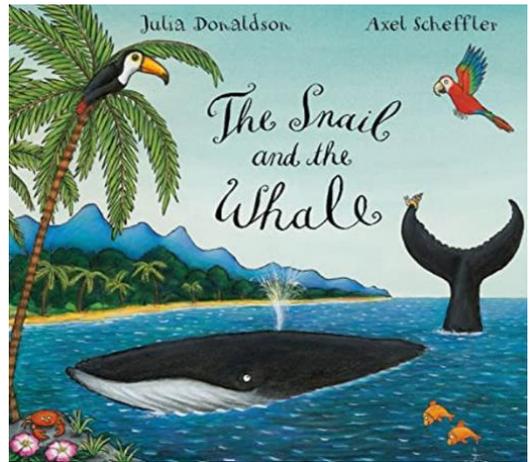
We have had another half term of exciting learning and super work!



In geography, we have been learning all about Jamaica and have been using vocabulary such as equator and the continents to describe where it is in the world. We have also explored the climate of Jamaica and how the weather is different to the UK! To link to this, the children have been learning about Jamaican prints in art, and we are working towards designing our own repeated pattern based on

traditional patterns of Brazil. The children have loved working with different materials to print and see how they can create a different effect each time.

In science, we have continued our learning about animals and humans, focusing more on the way humans grow, collecting data on foot size and learning about what animals need to survive. The children have loved learning about animals and enjoyed designing habitats for them to live in.



In RE, the children have learned about Jesus's parables, and how Christians believe that these are used to teach lessons. The children have learned all about Jonah and the whale, and the prodigal son and have thought about how these stories tell important messages.

In writing, we have been building up lots of skills to write a narrative based on the Snail and the Whale, and the children have loved retelling and describing this story. We are looking forward to writing a newspaper article about it next half term.

Swifts

We've had a busy and exciting half term in Swifts, filled with curiosity, creativity, and lots of learning. The children have approached new topics with enthusiasm and have worked hard across the curriculum. They have shown great teamwork, focus, and a real love for learning. Here's a snapshot of some of our half-term highlights:

In Science, we have been learning about *living things and their habitats*. The children explored different types of habitats and learned how animals and plants are suited to the environments they live in. They enjoyed sorting living things, discussing food chains, and thinking carefully about how we can look after habitats in the world around us.

In Geography, we have been studying *volcanoes and mountains*. The children learned how volcanoes are formed, where they are found around the world, and what happens during an eruption. They also explored how mountains are created and compared different mountain ranges. There was lots of fantastic discussion and curiosity shown during this topic.

In Art, we have been focusing on *collage*. The children have been experimenting with a range of materials, textures, and techniques to plan and begin creating layered artwork. They have shown great creativity and care when selecting and arranging materials, and we look forward to seeing their pieces develop and be completed next half term.



🌍 Geography – Biomes, Vegetation Belts & Climate Awareness

In Geography, we've continued our unit on **biomes and vegetation belts**, developing a deeper understanding of the world's major ecosystems.

The children explored:

- Different biomes such as rainforests, deserts, tundra, grasslands, and oceans
- How vegetation changes in response to climate
- The impact of **global warming and climate change** on these environments

Falcons showed real curiosity and maturity as they discussed the causes and consequences of climate change, and how humans can make positive changes.

🏦 HSBC Workshop – Budgeting for a Holiday

We were fortunate to take part in a special **HSBC financial education workshop** this half term. The children learned:

- How to create and manage a budget
- How to prioritise spending for a holiday
- The fascinating differences between **currencies** around the world
- Why financial planning is an important life skill

The workshop was hands-on, engaging, and hugely beneficial — a great introduction to real-world numeracy.

✍️ Writing – Narrative Inspired by *The Lighthouse*

In English, the children have loved working with the short film *The Lighthouse*. Using the film as inspiration, they planned and wrote their own narratives, focusing on:

- Using a **wide range of punctuation** for clarity and effect
- Applying **figurative language** (similes, metaphors, personification) to build atmosphere
- Writing with a clear impact in mind for the audience

The resulting narratives were creative, dramatic, and full of rich language — a real credit to the progress the children are making as writers.



£7 per activity

Bewdley Museum

Children's February Half Term Activities 2026

Monday 16 February – Friday 20 February
10.30am – 2.30pm

Monday 16 February
Chinese New Year Glass Tealights

Tuesday 17 February
Chinese New Year Money Box

Wednesday 18 February
Spring Rattan Wreaths

Thursday 19 February
Recycled Glass Suncatchers

Friday 20 February
Pick 'n' Mix Spring Crafts

Walk in activities cannot be booked online. Limited stock available.
An alternative craft will be provided if the session sells out.
All children must be supervised by a parent or carer at all times.

0845 607 7819  Bewdley Museum
www.bewdleymuseum.co.uk



APPLICATIONS ARE NOW OPEN FOR **JUNIOR BAKE OFF**

Aged between 9-15 and love to bake?
We'd love to hear from you!

WWW.APPLYFORJUNIORBAKEOFF.CO.UK



APPLICATIONS CLOSE 15TH MARCH 2026



Do you have
a child
who
doesn't
sleep?

Speak to trained
sleep advisors

**03303
530 541**

thesleepcharity.org.uk



Dates for next half term

Monday 23rd February – Return to school

Forest School – Owls/Robins and Happy Hares – Fridays

Falcons and Swifts – Wednesdays

Swimming – Year One and Year Six – starts Wednesday 25th February

Thursday 6th March – World Book Day

Term Dates

SPRING HALF TERM	Thursday 12 th February	Friday 13 th February	Monday 23 rd February
EASTER	Friday 27 th March		Monday 13 th April
SUMMER HALF TERM	Thursday 21 st May	Friday 22 nd May	Monday 1 st June
END OF SUMMER TERM	Friday 17 th July	Monday 20 th July	

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

