



19th April 2024



Upton upon Severn CofE Primary, Nursery and Riverboats SureStart Children's Centre, working together to support the local community



Our School Vision is to offer inspiration to young lives 'Anything is possible, we can all succeed'

Providing enriching experiences to foster aspiration 'To inspire ... To aspire'

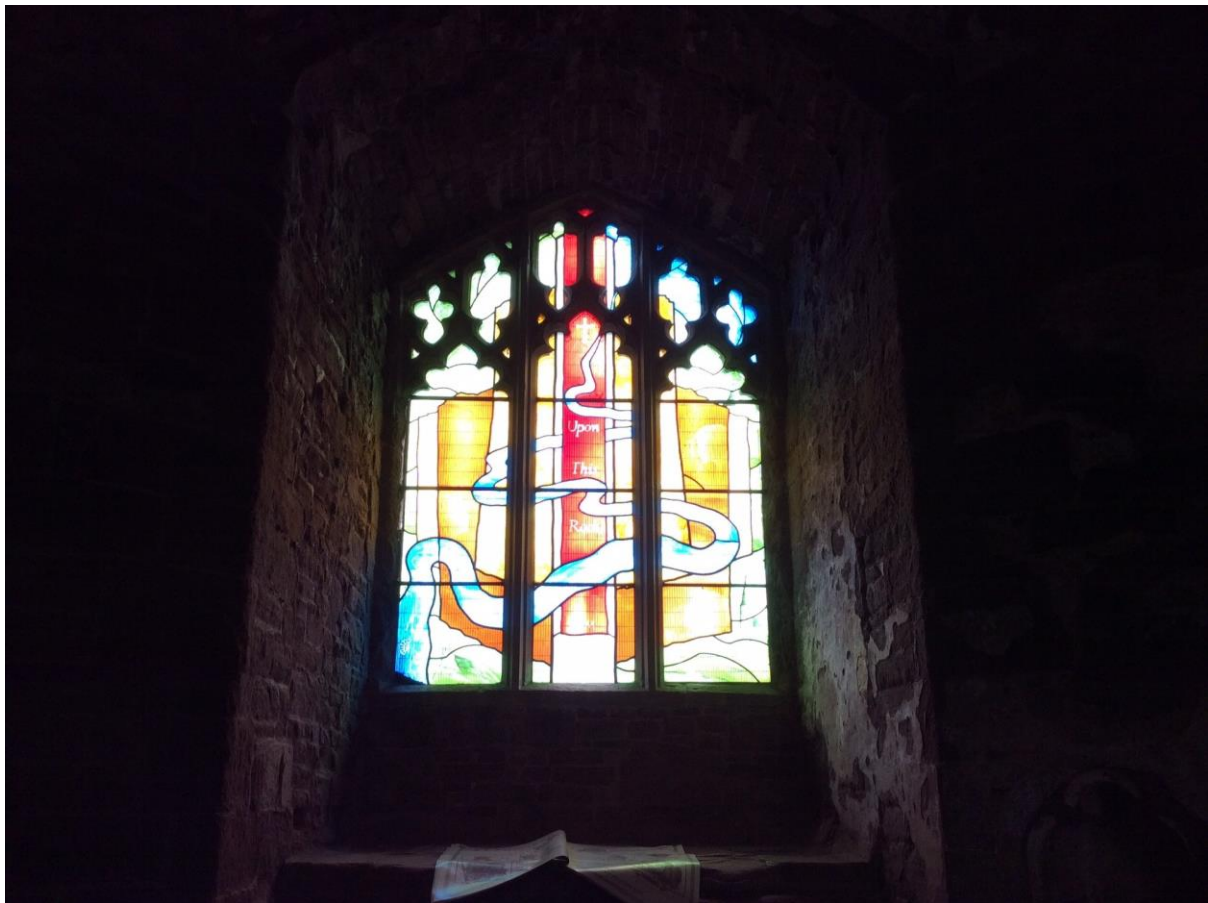
I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me (Philippians 4:13)

Bible Quote

Thessalonians 5:11

"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing."

Year 2 visit to Goodrich Castle



This week the children in year 2 enjoyed a most valuable trip to Goodrich castle. It stands in the beautiful countryside set above the River Wye and is one of the finest and best preserved of all the English medieval castles. The trip was set to support the children's learning through the history curriculum focusing on Medieval life in a castle. The children were greeted by Mistress Nell who transformed them into pages and marched them up to the castle. We explored the moat, the castle defences including 2 drawbridges and 2 portcullis and challenged the children's knowledge of the different parts of the castle as they had learnt in their history lessons. They impressed Mistress Nell with their inquisitive questions and their excellent attention as she showed them the kitchen, the medieval toilet (yuck!) and the Great Hall where we all engaged in a 'feast' and some wonderful Medieval dancing. After a brief pit stop for lunch, the children headed back to the castle and ventured into the dungeons and up to the top of the keep. Some very brave children (and adults) navigated the narrow, spiral staircase to the top to appreciate the beautiful views! It was a wonderful day and a brilliant way to consolidate our learning about castles and Medieval life.

Here are some of the facts the children learnt about Goodrich Castle:

"In the kitchen at the castle- there was an oven for bread"

"They poured sand down holes in the gatehouse to stop the enemies"

"When you are 7 you are a page until 14 and then you become a squire and then at 21 you were a knight"

"The bread oven burnt the bottom so that was for the peasants and the upper crust was for the Lord and Lady"

"They had about 80 horses that lived in the moat (not water!)"

"The castle was destroyed by the canon "Roaring Meg" in the English Civil War"

There is a well in the middle of the castle which is 17m deep"







Happy Birthday Alice 104 date of birth 16/4/1920



We recently had an email from the Barchester Elgar Court care home based in Malvern explaining that one of their residents, Alice was about to turn 104 on Tuesday 16th April. The email explained:

'At Elgar Court, our wonderful care home in Malvern, takes pride in providing the highest standards of life enrichment and bespoke care for each resident. We would like to ask a little favour from all the local schools in Malvern please.....Our resident Alice (pictured here), is turning **104 years next Tuesday** and it would be wonderful if the children in your early years setting and school could send Alice a birthday card. Alice is a whizz at scrabble, Queen of quizzes and a wonderful watercolour painter!'

As our school is one of the Malvern area schools we were delighted to take up this request. Our children made cards for Alice based on the things she enjoys doing. I then took the cards over to her with a bouquet of flowers with a large blue ribbon attached. I arrived at the right time, just before

Happy Birthday was sung to Alice. I have never attended a birthday celebration of anyone of 104 and so this was a most unique and moving occasion. Alice was so delighted with the cards from our children she would like to visit our school and meet with us. We are hoping this will be planned for next week and I will share with you news following her visit.

Sport opportunity at Upton



We have recently had a visit from Worcestershire county cricket club. The children all enjoyed the visit from Sam who has given them inspiration towards developing further their cricket skills, playing cricket and some of the games during morning and lunchtime break times.

Miss Lacon has been in touch with our local cricket club at Hanley Castle and there are some great opportunities for both children and adults. Below are the details and for further information please contact:

Mike Bradbeer

HC&UCC Junior Coordinator

mikebradbeer@gmail.com

07768 977165

There is also the [All Stars Programme](#) ages 5-8. Starting Friday May 10th. This is in partnership with the Worcestershire Cricket Foundation. Here is the link for the sign up details.

<https://ecb.clubspark.uk/AllStars/Course/5c63af23-aac0-4285-8531-8f02ae04572d>

Further development opportunities are listed below:

FRIDAYS

6-7pm. **Girls Softball Cricket** - 8-14 ages.

Indoor at Dysons. Outdoor from April 12th.

Lead by Erin Bradbeer.

6-7pm. **Junior Cricket** - 8-12 ages.

Indoor at HCHS Sport Hall. Outdoor from April 12th.

4 coaches.

7-8pm. **Youth Cricket** - 12-15 ages.

Indoor at HCHS. Outdoor from April 12th.

4 coaches.

All the above are similar to what is known as "Dynamos"

[All Stars Programme at Hanley Castle & Upton CC, Fri 10 May - Fri 28 Jun 2024.](#)

Book a place for your child on an exciting, action-filled All Stars Programme cricket course at Hanley Castle & Upton CC

ecb.clubspark.uk

7-8pm. **Women's Softball Cricket.**

Indoor Dysons. Outdoor from April 12th.

Lead Coach Grant Matthews. Captain Erin Bradbeer.

Also there are 3 teams in the Worcestershire Leagues. U11s, U13s, U14s and play mid week evening matches across the county.

NEW this year is [Walking Cricket](#). We've partnered with Worcestershire Cricket Foundation and Freedom Leisure to become a new Hub for the county - starting Sunday April 7th 10-11am, indoor at Hill Centre, Upton, before we move outdoors at The Glebe from Sunday May 12th 10-11am.

As for Senior players, we have practice nets on Tuesday evenings at the Glebe - and run 2 teams on a Saturday in the Worcestershire League.

All of the coaches are ECB Qualified and hold a current DBS check.

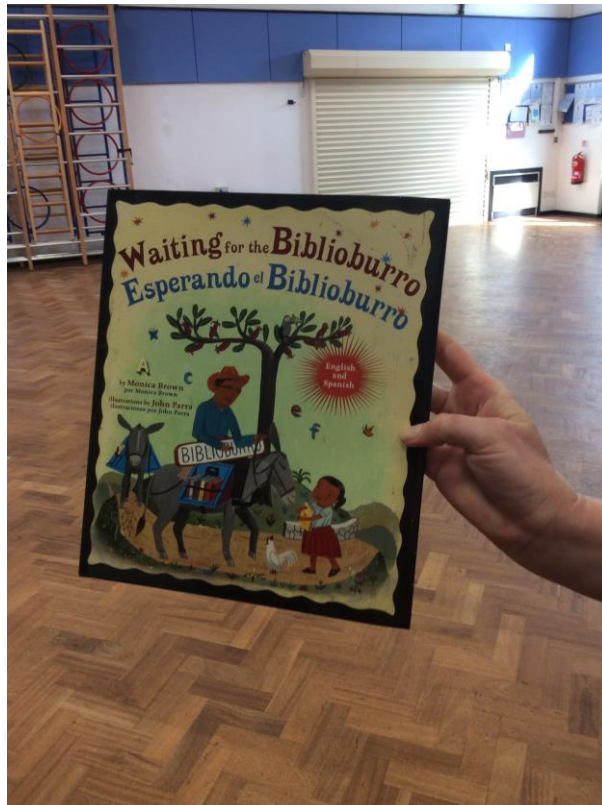
If any parents/children would like to pop along on a Friday to see, or to have a taster session - they would be happy to see you!

What a great sporting opportunity we have in our community we are extremely fortunate to have such a wide range on offer.

Author Visit



On Tuesday, Sue Peasgood came to visit from the library to read us a story and tell us where we can borrow books for free. She also donated a copy of the story she read to our school. Sue has worked in education for many years before becoming part of the library and she really enjoyed being back into the school environment and working with the reception and year 1 children. The children were responsive and enjoyed listening to the story which was told in an interactive way and captured their attention. Sue commented to me how much she had enjoyed the visit and how our children's attention to the story was excellent. The library is such a fantastic resource and we are lucky to be so close to it. We would encourage you to visit it with your children and also for yourselves as they have a marvellous array of books for you to browse through.





Family Learning opportunity

The Family learning team work hard to provide parents/carers with support in raising a family and some of the challenges this may bring. They have shared with us some good news this week and also sent details about further courses. Please see the information below:

Our 'Marvellous Me' Family Learning course has been **shortlisted for the 2024 Award for Family Learning to support Health and Wellbeing** by 'Campaign for Learning' which is a huge achievement as we are very proud to be able to support parents/carers and pupils in schools across Worcestershire with their mental health. The winner is announced on 24th April so we have our fingers and toes crossed.

Secondly, having delivered some very successful online courses, family learning have listed some **more free online courses starting in May**. These can be booked directly by clicking in the links but if anyone is struggling please come into the school office and we can help to book them for you. If you are unsure which option to choose when booking on, choose "referred" – there is no payment taken from any family.

Maths in School for Parents and Carers online via TEAMS (learning what their child is taught in Key stage 1 and 2 for Maths)

Starting on 13th May 9.30-11.30am for 7 weeks

[Maths in School Online Booking](#)

Marvellous Me online via TEAMS (supporting their health and wellbeing through activities online as a group)

Starting on 15th May 12.30 – 2.30pm for 6 weeks

[Marvellous Me Online Booking](#)

English in school for Parents and Carers online via TEAMS (learning what their child is taught in Key stage 1 and 2 for English)

Starting on Monday 13th May 12.30 – 2.30pm for 6 weeks

[English in School Online Booking](#)

Focus on Reading



Please find attached a link to lots of lovely new books recommended by the Book Trust this month. In addition there is a great video from Michael Morpurgo, the Children's Laureate, talking all about reading for pleasure, bedtime reading and the research showing the importance of reading being a regular part of children's lives. At Upton we are trying to encourage children to read more frequently and for pleasure. Some of our incentives include asking children to Drop Everything And Read within the classroom or playground and spending time recommending books to their friends.

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/our-recommendations/best-new-books>

Online protection for your children

There is now updated NSPCC Online Safety Workshop information. The Keeping Children Safe workshop is now online and provides parents and carers with information about how to support your child in their online world. The 40-minute pre-recorded presentation covers topics such as online bullying, mental health, and social media, as well as signposting to resources and organisations for help and support. We hope that you find it useful.

[Free online safety virtual workshop | NSPCC](#)

OfstedThe Big Listen

Ofsted has launched a significant wave of research to ensure that they are able to address the issues following the recent enquiry into how they operate. This is called the Big Listen and parents and carers will be given the opportunity to respond to the surveys they send out. Below is the information that we have been sent to provide us with some

The [Big Listen](#), which is running for 3 months, is a wide-reaching and comprehensive effort to hear from the full range of professionals and providers we work with, as well as the parents, carers, children and learners we work for.

Across our work, we want to explore 4 areas:

- **reporting** – how we report on our education and regulatory inspections
- **inspection practice** – the shape of our education and regulatory inspections, our ways of working and the craft of inspecting
- **culture and purpose** – the conduct of our inspections and the way we work
- **impact** – the consequences of our inspections for children, professionals, institutions and parents' choices

Our ambition is to be a modern, world-class inspectorate and regulator. We want to be trusted by the parents, carers, children and learners we work for, and the professionals we work with.

We know we have work to do to achieve our ambition. The Big Listen will help us identify that work.

How you can help

As part of the [Big Listen](#), we have commissioned independent suppliers to carry out research on our behalf.

- [IFF Research](#) will be carrying out research activities with leaders and other professionals in each of the sectors that Ofsted inspects and regulates
- [NatCen](#) will be carrying out research activities with parents and carers

Key Dates

Monday 24th April	Year 3 /4 Tag Rugby
Tuesday 16th April	Riverboats Toddle Group
Thursday 18th April	Year 1, 2, 3 Martial Arts workshop
Monday 13th May	Y6 SATS Week
Monday 20th May	Year 6 Residential
Friday 17th May	Year 6 Rugby Tournament
Wednesday 10th July	Year 5 Athletics day at Hanley

Team Points

Working as part of a team is very important to us at school and the way we set the team points demonstrates this aspect well. This week's team points have been collated. Well done everybody for contributing to the grand total. You have all been working hard to show our school values.



Rags to Riches



1 - The Rags to Riches collection will be held on May 8th so if you are having a spring clear out please remember to store your things until this date. Thank you.



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Colwall

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