

9th February 2024

Upton Primary Newsletter

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

[Matthew 7:12](#) - So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.

Wear it Red for the Midlands Air Ambulance



On Friday of this week, our school, together with other local schools, united together in wearing red to raise vital funds for the Midlands Air Ambulance. The children were all very excited when they came in and we quickly filled up our bucket with donations. We had a coppers for choppers picture drawn on a large sheet and set in the meeting room. Throughout the morning the children really enjoyed filling this in and covering every part of the paper. You can see how well they have done the picture looks amazing filled with all the money. The total raised for this was £82.96. The non-uniform donations and wristband purchases came to £212.89, this gives a combined total so far of £295.85. There will also be money from the discos and the sale of glow-sticks so a final total will be given in the first newsletter of the next half-term.

The children enjoyed the discos with some very energetic dance moves demonstrating the enthusiasm the children have for movement.

Below you can read some of the vital information about the helicopter service that the Midlands Air Ambulance have shared with us and this shows how important it is for our local community.

Our Helicopters

- Top Speed: 160mph ... that's flying 2 miles every minute
- We fly from 7.00am until 9.00pm every day of the year ... even on Christmas Day
- Each aircraft carries full medical equipment & supply of drugs worth over £150,000 inside – it is like a mini flying hospital!
- We can get to 90% of the people in our 6 counties in around 10 minutes
- Each air ambulance mission costs £2,950

Reflection for half term

As we start our half term break it seems that the last 5 weeks have passed very quickly. This term has been short but impactful and we have had many joyful learning experiences with class visits underway through the term. On Monday Year 1 attended 'All things Wild' in Evesham where they experienced all sorts of interesting experiences based around their theme for this term.

Year 3 - Volcanoes

To mark the end of their topic on volcanoes, Year 3 had planned to build volcanoes during their Forest School session and watch them erupt, with their parents invited in too. However, the weather was not kind to us and, so that we didn't have to cancel the event, we decamped to the school hall. There, the children worked in groups to create dough volcanoes with vinegar and bicarbonate of soda eruptions mostly contained in large tubs on the hall floor. Mrs Moroni thinks everyone enjoyed the experience and it was certainly a fun end to the topic work. She would like to thank, in particular, Mrs Gabriel for leading this session and especially for clearing up afterwards!

Staff Changes



This year marks 10 years of Mrs Cooper working in our school. The last 10 years has seen many different changes including the time we were all impacted by the Covid 19 lockdowns. Mrs Cooper has supported us through all of this and has been steadfast in her dedication to the school. However, our congratulations are to be given as she has secured a promotion appointment within the local authority and so leaves us today.

We wish her the very best of success in her new role and we will all miss her. I am sure you will join with me to say thank you for all her years of service.

Thank you to Councillor Martin Allen



On Wednesday Councillor Martin Allen visited our school and we were able to say thank you for the generous donation he has recently given to us, which is for support with travel costs associated with trips. This has meant that we are able to plan trips and keep the costs down as he kindly donated a £500 pot for support in this area. The reception class were the first to benefit last Friday when they had a trip to a local farm and we will let you know when we use this support again. Our thanks go to Councillor Martin Allen who is seen here with Mrs Wills the Headteacher and children from the reception class.

Safer Internet Information

We regularly inform you about updates on keeping your children safe on the internet. There are many sites and games that are not age appropriate for children of primary age, Roblox, WhatsApp, TikTok and Facebook are just a few that children should not have their own personal account or access to. If children give false information about their age this opens the potential as they get older for them to receive inappropriate content. It is also concerning when we have reports that children are communicating with each other in a manner that is causing issues between friendship groups. We recommend that you check your child's device and refer to <https://www.commonsensemedia.org> to check age ratings for individual websites and games.

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2024/parents-and-carers>

Safer Internet Day is held every February all around the world. Last year, over 170 different countries celebrated the day! Safer Internet Day is a chance to think about any worries we might have about using technology and the internet, but it's also about celebrating all the fantastic things technology can help us with.

Children's Mental Health Week 2024



Children's Mental Health Week 2024 will take place from **5–11 February 2024**. This year's theme is '**My Voice Matters**'.

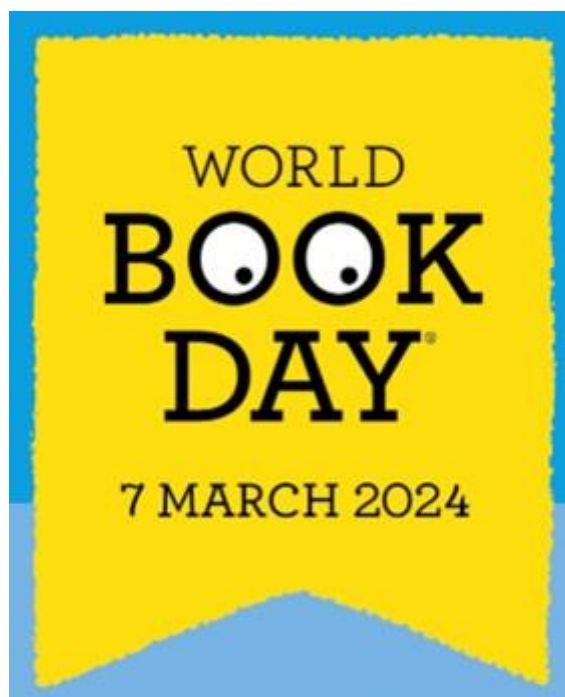
My Voice Matters is about empowering children and young people by providing them with the tools they need to express themselves. During Children's Mental Health Week we want all children and young people, whoever they are, and wherever they are in the world, to be able to say – and believe – “My Voice Matters”. This week in school the children have participated in an assembly and completed activities and discussions in their classes. We have linked this to our 'Goose Ethos' and how are voices are stronger together and together we can make a difference.

Dodgeball

Last Friday Mrs Davies took a mixture of Year 5 and 6 children to our first ever dodgeball competition at Chantry High School in Worcester. The children played brilliantly well and despite a tricky start were able to win several of their matches. They played a bonus game at the end against the tournament winners and were able to beat them 3-0 so we went away happy.

The children conducted themselves with sportsmanship and enthusiasm and represented our school superbly. It was wonderful to see the tight bond of team working that ensures we support our vision 'Anything is possible, we can all succeed!'

WORLD BOOK DAY



The charity World Book Day® is holding its annual celebration on Thursday 7th March right across the UK and Ireland.

World Book Day 2024 will celebrate that children are more likely to enjoy reading when their choices are championed and we make reading fun.

This year we want to make the focus Reading For Pleasure. Read what you like, when you like and how you like.

Children are invited to dress up as their favourite book character and be willing to share this with their class. We would ask that children don't come in football kits or onesies please. Children who do not wish to dress up are still invited to bring in their favourite book to share.

<https://www.worldbookday.com/families/>

Reading for pleasure improves children's life chances across a range of social, educational and well-being measures. However, research from National Literacy Trust found that fewer than 1 in 2 (47.8%) children now say they enjoy reading; this is the lowest level since 2005, and reading enjoyment is lowest among children from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Scooters and Bikes

Please ensure that your children leave any scooters or bikes in the bike park at the front of the school. In order to keep the children safe, scooters and bikes cannot be ridden on school grounds.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

URGENT INFORMATION

LOCAL AUTHORITY MEASLES OUTBREAK

An increasing number of measles cases are continuing to be seen across the country. While Worcestershire has one of the best rates for uptake, some children who haven't had their MMR could be at risk of getting this serious illness.

Two doses of the MMR vaccine are given to make sure we have the best protection from measles. The first dose is given at 12 months of age and the second dose is given at three years and four months, before starting school. For anybody who did not receive the full vaccination course, your own GP will be able to provide a catch-up MMR vaccination.

The MMR vaccine is a safe and effective combined vaccine that protects against three serious illnesses: Measles, Mumps and Rubella. Overall, Worcestershire has an excellent uptake of the MMR vaccine; for 5-year-olds, the county shows as having an uptake of 96.4% (1 dose) and 91.3% (2 doses). The 1 dose figure is joint highest in the West Midlands region and the 2-dose uptake is the outright highest in the region. Having the vaccine protects not only the child but also reduces the spread of the disease. This relies on as many people as possible being vaccinated and is why Public Health experts in the county are keen to continue to encourage all children to be vaccinated.

Measles is a very infectious viral illness that is spread by coughs and sneezes. It usually starts with cold-like symptoms which can include a high temperature, a runny or blocked nose, sneezing, a cough, sore red eyes and a rash. It spreads very quickly to non-immune children and adults who are unvaccinated or have not previously been infected.

NHS Herefordshire and Worcestershire and Public Health are holding pop-up MMR vaccination clinics in these areas. If your child hasn't had the MMR vaccination just turn up. You can ask for an MMR vaccine which does not contain pork ingredients if you prefer.

Not sure if you or your child have, had it? Just check your red NHS book or ask at your local GP.

The clinics are being hosted in libraries on the following dates:

- Kidderminster Library – 10th Feb, 9.30am until 4pm
- Wythall Library – 10th Feb, 9.30am until 4pm
- Redditch Library – 10th Feb, 9.30am until 4pm
- Evesham Library – 17th Feb, 9.30am until 4pm
- Malvern Library – 17th Feb, 9.30 am until 4pm
- The Hive – 17th Feb, 9.30 am until 4pm The pop-up MMR clinic is free, and no appointment is necessary but if you'd prefer an appointment, you can also book ahead by calling 01527 390030. If anyone has symptoms of measles, please stay at home and phone your GP or NHS 111 for advice. Do not go to GP surgeries or A & E departments so the illness isn't spread to others.
- For more information on measles and the MMR vaccine please visit: Measles - [NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

