

22nd December 2023

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

[Acts 20:35](#) - In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE



Our Christingle service is always one of the highlights of the entire year and today's was an exceptionally special event. To be able to hold our Christingle just two days before Christmas day added an extra spiritual dimension to the church service. Each class shared their musical creativity and together the Christmas story was told. The singing within our school is quite incredible and we are always so proud of our children and their incredible ability to learn all the words of the Christmas songs and carols we share at this time of year.



In this week's bible quote we have taken from Acts it says 'It is more blessed to give than to receive'. I think you will all agree with me that our children are indeed a blessing and gave us so much happiness this morning and reminds us of the message behind Christmas when Jesus was born to the world as our saviour and we are all equally important as part of the family of God.



TOWN CAROL SERVICE

Our Town Carol Service was a wonderfully festive event and it was a most spiritual evening with all the candles lit throughout the church and with the congregation having their individual candles to hold. It reminded us all that Jesus is the light of the world and gave us quiet reflection time.

Our children were able to have the opportunity to sing with the Upton Town Choir. The standard of the choir singing is quite incredible and for our children to experience this strength of talent was inspirational. We were delighted to have been able to join in this celebration.



This event was absolutely incredible for all our KS1 and KS2 children. It demonstrated very clearly our vision in action 'Anything is possible, we can all succeed'. The cast of Cinderella were quite incredible and each one has a unique talent that shone through the entire production. We took each Key Stage on separate days but both groups were impeccably behaved and it is a unique experience for children to have the opportunity to attend a theatre on our doorstep of this calibre. Malvern Theatres have recently had a major overhaul and there are all sorts of events that now take place there. See their website for further information: [Malvern Theatre Website](#)

We are immensely grateful to the Friends Association who helped towards the cost of this trip for every single pupil. If you are able to support the Friends with one event next year, please do let the office know. The fundraising makes all the difference to the children at our school.

SANTA VISIT

We were delighted on our Christmas lunch day that Father Christmas was able to take time out of his busy schedule to pay our school a visit. We appreciate that at this time of year there must be many events to go to but our children were all delighted to see Father Christmas eating a lovely Christmas lunch. Miquills, our catering company, produced a superb feast and we would like to thank them for all the good food and varied menus we have throughout the year.

Following the lunch, Father Christmas went to read some stories to our younger children and as you can see from the following photos both Father Christmas and the children enjoyed the event.

Thank you Father Christmas for visiting our school!





R.E. DAY

As a church school, we take our R.E. teaching and learning very seriously. On Monday, the whole school focused on learning about the Christmas story, probing deeply into particular aspects. We started with our whole school worship and discussed how we were going to work through the day with each teacher providing input for the spiritual aspect they would be teaching.

Our lessons were based as follows:

- Preschool and Reception: Jesus' birthday
- Year 1: Gifts and giving
- Year 2: Good news
- Year 3: Light
- Year 4: Journeys
- Year 5: Peace
- Year 6: Incarnation

To devote the time to study one aspect of the nativity story was very enlightening, and provoked deep comments, one of which was: 'We now know who Jesus' parents were, but who were God's?' The interesting discussion that followed showed a developing maturity in the children's spiritual understanding, which the teacher, Mrs Malpass, found most profound. All the staff felt that the day connected in a positive flow and we were able to celebrate the spirituality of this time of year.



A symbol of Christmas that we are all used to seeing are Christmas wreaths and Class 3 studied light as their focus on Monday then throughout the week they have been working with Mrs Garey who supplied to the children, as a Christmas gift, with the key items for making their own unique Christmas wreath. As you can see from the photo these look most festive and the children have worked extremely hard to finish by the last day of term. Thank you to Mrs Garey for supplying the materials.

FOREST SCHOOL

This week the children in Reception and Years 3, 4 and 6 have had a Christmas treat by taking part in an extra Forest School session. The children have enjoyed making nativity scenes using natural materials and thought about the importance of this special time of year. Reception thought about the gifts that they would take to baby Jesus and set up a birthday party in the mud kitchen. Some of the older children have had a go at whittling a Father Christmas and making reindeers from tree slices. The children also made elf houses and Christmas trees, which helped to practice our lashing and knot tying. All the children had a wonderful time and fully embraced their session, even Year 4 who had a particularly soggy and muddy morning.



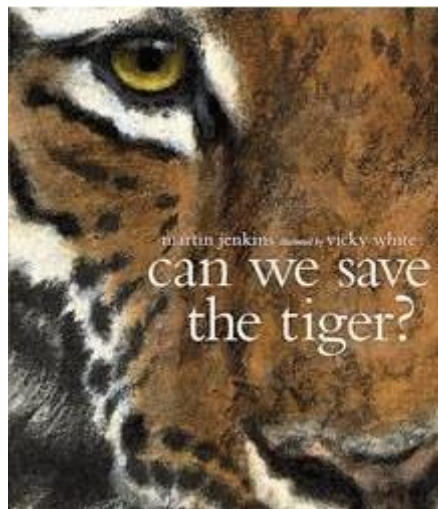








WWF (World Wildlife Fund)



This term year 6 have been using a wonderful book called 'can we save the tiger' by Martin Jenkins. The book is all about how we can work to help endangered species. The children have really enjoyed writing persuasive pieces to support the work of the World Wildlife Fund and learning about the human impact on the world and its animals.

As a Christmas treat Mrs Davies has sponsored a tiger in the classes name. We will receive an update on our tiger every 3 months and learn all about what our support is achieving.



All National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many issues which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit nationalonlinecollege.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

Top Tips for SETTING UP PARENTAL CONTROLS ON NEW DEVICES

In children's eagerness to start enjoying new digital gadgets immediately, it can be easy to overlook setting up the type of parental controls that can help to protect them online. If you don't sort those out from the very start, it can be an uphill battle – technologically and psychologically – to impose such controls later. Here's our rundown of what to look for when setting up the various internet-enabled devices that might be lurking under the tree at this time of year.

IPHONE

If your child's lucky enough to be getting their own iPhone, parental controls can help avoid issues like screen addiction and unsuitable content. Go into the settings and scroll down to "Screen Time". From here you can customise important settings including time limits on using the device, communication restrictions and content blockers. You can also lock your changes behind a passcode.

ANDROID

With Android devices, Google's Family Link app is your friend. You'll need a Google account – and a separate one for your child, which you should use when first setting up the device. Then, in Family Link on your own device, select "Add Child" and enter their account details. This lets you specify limits on daily usage, restrict certain apps, block particular content and more.

PLAYSTATION

You can prep for a PlayStation before it's even unwrapped. At myaccount.sony.com, create an account, then go to Account Management > Family Management > Add Family Member to set up your child's account, which you'll use to sign in on the console. You can restrict the age ratings of the games they can play and who they can talk to. On the PS5, you can make exceptions for any games you think are acceptable despite their high age rating.

IPAD

iPad parental controls are identical to those on iPhones. However, if you've got a shared family iPad and want to ensure your children aren't seeing anything age-inappropriate after you hand them the device, there's a feature called Guided Access (under Settings > Accessibility > Guided Access). With this switched on, young ones can only use the app that's currently open.

XBOX

The Xbox Family Settings app helps you manage which games your child can play (and when). You'll need to set up the console with your own account and then add a child profile. Make sure your account's password protected, so your child can't alter your choices later. You'll be walked through the functions at setup, but you can also reach them manually via Settings > Account > Family Settings.

NINTENDO SWITCH

Download the Nintendo Switch Parental Controls app on your phone, and you'll be shown how to link it to the console. Once that's done, you can limit how long your child can play each day, decide what age ratings are permitted and more. You'll also get weekly updates on how often they've used the device. These controls are accessible through the console itself, but the app is usually easier.

WINDOWS 11 PCs

On Windows 11, account management is key. Set up the device with your own account as the admin. Then go to Settings > Accounts > Family and Other Users and create your child's account (if you've already done this on a previous PC, just log in with those details). Microsoft Family Safety (either the app or the site) then lets you control screen time, what content children can view and more.

CHROMEBOOKS

Chromebooks' parental controls are managed via the Family Link app. Unlike an Android device, however, you need set up the Chromebook with your own account first, then add your child's. Go to Settings > People > Add Person and input your child's Google account details (or create a new account). Your child can then log in, and you can monitor what they're up to via Family Link.

MACS

Like iPhones, parental controls for Macs are managed via the Screen Time settings. Again, the crux here is to set yourself up as the administrator before adding any child accounts. In the settings, look for Users & Groups to create your child's account, then – while on their profile – use the screen time options to place any boundaries around apps, usage and who your child can communicate with (and vice versa).

SMART TVs

Smart TVs typically have their own individual parental controls. One of the most popular brands is Samsung – and on their TVs, you can control the content available to your child. In the Settings menu, under "Broadcasting", you can lock channels and restrict content by its age rating. Even this isn't foolproof, however: some apps (like YouTube) might still let children access unsuitable material.

Meet Our Expert

Barry Collins is a technology journalist and editor with more than 20 years experience of working for titles such as the Sunday Times, Which? PC and evo! Computerweek. He's appeared regularly as a tech pundit on television and radio, including on BBC Newsnight, Radio 5 Live and the ITV News at Ten. He has two children and writes regularly on the subject of internet safety.



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HAF It! 2023

Free School Meal eligible children and families with a referral are invited to sign up for the Worcestershire Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme now.

For more information about the HAF Programme, please visit www.worcestershire.gov.uk/haf

Activities and events will be released in the weeks before Easter, Summer and Christmas school holidays, places are limited so sign up and verify your account now to be ready.

Click the following link to sign your child up for the HAF programme:

