

15th 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

Matthew 19:14 - Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

BBC HEREFORD & WORCESTER - FATHER CHRISTMAS INTERVIEW

As we approach the last week before Christmas, a special guest came into school to interview the children. Rebecca from BBC Hereford & Worcester talked to our children about Father Christmas and recorded those asking questions, which will be put to Santa live on air next week. The questions included:

- Do you ever get jet lag?
- What language do the elves speak?
- How fast does the sleigh go?

The children also sang to Rebecca and Mrs Moroni played the piano to the song 'Candle in the Window', which was recorded. This interview and the recording of the singing will be broadcast on Tuesday and next week we will send the link for you to hear the interview with Santa.



CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

This year's Christingle service will be taking place in the St Peter and St Paul's Church, Upton upon Severn, on Friday 22nd December at 9.30am.

All are welcome to attend this service and we look forward to seeing as many of our parents/carers/families attend this so we can fill the church for this wonderful festive service.



Please could children bring a large orange to school on the morning of **Wednesday 20th December** to make their Christingle with.

We shall be using battery-operated candles in the Christingles, which will light up the Church.

There will be a collection during this service with the proceeds going to The Children's Society.

WARNER'S - CAROL SINGING



On Friday, our school choir sang Christmas songs and carols outside the Warner's store with great enthusiasm and Christmas cheer.

We took our school therapy dog, Teddy, with us who thoroughly enjoyed being involved in such a festive occasion. We were delighted with the large audience and the children's singing was outstanding. They used no accompaniment and it was simply their beautiful voices that kept the melody throughout. Mrs Moroni commented at the end on how impressed she was with all of the children and we were very grateful for the chocolates that Warner's presented to the children as a thank you.

We were glad the rising River Severn did not prevent this lovely festive occasion from happening. We would also like to thank all the parents who accompanied us, as well as the local community who turned out to cheer us on.



BOOGIE WOOGIE NATIVITY and PRE-SCHOOL NATIVITY

On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of this week our Pre-school, Reception and KS1 children put on wonderful performances in their Nativities. Pre-school were just perfect in their production, with the special magic that only a 3 year old can provide. Their confidence was super and they were undaunted by the large parent audience, who, I am sure, would all agree with me that the performance was outstanding.

The 'Boogie Woogie Nativity' was equally wonderful and the rhythm of all the songs had the audience all wanting to join in. The children's confidence was impressive and the production brought sunshine to our December days. Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 had clearly worked hard on learning their lines and also all the words to the many songs, which they sang superbly. Thank you to all parents for the supply of the lovely costumes and to the teachers and teaching assistants who work so hard with our children in producing such a high standard of production.











STAFF NATIVITY

On Thursday 14th December, the Reverend Amy Wearing was in to present her usual Worship assembly to the children. However, she had a surprise for all the staff who she enlisted to perform what she titled 'a low budget nativity' to the children. As you can imagine this caused great excitement for all the classes who cheered as we all became involved and were allocated our parts. This shows our school vision 'Anything is possible' in action with the staff team demonstrating minor theatrical skills.

Please see the following video clip of this amusing performance, which Amy used to convey to the children the spiritual message of Christmas praying for all of us: [Staff Nativity Video](#)

We give thanks for all our teachers and grown-ups who help us to be safe and happy at school, that they will have a wonderful and blessed Christmas with their families and friends.

YEAR 6 -THE HIDDEN FOREST

In Year 6 we have begun a new book called The Hidden Forrest by Jeannie Barker. This continues our exploration of environmental issues. The book focusses on a boy who discovers the wonders of the Sea Kelp forests and how he can protect this amazing world. Inspired by Jeannie's illustration which are created through collaging, the children have had a go at using all sorts of natural materials to create their own underwater world.



















THE MOORINGS

This week in The Moorings, they have been getting into the Christmas spirit by making Edible Christmas trees out of ice cream cones and colouring Christmas pictures.

Next week they will be making reindeers from mini rolls and chocolate truffles.

There will be no Moorings on Friday 22nd December and I would like to thank all those that have supported our wrap around care this term.



COMMUNITY NOTICES

12 Top Tips for Children and Young People to Enjoy a TECH-FREE CHRISTMAS

The Christmas holidays are tailor made for families to enjoy relaxed quality time in each other's company – but with distractions like playing phone notifications, the lure of games consoles and online Boxing Day sales, that can be more difficult than it sounds. Staying off our phones, laptops and tablets, however, can really help us to appreciate the things that genuinely matter at this special time of year. Follow our 12 top tips for a tech-free festive season... You'll be glad you did! Merry Christmas!



CHRISTMAS CRAFTING

Get out the paper, glue and scissors and have a go at hand-making cards or gift tags. You could also create your own decorations to add a uniquely personal touch to the Christmas tree.

NATURE QUEST

Try a scavenger hunt in the garden or your local park. Challenge yourself and your family to find natural treasures that are symbolic of this time of year – like holly or pinecones, say.

CAROL KARAOKE

Sing your hearts out with a Christmas carol karaoke night. Pick out your favourite tunes and enjoy a musical celebration with family and friends.

WANDER DOWN MEMORY LANE

How about making a scrapbook filled with your favourite memories from Christmases gone by? Unleash your creativity while you enjoy reliving those magical holiday moments.

TRY REFLECTIVE JOURNALING

Get down your thoughts, feelings and reflections on the holiday in a notebook or diary – you could also list some of your main goals for the new year.

WRAP IT UP

Take time to get inventive with some luxurious gift wrapping. Break out the wrapping paper, ribbons and bows to make parcelling up those presents into a creative adventure.

WALK IN A WINTER WONDERLAND

Delight in the great outdoors with some gentle walks over the holiday. The frosty can all wrap up warm as you add to your step count and savour the crisp winter air together.

BE A SEASONAL CHEF

Get the whole family working together in the kitchen for some Christmas cooking. Choose a recipe and whip up a festive feast that all of you can enjoy.

ENJOY A CHRISTMAS STORY

Christmas is a perfect time for sparkling stories. Get cosy and lose yourself in a brilliant book, from Dickens to Dr Seuss or a more modern favourite by Chris van Allsburg or Tim Fletcher.

SNOWY SCULPTURES

If we're fortunate enough to get a white Christmas this year, make the most of the opportunity by having a family snowman-building competition.

GAMES NIGHT GALA

Dive into some old-school fun with a tech-free games night. Classic board games and card games have stood the test of time for a reason!

GOODWILL TO ALL

You and your family could spend a day volunteering – perhaps at a food bank or helping a local charity. After all, kindness and thinking of others are part of what Christmas is all about.

Meet Our Expert

National Online Safety and The National College have teamed up to create this guide. It's a handy guide to help you and your family enjoy a tech-free Christmas. It's a handy guide to help you and your family enjoy a tech-free Christmas. It's a handy guide to help you and your family enjoy a tech-free Christmas.

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