

10th November 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



[Revelation 21:4](#)

He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.

REMEMBRANCE

The 11th November is a poignant day where local communities throughout our entire country come together to commemorate the end of WW1 and remember all of their military personnel who have lost their lives fighting. The poppy is used as a symbol of remembrance with the roots of this

stemming from the landscapes of the First World War. It was through the battlefields the strength of the poppy was seen as it grew freely across the land that was devastated by the war and the bombing that took place. This poppy has become the symbol we all recognise so well and we all wear our poppies with pride to remember those who have fought bravely for their country.

On Sunday 12th November St Peter and St Paul's will lead the Upton upon Severn's community Remembrance Service. This starts with a procession from the fire station, led by the Upton upon Severn Mayor Cllr Shirley Dobbin and many of the local councillors. We are looking forward to being a part of this service and many of our children are a part of the church service and will be reciting 'In Flanders Fields' and also singing.

YEAR 3 CELEBRATION OF LEARNING

We are particularly delighted that we are able to start our celebrations of learning again with our school community. It is very important to us as a school that we work closely with our parent community and that together we achieve success for our children.

Before the half-term break, Year 3 held a celebration of learning for parents/carers to join in with.

It was great to have so many parents and family members join Class 3 to celebrate the children's learning about the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age. They helped the children make salt dough and then use this to make a 'fossil' each. The children then created henges, similar in structure to Stonehenge, using a variety of biscuits as standing stones. Some groups seemed to eat quite a lot of their building materials but, no matter, lots of fun was had by all. Thank you to all the adults for their help!





CHILDREN IN NEED

Friday 17th November 2023



This year's SPOTacular Children in Need challenge has been set by the effervescent Joe Wicks. The school council led the way in assembly this week, demonstrating how to perform the perfect BEARPEE. That's right, everyone's favourite get fit, stay fit move, a burpee, has been transformed for the purpose of Children in Need, into a BEARPEE. Children will be performing as many BEARPEEs as they can for 10 minutes each day to add to their class totaliser. There is likely to be hot competition between classes to achieve the highest total!

This year, If you are able to donate to this charity in recognition of your child's SPOTacular BEARPEE efforts, we will be taking donations online via the Teachers2Parents SchoolMoney app. To donate, click on the three dashes in the top left corner of the app and go onto the '**Payments**' link. You will then see a payment headed '**Children in Need 2023 Charity Donations**'. You can pay any amount from **1p** up to **£10.00**. To change the amount you are donating to less than £10.00:

- Click on the grey drop down arrow
- Change amount in the small £ box from £10.00 to the amount you wish to donate
- Click the + sign by the £10 which will add the amount you have added into the small £ box (not the £10) into your basket
- Click on basket to proceed with payment of your donation

As this year's theme is a sporty one, children can come to school on this day dressed in sportswear.

DIGIBUS TRAINING

This week we have been welcoming a team from the Digibus Learning Environment. The Digibus team provide free digital learning opportunities for various groups and it has been wonderful that our children have been experiencing a variety of different digital experiences ranging from virtual reality goggles to coding robots. You can see from the pictures that the work the children have done

has been engaging, exciting and has really sparked in them an enthusiasm for their learning in this area. The team Mal, Taff and Andrew have worked positively with our children and our staff have enjoyed seeing some of the opportunities that have been on offer.

Next week the Digibus team will be working further with other classes and we will update you on their progress in next week's newsletter.

Each group that has worked with the team have had opportunities to take part in all of the activities; everyone sees everything but some children are more attracted to the website design, some to coding and some the VRG so everyone has experienced a taste of the digital this week. Further information on Digibus can be found via the following link: [Digibus information](#)











FOREST SCHOOL HELP



One of the rather unique and enjoyable activities for our children is to make a variety of things out of small wooden pieces and Mrs Gabriel, who is currently running our forest school project, would really like to have the opportunity to do this with our children in our forest school site. However, we need some help! If you (or anyone you may know) has any wood slices or wood we could have in school to saw into slices or the ability/tools to create a supply of wood slices, willow or hazel whips for craft in Forest School we would appreciate this being donated to the school for a craft project.

PARENT COMMUNITY

It has been wonderful this week to see so many people attending our parents' evening and we hope you have found the discussions with your child's teacher useful, informative and gives you the information you require to support your child at home.

As a school, we feel it is very important that we work closely with you, our parents, as it is only by working with you that we can improve this school and create the very best learning environment possible for your children. We work with our school vision of 'Anything is possible, we can all succeed' and we have a strong team ethos that we use to ensure that Upton upon Severn is a happy, positive, thriving school.

To ensure that we work together to improve our school, we would like you to fill in the following anonymous questionnaire to give an indication of how you feel we are achieving as a school. [Parent Questionnaire](#)

SLAPPED CHEEK (fifths disease)

We are seeing many increased cases of Slapped Cheek in our school. Please read the following information if you are unsure as to whether to send your child to school or not whilst they have this:

- You do not need to keep your child off school if they have slapped cheek syndrome because, once the rash appears, they are no longer infectious.

Some people with slapped cheek syndrome will not notice any early symptoms, but most people will have the following symptoms for a few days:

- a slightly high temperature (fever) of around 38C (100.4F)
- a runny nose
- a sore throat
- a headache
- an upset stomach
- feeling generally unwell

What happens if a pregnant woman is exposed to fifths disease?

Parvovirus B19 infection during pregnancy is mostly asymptomatic, but in approximately 3% of infected women it might cause a range of complications, including abortion, severe foetal anaemia, nonimmune hydrops fetalis, and even foetal demise.

SUPPORTING FAMILIES



Citizens Advice can help with all sorts of questions parents may have from paying bills to legal costs, housing issues and benefit entitlement. If you have any concerns or worries please follow the link to find out more about the services available to you.

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/>



Cool Milk

CHRISTMAS CARD Competition



DESIGN A MILK-THEMED CHRISTMAS CARD!
Cool Milk is holding a competition for Primary School children,
ages 5-11, to design their official Christmas Card for 2023



ENTRY DEADLINE:
Monday, 4th December 2023

***Terms & Conditions:**

- Entries must be milk-themed and received by 5pm 4th December by email to marketing@coolmilk.com.
- Please write child's name, age and school in the body of the email.
- Entries must be on folded A4 and coloured in pencil, pen, marker or paint (no glitter or cotton wool).

COMMUNITY NOTICES



Hanley Voices

Vivaldi 'Gloria'

*plus a traditional Christmas programme with
Upton Church of England Primary School*



Upton-on-Severn Parish Church
Saturday 25th November 2023 at 7pm
Tickets £12 from members of the choir
on the door (cash or cheques only) or on 01684 592014



Come join Soul Children
- a family of youth gospel choirs who gather regularly, in
their community, to sing and to be family together!

We start with snacks and games (3:15-4pm) before moving
on to our choir rehearsals (4-5pm)

BOOK A PLACE: soulchildrenupton@gmail.com

Soul Children Upton upon Severn meets every **Wednesday**
at **Upton upon Severn Primary School** from **3:15pm - 5pm**.
It is run by Upton Baptist Church

Open to Children and Young People from Y2-Y9

SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM

The local Safer Neighbourhood Team will be at a surgery at Upton Baptist Church on Wednesday
22nd November 2023 at 10.00am.

This is an opportunity for you to raise any concerns you may have and to find out what they are
doing to tackle the issues that matter to you. Everyone is welcome and it would be great to see you
there. For more information, please contact me - PCSO Nick Elwell at
upton.snt@westmercia.police.uk

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about MICROTRANSACTIONS

Microtransactions (often abbreviated as "MTX") are digital purchases made within an app or game to unlock extra features or additional content such as new levels. A popular sub-set of these are loot boxes, which contain a selection (usually random) of virtual items: from character skins to game-changing equipment like better weapons. Microtransactions (and loot boxes in particular) are now widespread in apps and games, but concerns persist that they normalise gambling and can foster addictive behaviours – especially among younger players.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

GATEWAY TO GAMBLING?

Microtransactions have been criticised for promoting gambling-adjacent behaviour in children. Research has also suggested that exposure to the loot box system could affect the likelihood of a young person suffering gambling harms later in life: children who purchased or used loot boxes in the last 12 months were found to be more likely to have gambled during the same period, as well.

ADDICTIVE NATURE

Microtransactions (and loot boxes especially) could lead to young people displaying compulsive behaviours. Loot boxes are designed to be addictive, and the sought-after prizes they contain are dispensed at random. This means that young gamers might not get what they want straight away, causing them to spend more money as well as additional time gaming.

PAYING TO WIN

In many popular games (the FIFA series being a notable example), microtransactions make it far easier to succeed – which is a concern because children can often find it difficult to keep track of their spending. Once a child starts making in-game purchases, they may continue buying to keep up with their friends and other players – sometimes without recognising the mounting real-world cost.

EXCLUSIVE CONTENT

DATA COLLECTION

To allow a young person to complete microtransactions, many app and game developers collect personal data such as their name, address, email, geolocation information, photos, payment details and so on. Even if this data remains secure (which is by no means guaranteed), there's always the chance that it will be used – and possibly sold on to third parties – for marketing purposes.

AFFECTING DAILY ROUTINE

Online games tend to revolve around repeated loops of activity that can affect purchasing decisions and potentially influence children's spending patterns. This could lead to your child not only handing over more money but also adjusting their daily routine to match the game's schedule – potentially impacting more important elements of their day, such as homework and family time.

SATELLITE SPENDING

If you've linked a payment method like a debit card or a PayPal account to your child's game or app, it's wise to keep a close eye on their microtransactions to ensure they aren't racking up a large bill. Letting a child have access to your card (if they're still too young to have their own) or other means of payment could also lead to them spending beyond the apps and games they normally use.

Advice for Parents & Carers

DO YOUR RESEARCH

It's important to have a serviceable idea of whether the games your child plays use the loot box system (even if it goes by a different name) or include the option of buying items, equipment and so forth. If so, it's crucial to help your child understand that this costs actual money, and that they shouldn't feel pressured into making any purchases.

CHAT ABOUT 'CHANCE'

It may help to explain to your child that many microtransactions involve an element of chance: they could pay money and still not get what they want in return. Emphasise that – while not usually costing much individually – these in-app and in-game purchases can soon add up. Talk to your child about how spending their money in a game or app means they have less to use in the real world.

(GIFT) CARDS ON THE TABLE

Investing in an in-game currency gift card can be a useful way of helping your child get to grips with budgeting. If you buy, say, a £10 V-bucks Fortnite gift card, monitor how long it takes them to spend it. When they come to you asking for more, you could make it the starting point for a conversation about how quickly that money went and how they could earn their next gift card.

STOP SPENDING AT SOURCE

You might decide that the wisest strategy is to remove the potential for spending money on microtransactions. If so, most games, apps and devices have options in their settings to help you manage what your child can spend – or to disable that function altogether, preventing them from buying additional items for their games or boosted functionality for certain apps.

WATCH FOR THE SIGNS

If you're worried that your child's passion for a particular game or app may tempt them into habitual spending on microtransactions, it's important to remember the indicators of addictive behaviour. Irritability, a lack of concentration and prioritising recreational screen time ahead of homework or mealtimes could all be signs that you need to have a conversation about a more balanced routine.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid *The Inquirer*, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



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