

16th December 2022

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)



<https://sway.cloud.microsoft/pkhBILBG3ijAmF8g#content=euAo5hbw2fq3l0>

WEEKLY BIBLE QUOTE

Romans 12:12

Be joyful in hope, patient in trouble, faithful in prayer



CHRISTINGLE

It was wonderful to see so many of our school community join us in the Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul for our Christingle service on our last day of term. This half-term's theme has been community and the strong bond that we all have as a community gives us hope for our future. Our Christingle celebration is to remind everyone that Jesus always brings hope even when someone feels there is nothing to hope for. 'Hope is never lost' and the Bible quote that we have used this week was read in church as part of our service. The orange represents the world and the world is surrounded by God's love and through that love comes hope. We were also pleased to share our closing music of 'Carol of the Bells' which is a popular Ukrainian Christmas carol based on the Ukrainian folk chant 'Shchedryk'. This was a very moving moment during the service as looking around at the faces of all of our Ukrainian children we could see they were delighted to hear the music and the older children joined in singing all the words. Hope is such a vital thing in all of our lives and we are blessed in working with our children every day as the happiness they bring spreads through all we do.

We would like to wish you a safe and happy Christmas and New Year and look forward to seeing you all back in school on Wednesday 4th January 2023



NATIVITY - RECEPTION AND KEY STAGE 1

This week we have seen our Reception and Key Stage 1 children perform their Christmas Nativity 'Baubles'. The children have worked exceptionally hard to learn various lines, songs and actions over the past month and delivered wonderful performances on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon to parents and carers. It was lovely to see how excited and confident all of the children were in what was their first experience of a production following the pandemic. We would also like to extend our

thanks to all of the parents and carers who supported to help the children learn their lines and supply costumes.



WEST MIDLAND SANTA SAFARI TRIP

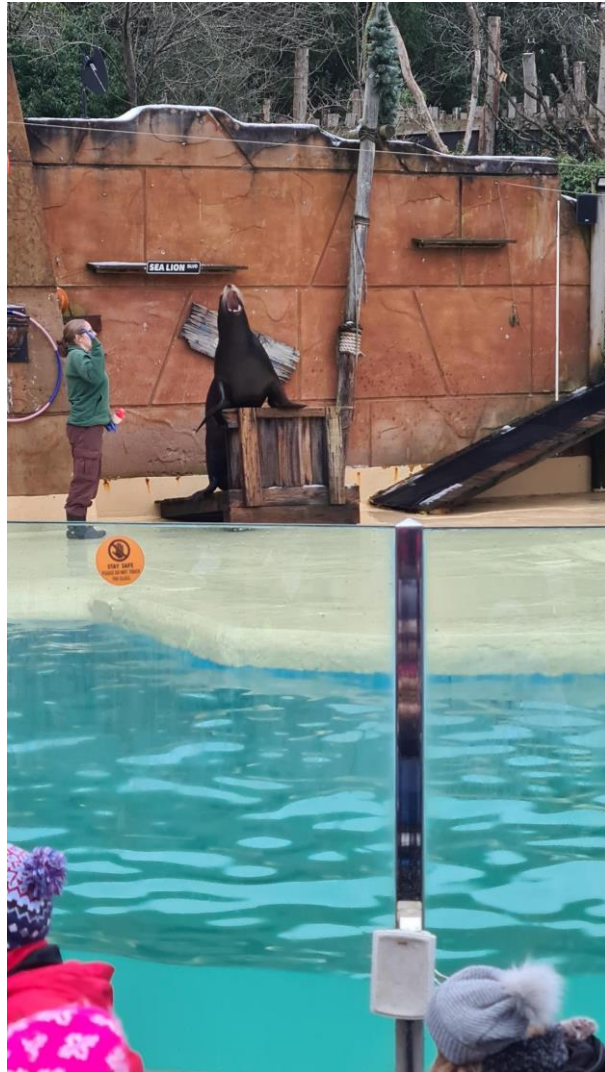
On Monday, Years 1 to 6 visited the West Midland Safari Park and not even the very cold weather could dampen the children's excitement! The children were thrilled throughout the Safari tour and spotted many beautiful and endangered animals. After a short lunch break, the classes continued their animal adventure by visiting the Reptile House, Twilight Cave, Creep Crawlies and Sea Lion show. More fond memories were made with a trip to meet Father Christmas and his elves, where the

children were able to pick their own special gift too. The children represented the school superbly during the day and there were some very tired children on the coach home!

We would like to thank all parents who helped on the trip and also The Friends Association for helping part-fund this trip.















FOCUS ON READING

CHRISTMAS READING CHALLENGE

Over the Christmas period we would like to encourage all our children to keep reading. Please see the Christmas Reading Challenge below which can be enjoyed together and also the following link to some great new books which might make great last minute Christmas presents:

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



1 - With our renewed focus on reading this year and the launch of our new phonics scheme, we would like to ask for parents, grandparents or members of the local community to support the school as a reading helper. If you can commit to regular reading with children or just occasionally we would love to hear from you. The more reading our children can do with adults the better they will read. Please can you contact the school office if you are able to give any time to support individual readers in our school. Reading support will be done in consultation with the class teachers (adults will not be supporting in the year groups of their own children).





As this half-term's value has been focusing on community another first for Upton was that the Mayor and local council came together with the Friends Association from the school. Their mission was to help Santa check where all the children live in readiness for his busy night on 24th December. They delivered some Christmas cheer around the Upton area whilst also raising money for our school, Worcester Cancer Aid and Age UK Dementia Cafe. A total of £214.04 was raised, with these funds being split equally between all three charities.

As the Headteacher I am delighted that this event took place and I am hoping that next year we will be able to continue this new tradition.



SPEECH AND LANGUAGE - CHRISTMAS 20 QUESTIONS

Another game for the holidays!

'Christmas 20 questions'

One person thinks of a Christmas object. Others try and guess what it is by asking questions, for example "Is it a Christmas food?" "Is it a decoration?". The original player can only answer yes, no or maybe! Can they guess it in 20 questions?

If you have any concerns about your child's communication skills, please phone or email the school office, and I will call you back on my next visit to school. You can also contact *Keren Somers (Speech and Language Therapist)* directly on 01562 752749.

THE HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUND

Here2Help

Further information on the wider local support available, including the cost of living, visit Here2Help Worcestershire: www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20758/here2help

For more information about the Household Support Fund scan our QR code with your smart phone



In partnership with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) the Household Support Fund (HSF) grant will help households in Worcestershire who are most in need for support with energy bills, food and water bills. The scheme will run from 1st October 2022 to 31st March 2023.

The Household Support Fund (HSF) will provide support to those most in need (including families with children of all ages, pensioners, unpaid carers, care leavers, and people with disabilities) by providing vouchers or payments to eligible households or making direct provisions to help with food and goods.

How to apply for the household support fund to help with energy?

Act on Energy are providing support for energy costs across Worcestershire.

For more information please visit: www.actonenergy.org.uk/project/worcestershire-hsf

Pensioners, carers or people with disabilities on a low income are also encouraged to contact Age UK Worcester and Malvern to see if they are eligible for a one-off payment towards food and fuel costs by calling 01905 724294.

Help with food and other essentials may also be available via your local District Council or their partner organisations. GUIDANCE Information about what is available can be found by visiting our HELP webpage and selecting your district:

www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20241/warmer_worcestershire/2519/household_support_fund

CLAIMING FREE SCHOOL MEAL VOUCHERS DURING THE SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

The Council has extended this offer with further support for families who qualify for a Free School meal in the holidays until the end of March 2023. Currently you will need to contact your school directly regarding the issuing of Free School Meals vouchers during school holidays.

Additional support with holiday activities and lunch is also available for families via the Ready Steady Worcestershire programme: www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20818/ready_steady_worcestershire_-_school_holiday_food_and_activities

HEALTHY START

Healthy Start is a Government Scheme that provides weekly vouchers to eligible parents and can help you if you're pregnant or have a young child under four. These vouchers can be spent on milk, fruit and vegetables and infant formula milk at your local shops and supermarkets, as well as offering coupons for free vitamins. For more information about the scheme, visit www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20532/pregnancy/1829/healthy_start

Additional support with holiday activities and lunch is also available for families via the Ready Steady Worcestershire programme

COMMUNITY NOTICES

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST PETER AND ST PAUL

DEC 18		Joint Upton and the Hook Carol Service Hook, Church of the Good Shepherd 4:00 pm
DEC 21		Town Carol Service – by candlelight Upton, St Peter and St Paul 7:00 pm
DEC 24		Carols around the Tree Upton, St Peter and St Paul 6:00 pm
DEC 24		Midnight Communion Upton, St Peter and St Paul 11:30 pm
DEC 25		Family service with simple communion afterwards Upton, St Peter and St Paul 9:30 am

UPTON BAPTIST CHURCH



WARM WELCOME SPACE

FREE • WARM • WELCOMING • SAFE

UPTON BAPTIST CHURCH

MON | WED | THUR | FRI | SUN

10AM - 1PM

DECEMBER 2022 | JANUARY 2023 | FEBRUARY 2023

FREE SOUP & ROLL DAILY

**TEA, COFFEE, BISCUITS,
FRUIT & FRIENDSHIP TOO**

**IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CLLR MARTIN ALLEN,
YE OLDE ANCHOR & BLISSFUL CAKES**



