



USL Primary News **Term 3 School Newsletter 21: 2nd March 2020**

Dates for your diary
Class Worship
 Next Class Worship is :
Y4M on 3rd March at 2.40pm.
 Parents/carers are welcome to attend.

SPORTS NEWS
Netball
 Last Thursday, the netball team travelled to Churchdown Parton Manor for our final league game of the season. The game was close in the first quarter but we managed to sneak a 1-0 lead. After that, our girls completely dominated the game with excellent passing, movement and shooting. Sophie was particularly clinical with 4 goals in one quarter. The final score was a resounding 11-2 victory for us. We now have just the Gloucester District Tournament left to play in March to conclude our netball season. Darcey and Saskia were picked as joint players of the match. Well done girls: Sophie, Madison, Saskia, Abi, Hollie and Darcey.

B Team Football Cup Round 2 @ Longlevens - Wednesday 26th February
 The B team played an entertaining game at home to Longlevens Junior School. Longlevens started brightly and deservedly scored two goals to make the score 2 – 0 to them at half time. However, we played some great football in the second half and drew level through a long range throw from Jake and a sharp finish from Harley to make it 2 – 2. We could and probably should have, gone 3 – 2 up but it

Message from the Headteacher



I wanted to take this opportunity to let you all know how incredibly privileged and proud I am to have been appointed as Headteacher at Upton St Leonards C of E Primary School and tell you a little more about myself for those of you that don't know.

I live in the local community with my partner Mark and our three boys, Oliver (11), Joshua (10) and Harvie (7); two of which attend our next closest Primary School. The fact that my own children are growing up in our community, makes my vested interest in the quality of provision for our next generation even greater.

I have been a Teacher and Senior Leader in schools for 13 years within Worcestershire and Gloucestershire. In that time I have been a Senior Leader in a very small school, a large school and across a Multi Academy Trust. My most recent posts have been in the Senior Management Team as Inclusion Lead and Deputy Headteacher here at our school.

I feel very lucky to have the opportunity to take over the leadership of a school which I love, but also has such a good reputation within the community. I am sure some parents are understandably nervous about the recent changes in personnel. Having children myself, I know how change can affect how you feel about a school. I hope that my appointment will now put the community at ease, knowing we can move forward with certainty and clarity.

The school remains a good school and the expectations of all staff, teaching and non-teaching, will be as high as they were before. Over time you may notice small changes as we strive for continual school improvement but these will be communicated to you in advance with clear reasoning given. At times, we may also consult with you, as key stakeholders, before making the changes.

As the leader of the school, my main job is to make sure your child is safe, happy and achieving well. I believe children should feel welcome, inspired, safe and supported when they are learning. They will achieve well if they are clear about what is expected of them and the steps they need to get there.

Upton St Leonards C of E Primary School may be a good school but it has the potential to be excellent. It is the aim of the whole school team to help each child become a successful learner and well-rounded individual who is ready to make the next steps in their learning journey.

I am keen to give parents the opportunity to say hello and also ask any questions you may have of me. I therefore would like to offer an informal meeting for parents and carers on Friday 13th March at 3:30pm. There will be a short presentation followed by tea and coffee and the opportunity to ask any questions you may have of my senior leaders and I.

Miss Sarah Daly BEd NASENCo

was Longlevens who scored the decisive goal with less than 2 minutes remaining to make the score 3 – 2 to them and bring an end to the B team’s season. Well done to Alfie (c), Reece, Josh B, Evan, Harley, Alex D, Jay and Jake.

Sporting Success

Well done to Harvey Y4M on gaining his brown belt in Martial Arts.

OPEN THE BOOK

Thank you to our Open the Book Team, who told the story ‘Down through the roof in Thursday’s worship.

Menu this week

Week 2 of the menu

Clubs

There is **NO DIGITAL LEADERS CLUB** this week (Friday 6th March).

Also, **NO CHESS CLUB** this week (Tuesday 3rd March)

Celebration Assembly

Thank you to all parents/carers that came to ‘reach for the stars’ with us last Friday. We are incredibly proud of our new Celebration Worship and hope many more of you can join us to celebrate in the coming weeks. This Friday parents/ carers of Y2 and Y5 are invited to join us at 2.30pm.

Last Week’s Winners were -

Head Teacher Award for showing respect and politeness – Esme

Head Teacher Award for showing a love of life - Tiya

Writer of the Week – Maisie F

Writer of the Week – Eirwen

Mathletics Top Point Scorers of the Week – Henry D

Stars of the Week for outstanding effort, attitude, work or behaviour in class.

RGL - Irs

RM - Shanaya

1A - Zhana

1S - Marley

2W - Lanie

2B - Jamie

3T - Sienna

3H - Freddie

4P - Harley

4M - Izzabella

5W - Hayden

5J - Lily

6LP - Gracie

6S – Jessica

TT Rockstars Top point scorer of the week – James C



Trutex Uniform Shop

The ‘Trutex’ uniform shop has now been taken over by a company called Monkhouse Schoolwear specialists. It will still be located in the same place in Gloucester City Centre and will still stock our full range of uniform.

Coronavirus

The following link gives up to date information and guidance on the coronavirus <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/schoolsnet/noticeboard/schoolsnet-bulletin-board/coronavirus-advice-from-public-health-england-and-the-foreign-office/>

Year 6 Residential Visit to PGL

Thank you to everyone who attended the meeting on Thursday last week.

Music Success

Congratulations to Sophie P on receiving her Gold award in violin.

World Book Day

As part of World Book Day 2020 and our Upton literature festival celebrations, children are invited to come into school this Thursday (5th March) in comfortable clothes ready for some cosy reading! Onsies, pyjamas and slippers are encouraged. Our wonderful chef is preparing a special menu to celebrate the day.



WORLD BOOK DAY 5TH MARCH

Dr. Seuss's Ham and Cheese Pizza

Or

Lola's Pasta in Tomato Sauce

Served with the Hungry Caterpillar's Salad or Vegetables

Followed by

Willy Wonka's Chocolate Ices



Book Signing

On Friday 6th March, Author Tracey Corderoy will be visiting us and signing her book 'Shifty McGrifthy & Slippery Sam' in our school library after school. She will have a supply of books available to purchase for between £5 and £7 or you can bring your own copy to be signed.

On Friday 13th March, Author Vashti Hardy, will also be visiting us to sign her books. Her books will also be on sale with the Yellow Lighted Book Shop for between £5 and £7 on the day. You are welcome to bring your own copy of one of her books to be signed.

Save the date

Parents Information Evening - Reception to Lifelong Reader

Wednesday 11th March, 6-7pm

Information about Phonics, Early Reading, KS2 whole class reading, reading for pleasure, how parents can support the development of reading and more.

Our community book club will run straight afterwards.

Hope to see lots of you there

Mrs Wood
Reading Lead



Our new library

After months of preparation, the school library is now a place to enjoy a cosy read. The mural was designed and painted by artist Stephanie Cole and is a one off especially for our library. The beautiful tree shelf was hand-crafted by Mr Holpin, father of Jamie and Jorja, and is an amazing addition to the space. Children will soon be able to take books out on loan using our new and updated electronic service which will be run by the Year 5 Reading Ambassadors. On Thursday 12th March, Brightstorm author Vashti Hardy, will be officially opening the library as part of our Literature Festival. A huge thank you to everyone who has made this space possible.

Amy Ward

Acting English Lead and Music Lead



Easter Holiday Club

Our Easter Holiday Club will run from Monday 6th through to Thursday 9th April 2020. Spaces are filling up fast so please ensure you complete and hand in your forms to the office asap. Payment is required in full by 29th March to guarantee your place.



Attendance



Before half term the classes with the highest attendance were both Y1A and Y2B They will both be entered into the termly draw for prizes.

Well done!

Parking

Despite polite reminders in recent newsletters, we are still extremely concerned about inconsiderate parking which is potentially putting the community, including our children, at danger. We have called our local PCSOs who have reassured us that they will be visiting our school intermittently during school drop off and collection times to patrol the area. Miss Baish is also working with our School Council to make posters for the front of our school to remind parents/carers about the importance of parking safely. You may have already seen children patrolling the front of school in the mornings in Hi-Vis jackets.

Eco Project

Don't forget that we are holding our next after school Ecobrick making event on the Wednesday 4th March from 3.30pm – 4.30pm. (N.B. All Eco group are required to attend these events).

Please come along. Any help will be gratefully received and appreciated.

The next date will be released soon. Thank you in advance.

Sport Relief

On Friday 13th March we are inviting children to wear something red, along with their normal uniform, to raise money for Sport Relief. This could be red socks, hairband, wristband or red jumper/cardigan. Our suggested donation is £1.



SIAMS

You may be aware that as a Church of England School we have to be inspected every 5 years by the Diocese. This is called a SIAMS Inspection. As is often the case in education, the schedule that we are assessed against has changed significantly since the last inspection. To be awarded a 'Good' judgement is now recognised as 'gold standard' and something to be very proud of. We have recently had a Pre-SIAMS inspection which was very positive and acknowledged the progress we have made since our previous inspection. Our full inspection is due at some point before the end of this term.



A Big Thank You

Thank you so much to the parents and carers who have supported the changes in playtimes. We have been really pleased with the number of things brought in, especially dressing up clothes! The children are thoroughly enjoying dressing up and performing. The other huge success has been the mud zone. This still have some development ahead but is already being well used and adored by many; see for yourselves! They love the chairs, guttering, tyres, pallets... and they especially the mud!



Not that many children are bringing in scooters or bikes with helmets but they are very welcome to so do if they would like to use these in the designated areas at playtimes, including the Daily Mile track. There will probably be a few more items that we would like to further help us develop playtimes and we will include these in a future newsletter.

Goodbye from Mrs Barr

We have some very mixed news for you... extremely positive for Mrs Barr but extremely sad for us.

On Friday 20th March, after PGL, Mrs Barr will sadly be leaving us to move on to pastures new. She has very successfully secured a role at another large school as a Learning Mentor and Attendance Lead. Although we will miss her dearly, those that know Mrs Barr will know that these are her real areas of expertise and it is the perfect role for her. We are sure you will join us in congratulating her on her new role.

Mrs Barr wanted us to send the following message to parents:

Dear Parents, Carers and Pupils,

I am writing to bid a fond farewell to all of you at Upton. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you, past & present, for your love and support during my time at Upton over the last 16 years.

I have had the most wonderful time working with so many children and families as a Teaching Assistant and Learning Mentor. I will take away many fond, happy and special memories as I leave. Each and every one of you holds a special place in my heart.

Thank you once again for making my time at Upton so special.

Last but not least, I would like to wish the children all the very best for the future.

With love and best wishes,

Mrs Barr xxx



REACH FOR THE STARS



Operation Christmas Child 2019

Below is a message we received from Operation Christmas Child 2019.

'A big thank you for all you did in 2019 for Operation Christmas Child. Through your support we were able to send 6,547 shoebox gifts to Belarus. That's lots of smiling faces and shouts of joy and children hearing that God loves them deeply. Also, we in the UK care about and pray for them, no matter who they are or the situations they find themselves in. So on behalf of the children 'Thank You'



Our new Hub

Due to the recent purchase of laptops to be used in classes, the opportunity to move our nurture room, 'The Hub', to a more central place arose. This means that the Hub is now more at the heart of the school where the 'old' computing room was.

As we are a 'Embracing Thrive' school, The Hub has been redesigned with this in mind. We have; sensory lighting, opportunities for exploring water/messy play, a creative area, an area to explore our identity, an area to explore sensory mats/stones, a sand play area, a Lego area, a reflection and quiet space, several areas of containment and a listening centre. These have all been created with the natural outdoors in mind, using astro turf, plants, trees and wood. This has allowed us to create a space where the children feel free to explore, be safe, have a sense of belonging and of course have the feeling of being loved and valued.

We are extremely lucky to have such a creative, calm and relaxing room and it is an imperative asset to our Inclusion Team.

We look forward to welcoming children as and when they require our support.

