Upton St Leonards C of E Primary School

Weekly Newsletter

Term 2 Newsletter 3: 16th November 2026

Diary Dates

NOVEMBER

16th – 20th – Anti-Bullying Week
16th – Odd Socks Day
17th & 19th – Open Day for new 2027 parents (9.00am)
24th – Y2M Class Assembly – 2.40pm
26th & 27th – Reception Christmas Community Event - 9.15-10.15
30th – Online Safety Talk for Y5/Y6
30th – 4th – Explore Advent

DECEMBER

1st – Y4DW Class Assembly – 2.40pm
1ST – Open Classrooms – 3.30pm
2nd – Y4 Clarinet Concert – 2.30pm
3rd – Christmas Music Concert – 5pm
10th – Christmas Jumper Day
11th – Christingle Day
14th – Santa's Grotto (PTA Event)
15th – Gloucester Cathedral Choir Performance – 6.30pm
16th – Carol Concert (Y2/Y3/Y4) – 9am – Church
16th – Carol Concert (Y5/Y6) – 2.15pm – Church
17th – Rec/Y1 Nativity – 2pm and 5pm
18th – Christmas Lunch and Christmas Parties
18th – LAST DAY OF TERM – BREAK UP FOR CHRISTMAS

JANUARY

4th – INSET DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS
5th – RETURN TO SCHOOL

A reminder that all diary dates for the school year can be found

Across the Federation...

As we begin another busy and exciting week across our Federation, there is much to look forward to and celebrate. Alongside the excellent learning taking place in our classrooms each day, this week provides an important opportunity to reflect on how we support one another and live out our Federation values.

This week is Anti-Bullying Week, and with children at the heart of everything we do, and our core values of Love and Respect guiding our actions, it is particularly important that we mark this national event. Anti-Bullying Week provides an opportunity to reinforce the message that everyone deserves to feel safe, valued and included. Through assemblies, discussions and classroom activities, pupils will explore the importance of kindness, empathy and speaking up when something is not right.

Today, we are also celebrating Odd Socks Day, where children and staff are invited to wear odd socks as a symbol of individuality and uniqueness. The simple act of wearing odd socks reminds us that we are all different, and that those differences should be celebrated. It is a fun and visible way of promoting inclusion, acceptance and respect for others.

We will also be welcoming prospective families to our schools this week as we hold our Federation Open Days for September 2027 admissions. These events are a wonderful opportunity to showcase our nurturing environments, dedicated staff and wonderful pupils. If you know families within the local community who may be considering school places for September 2027, please encourage them to come along and see our schools in action.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. By working together and modelling our shared values, we help create school communities where every child feels they belong, can flourish and is empowered to achieve their very best.

Wishing everyone a positive and successful week ahead.

With love ♥

Mrs Broadbent

Executive Headteacher

in the 3-fold calendar we provided you at the end of last academic year. It can also be found on the 'Term Dates' page of our website.



Our value this term is

GENEROSITY

Upton St Leonards C of E Primary School

British Values and School Core Values

Individual Liberty Love – our love of life, the freedom to be ourselves, to be special, to be unique, to make our own choices, to enjoy the world.
Rule of Law and Democracy Truthfulness – we tell the truth, we know right from wrong, we follow the rules and we play fairly. We make informed decisions and we vote on things that matter to us.
Mutual Respect & Tolerance of Those with Different Faiths and Beliefs Respect – our love of another, we recognise diversity and individuality. We treat each other in the way that we would like to be treated.
Perseverance – We must do all that is necessary to uphold our School Values and British Values.

Menu

This week is Week 2

Upton St Leonards C of E Primary School

Message from the Head of School

Building foundations for a love of life, a love of learning and a love of one another

Last week was another busy and memorable week in school, with exciting opportunities for learning and achievement across every year group. Children proudly represented the school at the Tabletop Cricket competition and Swimming Gala, our youngest learners enjoyed a visit from Little City, Year 6 have been developing their mathematical skills through adding and subtracting mixed numbers, and Year 5 have been captivating their readers with suspense stories. Year 3 also enjoyed a meaningful visit to the memorial in Upton St Leonards, while the whole school came together for our Remembrance Day service, showing great respect as we reflected and paid tribute to those who have served and sacrificed.

This week, we are looking forward to welcoming many prospective Reception parents to our Open Mornings. It is always a privilege to open our doors and share the wonderful work taking place throughout our school. We look forward to showing families how we live out our vision of laying the foundations for a love of life, a love of learning and a love of one another, and giving them a glimpse of the caring, nurturing and inspiring community that makes our school such a special place.

Kathy Donaldson
Head of School

Anti-Bullying Week - Odd Socks Day

ABA are official organisers of Anti-Bullying Week and Odd Socks Day in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Anti-Bullying Week 2026 will take place from today until Friday with the theme: Break the Silence. The week kicked off today with **Odd Socks Day**, with adults and children being encouraged to wear odd socks to celebrate what makes us all unique. Mrs Knight will be leading an Anti- Bullying assembly this week where the children will learn about 'Breaking the Silence.'



Open Days 2026 - 17th and 19th November

open day

We are delighted to invite prospective families to our upcoming **Open Days** and would be grateful for your help in spreading the word to friends, family, and neighbours who may be looking for a school place.

Y2M Class Worship

We are welcoming parents/carers to come to the Year 2M Worship next Tuesday, 24th November at 2:40pm. The class will be showing what they have learned so far this term.



Reception Christmas Community Event

We are delighted to be inviting grandparents into school for our annual Reception Christmas Community Event. This special event gives Reception grandparents the opportunity to enjoy festive activities and create Christmas memories with their grandchildren.
Sessions will take place on:
Thursday 26th November | 9:15am - 10:15am
Friday 27th November | 9:15am - 10:15am
Reception families will be able to book one session **(please book via epraise to you class teacher)** If grandparents are unable to attend, another special family member, such as an aunt or uncle, is welcome to join us instead.

We look forward to a wonderful morning of festive fun.



Online Safety Talk for Years 5 & 6

Year 5 and 6 will be visited by The Police Engagement Officer for a special talk about staying safe online. This is to support the learning they already do in PSHE lessons. These sessions will happen on 30th November and a separate letter and leaflet has been communicated to parents of our Y5 and Y6 pupils.

COLLECTION

School Contact List & Collection Policy

Please ensure that you contact list is up to date with the school office – we suggest that your 3 contacts are people who you authorise to collect your child from school. Our policy is that we only dismiss to people on your child's contact list. If somebody else is collecting, please make a note in your child's Reading Record and sign it to give permission.



Mobile Phone Disclaimer

A reminder that generally, we do not encourage children to bring mobile phones into school. We do however, understand that some older children do, as they use them to communicate with parents/carers when travelling to and from school. Should your child bring a mobile phone into school, these **MUST** be handed into the School Office.

The mobile phone remains your responsibility and we will not take responsibility for any loss or damage to devices.



No Dogs on Site

A kind reminder that no dogs are permitted on site except for therapy or assistance dogs.

Little City

Last Monday, we were delighted to welcome Little City into school for our Reception and Year 1 children The hall was transformed into a vibrant city full of exciting role-play opportunities, including a supermarket, kitchen, post office, garage, vets, emergency services, café, hairdressers and building site.

The children had a wonderful time exploring the different areas, using their imaginations and developing their communication and social skills through play. It was fantastic to see them working together, creating stories, solving problems and fully immersing themselves in their chosen roles.

The visit was a huge success, and the children thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to learn through hands-on, imaginative experiences. We would like to thank Little City for providing such an engaging and memorable experience for our pupils.







Swimming Gala

On Wednesday 11th November a group of children took part in the Panathlon swimming challenge, as part of the Gloucester Schools Sporting Network. We achieved Bronze as a school and are extremely proud of their efforts, working as a team and individually to compete in races. Well done.





Governor News

The Governors of Heartwood Federation are saddened that one of the longest serving Governors, Stuart Bircher, has decided to step down. The Governors would like to thank Stuart for all the work he has done for both schools. Stuart has been a Governor for 7/8 years and was instrumental in guiding the schools through the Federation process. He has had to make crucial decisions about pupils and staff and has done so whilst fully committing to our values as a Federation. He has also worked with the admin teams in the schools to ensure we up to scratch with Health and Safety. He had a special focus on Staff wellbeing and for this we are grateful. All as a volunteer, the Federation and USL community truly appreciate your service and dedication.

Year 3 Community Event.

On Monday 30th November, we would like to invite Year 3 grandparents into school at 9.15am till 10am to paint Christmas decorations with children in the hall. 3HB and 3L will have made their salt dough decorations beforehand ready to paint on the day.

Can Y3 families book their session via Epraise to the class teacher. Thank you.



School Policies

Our Governing Body determine which policies are school-based and which are Federation-based. A reminder that a copy of our most up to date policies can be found on the policy page of our school website or Federation website – https://www.upton-st-leonards.co.uk/Policies/ or https://heartwoodfederation.co.uk/Key-Information/Policies/

Communication Policy



The strongest outcomes for children come when pupils, parents/carers and school staff work together. This partnership is at the heart of everything we do and helps ensure that every child is happy, supported and successful in school.

We want to work closely with families and encourage parents and carers to contact us if they have any questions, concerns or information that may help us support their child. We can only help with issues that we know about, and early communication often means that concerns can be resolved quickly and positively.

As a reminder, our Communication Policy asks that any concerns are raised through the following steps:

1. Speak with your child's Class Teacher in the first instance.

2. If the matter remains unresolved, speak with a Phase Lead (Mrs Baish,

Come and work at our lovely school ! ❤

❤ WE HAVE 1:1 INCLUSION VACANCIES AT UPTON! ❤ ❤

✨ Are you passionate about helping children thrive? Do you want to make a real difference every single day?

Upton St Leonards C of E Primary School is looking for enthusiastic, caring and dedicated 1:1 Teaching Assistants to join our team!

🌟 This is a fantastic opportunity to support individual children, celebrate their achievements and help them reach their full potential in a nurturing, inclusive school community.

❤ Make a difference

⭐ Support every learner

🤝 Be part of our team

🍸 Help children thrive If you have a passion for supporting children and helping every learner feel valued, included and able to succeed, we would love to hear from you!

📲 Find out more about our vacancies and how to apply: https://www.upton-st-leonards.co.uk/About-Us/Vacancies/ ❤ ❤

Advent Window Competition

Thank you for all the fantastic entries to our "Design an Advent Window" competition - we wanted to share all the incredible artwork with our families. Every child who took part will receive a special recognition certificate from Mrs Knight and the winer will be announced in Friday's celebration worship! Thank you to Mrs Townsend, who will be working with the winner to create their masterpiece on a grand scale!

Look out for the winning window being created in the coming weeks.









Mrs Day-Webb or Mr Turner).

3. If the matter remains unresolved, speak with the Head of School, Assitant Headteacher or Executive Deputy Headteacher.

4. If further discussion is needed, contact the Executive Headteacher.

By following these steps and maintaining open, respectful communication, we can continue to work together in the best interests of every child. Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership.



Free School Meals

If you think you qualify for your child/ren to receive free school meals then please take a look at the following link to apply. https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/education-and-learning/free-school-meals/apply-for-free-school-meals/



Reporting Absences

Please ensure all absences reported through the dedicated phone line (open 24/7) by 9am. **Do not report via EPraise or email** as they may not be picked up in time for the morning registers. Thank you.



Children in Need Bake Sale – A thank you from Matilda Lloyd

"Thank you for helping raise money for Children in Need. We raised £253.50 on Friday! Thank you all for buying my cakes"





GSW Music Hub

Supported using public funding by ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND

Gloucestershire COUNTY COUNCIL