Upton St Leonards C of E Primary School

Weekly Newsletter **Term 1 Newsletter 6: 12th October 2026**

Diary Dates

OCTOBER

12th – Cheltenham Literature Festival (Y1/Y2/Y4)
13th – Cheltenham Literature Festival (Y6)
14th – Harvest Festival (KS1- 9am/KS2 – 2.30pm)
20th – PTA AGM – 7.30pm
19th & 21st – Parents Evening
23rd – New Reception Welcome Worship – 2.40pm
26th – HALF TERM

NOVEMBER

4th & 5th – School Photographer
20th – Children In Need
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
30th – 4th – Explore Advent

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

Across the Federation...

This week, across Heartwood Federation, we celebrate Harvest - a special time in the Christian calendar when we give thanks to God for the food we eat, the land that sustains us, and all those who work hard to grow, produce and provide our food. Harvest reminds us of the importance of gratitude for the blessings we have, while also encouraging us to think about those who may not have enough. It is a time to reflect on how we can share what we have with others and put our Christian values into action.

At Heartwood, our core values of *love, respect and perseverance* are at the heart of everything we do. We want our children to understand that these values extend beyond our school gates and into the wider community. One charity particularly close to our hearts is the food bank, which provides vital support to individuals and families experiencing difficult times. This is especially meaningful to us because some of our own Heartwood families access this support. We know that circumstances can change for anyone, and that a little kindness and generosity can make a real difference.

As we celebrate Harvest, I would encourage every family who is able to do so to consider donating to our food bank collection. Please look out for the list of requested items later in this newsletter. Every contribution, however small, can help another family and demonstrate to our children the true meaning of compassion, community and looking after one another.

Thank you, as always, for your generosity and for helping us to live out our Heartwood vision: placing children at the heart of all we do, nurturing love, respect and lifelong learning.

With love ♥

Mrs Broadbent
Executive Headteacher

Message from the Head of School

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

It promises to be another exciting and busy week at Upton St Leonards, with lots of opportunities for our children to learn, explore and celebrate together!

Today, our Year 1, Year 2 and Year 4 children are visiting the Cheltenham Literature Festival. This is a wonderful opportunity to bring stories to life, spark imaginations and inspire a lifelong love of reading. Our Year 6 children will enjoy their visit tomorrow, and I am sure they will return with plenty to share with us.

This week, we will also be celebrating Harvest, giving thanks for the food we have and thinking about how we can help others in our community. Our Harvest celebrations will take place in the main school hall, with Key Stage 1 joining us at 9.00am and Key Stage 2 at 2.30pm. We look forward to coming together as a school community to reflect on the importance of gratitude, generosity and caring for one another. Please do look out for the food bank collection information elsewhere in this newsletter and support it if you are able.

On Friday, our Year 4 children will continue their musical learning with their clarinet lessons. It is lovely to see our children developing new skills and discovering different ways to express themselves.

As always, thank you for your continued support. I hope you have a lovely week, and I look forward to sharing more of our children's achievements with you soon.

Warm wishes,

Kathy Donaldson
Head of School

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 1

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.

Cheltenham Literature Festival

Today's visit to the Literature Festival was a fantastic experience for our children, who thoroughly enjoyed taking part in a variety of inspiring workshops with some wonderful authors and illustrators.
Year 1 had the pleasure of meeting author **Tracey Corderoy** and illustrator **Steve Lenton**, where they enjoyed an engaging and creative session that brought stories to life. Year 2 participated in an exciting workshop with **Philip Reeve** and illustrator **Sarah McIntyre**, gaining an insight into the world of storytelling and illustration. Meanwhile, Year 4 enjoyed a magical workshop with **Philippa Leathley**, where they used their imaginations to create their own fantastic magical creatures.

CHELTENHAM Literature Festival

The children were enthusiastic, engaged and full of creative ideas throughout the day. We were particularly proud of their behaviour, which was truly impeccable. They represented the school exceptionally well, demonstrating excellent manners, respect and enthusiasm during each of the workshops.
It was a wonderful opportunity to foster a love of reading, writing and illustration, and we are sure the experience will inspire many budding authors and artists in the future. We would like to thank all of the authors and illustrators for making the day such a memorable and enjoyable experience for our children. 📚✨

Harvest Festival

Our Harvest Festival will take place this Wednesday, 14th October, in the school hall.
9:00am – Reception, Year 1 and Year 2
2:30pm – Years 3, 4, 5 and 6
Parents and carers are warmly invited to attend.
As part of our Harvest celebrations, we will be collecting donations for the Gloucester Foodbank. They are currently in particular need of the following items:

- Adult toothpaste
- Biscuits
- Coffee
- Deodorant
- Instant mashed potato
- Long-life juice
- Shampoo
- Shaving foam/gel
- Shower gel
- Tea bags
- Tinned custard
- Tinned fruit
- Tinned potatoes
- Tinned rice pudding
- Tinned spaghetti
- Tinned vegetables
- Washing-up liquid



Donations can be brought into school until tomorrow, Tuesday 13th October. Children can hand their donations to their class teacher, who will ensure they are taken to our collection point in the main hall.
We also have a Foodbank Donation Shed at the front of the school, where donations can be left at any time.
Thank you in advance for your generosity and support. Your donations will help make a real difference to local families in need.



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.



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/

PTA AGM

The PTA Annual General Meeting will take place on **Tuesday 20th October at 7.30pm in the school hall**.

All parents and carers are warmly invited to attend. The AGM is a great opportunity to hear about the PTA's activities and achievements over the past year, learn about upcoming events, and find out how you can get involved in supporting the school community.



At this year's AGM, the position of **PTA Chair** will become available. We are looking for someone who is enthusiastic, organised and keen to work alongside our friendly and supportive PTA committee. The role offers a fantastic opportunity to help shape future events, support fundraising initiatives and make a positive difference to the school experience of our children.

If you are interested in finding out more about the Chair position, or would simply like to learn more about how the PTA operates, please come along to the AGM. We'd love to welcome some new faces and ideas as we plan for the future.

We look forward to seeing you there. 😊

Parent's Evenings



Appointments will take place on:

- Monday 19th October and
- Wednesday 21st October
- 3.30pm - 6.00pm

Each appointment is 10 minutes long.

To book your appointment:

1. Log in to Epraise
2. Click on the three dots (...) on the home screen
3. Select Parents' Evening
4. Choose your preferred date and time

To ensure that all appointments run smoothly and fairly, please arrive promptly for your allocated time slot. Unfortunately, due to the tight schedule, late arrivals will be turned away and may need to arrange an alternative appointment at a later date.

We look forward to meeting with you and discussing your child's progress.

A Special Welcome for Our New Reception Children

Next Friday, we will be holding a very special collective worship to formally welcome our new Reception children into our school community. We hope this will be a lovely and memorable occasion, as we come together to celebrate the start of their school journey.Parents and Carers of Reception children are warmly invited to join us for this special event at 2:40pm on Friday 23rd in school. We look forward to sharing this moment with you as we welcome the newest members of our school family.



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, 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.

Parent Governor



We are inviting parents to self-nominate for the position of Parent Governor at the Heartwood Federation. Ideally, we are looking for a parent from the Nailsworth community.
If we get more than one nominee then we have to have a vote.
The vacancy has arisen because Emily Walsh, who has held the position for over 4 years, is stepping down. The Governors would publicly like to thank Emily for all her work during a time of great change.
If you are interested and need further information, please contact Neil Eley chair@heartwoodfederation.co.uk and he can give you further details.

Mobile Phones



In line with current Department for Education guidance, our school operates as a mobile phone-free environment throughout the school day. If your child needs to bring a mobile phone to school, for example to support independent travel to and from school, the phone must be switched off before entering the school site and handed to the school office for safekeeping until the end of the day.
Any pupil found using a mobile phone on the school site, including taking photographs, accessing apps, messaging or making calls without prior permission, will have their device confiscated. The phone will be returned in accordance with the school's behaviour and safeguarding procedures.
We appreciate your support in helping us maintain a safe, calm and focused learning environment for all children and in ensuring that our school remains a mobile phone-free space throughout the school day.
Thank you for your continued cooperation and support.

Table Tennis Success!

A huge well done to all the children who represented our school at the table tennis competition on 7th October. The team demonstrated excellent sportsmanship throughout the event, taking turns to umpire and making sure everyone had the opportunity to play as many games as possible.
Special congratulations go to **Team 1**, who proudly brought home **gold medals for finishing in first place**. We would also like to recognise **Matilda P** and **Oliver S**, who received special medals for being outstanding teammates and positive role models throughout the competition.
We are very proud of all the children for representing our school so brilliantly!



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.

Girls' Football

A huge well done to our girls' football team, who played their second league fixture of the season and secured a fantastic 1–1 draw. We couldn't be prouder of how they are developing as a team. Most importantly, seeing them play with such enthusiasm and smiles on their faces is what school sport is all about!



Enchanted Garden by Night – Win a Free Family Ticket!

Painswick Rococo Garden are delighted to offer **one of our school families a free family ticket** to the magical **Enchanted Garden by Night** winter lights events. This special event is a wonderful opportunity for children and families to explore the garden after dark, enjoy the beautiful winter lights and experience a little seasonal magic together.

To enter, we are inviting children to get creative and **draw or paint a picture of their own Enchanted Night Garden**.

Simply create your picture and bring it into school. All entries will be put into a draw and one lucky child will be chosen to receive a **free family ticket** to the event!

We can't wait to see your magical night gardens – let your imaginations shine!

Closing date: Friday 23rd October

Please return entries to: Mrs Bailey



Art Competition – Christmas Window

Christmas Window Art Competition December 2026

We are looking for a budding young artist to design a Christmas Window for the Upton St Leonards village advent windows trail.

Our school is taking part and have been allocated window number 11, which means our window needs to be in place and lit up from 11th December 2026 until the 1st of January 2027.

The winning design will be put up in one of the windows at the front of school by the winning child with the help of Mrs Townsend.

Entries of all artwork must be original and on paper then handed in to Mrs Townsend or Mrs Knight by the 6th of November 2026. Please feel free to see Mrs Townsend if you want to ask any more questions.



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Katkinz Happy Pawz Rescue
Registered Charity : 1209700
KATKINZ CHRISTMAS
Afternoon Tea
Sunday 29th November
11am-3pm
Bowden Hall
Bondend Lane
Upton St Leonard's
GL4 8ED
New Goods
Raffle
Glitter Tattoos
Bottle Tombola
Kids Tombola
Hand Made Crafts
£15
PER PERSON
To Book Your Space Please Contact
Jane On
07886654046


... if your child wants to join in the fun
please contact Jane on 07886654046
Katkinz Happy Pawz Rescue
Registered Charity : 1209700
Pawz In Motion
Alex and friends are walking for the cats who have been forgotten, abandoned and let down – to help give them the love, care and safe future they deserve.
Every paw deserves a warm bed.
Every animal deserves to feel safe.
Every rescue deserves a second chance.
Together for kitties!
Stronger together!
COME WALK WITH US & HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE
BBQ AFTER THE WALK
FUNDRAISING STALLS
FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY
Date: Saturday 24th October 2026
Time: 11am
Location:
19 Bondend Road
Upton St Leonard's GL4 8AH
Every paw. Every step. Every donation.
All food has been sponsored by
Bowden Hall
& THIS WILL ALL BE UNDER A HEATED MARQUEE

PAINSWICK CHRISTMAS FAIR

PAINSWICK GOLF CLUB, GL6 6TL

Friday 6th November 2pm - 7pm

Saturday 7th November 10am - 4pm

Come and meet

SANTA & HIS REINDEER

FRIDAY 3.30PM - 5PM

Exquisite gifts for family, friends, pets & home.

Painswick Golf Club Bar and Kitchen
open for cakes, light snacks
and beverages.

FREE ADMISSION

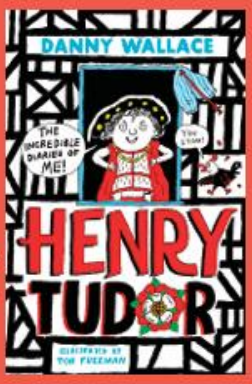
Raising funds for
Motor Neurone
Disease Association



Corinium Museum

Children's Half Term Workshops 2026

New Family Gallery Trail: Henry Tudor: The Incredible Diaries of Me Based on the new novel by Danny Wallace and illustrations by Tor Freeman.



Sat October 23, 2026 - Fri February 12, 2027

Meet Henry Tudor (the future Henry VIII) when he was just eight and a half years old and convinced that he is the best at absolutely everything!

Gruesome Gargoyles



Thu 29 October, 10.30am -12pm

Join us for a gruesome, glorious, gargoyle gala. We will meet at the Parish Church to investigate the gargoyles and grotesques that grace the building. Once we have our inspiration, we will head back to the museum to create our own gruesome gargoyles!



Creepy Corinium Cupcakes

Wed 28 October 10.30am -12pm

Back by popular demand, our Creepy Corinium Cupcakes workshop allows you to make art that you can eat! Create a monster cupcake and hear about some of the monsters in our collections.



Make Your Own Curse Tablet

Fri 30 October, 10.30am -12pm

Did you know that the Romans wrote secret curses on lead tablets and threw them in springs to hex their enemies? From stolen cloaks to chariot race rivals, no grudge was too small! Come & learn how to inscribe your own spooky curse tablet just in time for Halloween.

CORINIUM MUSEUM

For full details and to book visit: https://coriniummuseum.org or scan the QR code

Corinium Museum, Park Street
Cirencester GL7 2BX
01285 655611
coriniummuseum.org