

LIVE LEARN FLOURISH



# ULEY C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2026

Dear all,

It has been a busier than usual couple of weeks. Last Friday, we were joined by Mr Duncan Hutchison for the day for our Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools. A huge thank you to everyone for their support, especially to the families who met with the inspector. The children played a huge part in the inspection, as did the staff and governors too. My thanks and appreciation go to the whole Uley School Community.

The report will follow shortly; keep an eye out!

This week, the Year 6s have certainly been the best they can be and demonstrated courage and resilience by coming to school everyday and completing their statutory tests. We are super proud of them!!

Thank you again everybody.

Zoe

**They are like trees that grow beside a stream that bear fruit at the right time and whose leaves do not dry up. They succeed in all they do. Psalm 1:3**

## Team Points Spring 2026

Here is the total amount of team points for the spring term. Well done to **Dauncey's**. There will be a non-school uniform day for Dauncey's on **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May!** Well done to Sheppard's, Rockstowes and Angeston too – great team work! Let's get more team points everyone!

Dauncey's 4986	Sheppard's 3758
Angeston 4756	Rockstowes 3944



## Wedding Celebrations

Mrs Delrosa will be getting married during half term – huge congratulations! She will return to school as Mrs Boardman.

## Life Education Visit

As part of our PSHE Curriculum, we will be having a visit from the Life Education team on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May.

This approach is designed to give pupils a voice and for them to feel empowered, able to identify and articulate their feelings and needs, and enable them to make healthy choices. Harold, our healthy-living giraffe mascot, helps to convey these messages to children, within a magical learning environment. Children experience fun, engaging and memorable workshops with Coram Life Education.



The topics this year are:

- 🌸 Reception – All About Me
- 🌸 Years 1 and 2 – Feelings
- 🌸 Years 3 and 4- It's Great to be Me
- 🌸 Years 5 and 6 – Decisions

Our SCARF (Safety, Caring, Achievement, Resilience, Friendship) PSHE Curriculum has a parent section <https://www.coramlifeeducation.org.uk/family-scarf/scarf-at-home>

## Attendance Matters - 'Improving attendance is everyone's business.'

### ***Did You Know?***

*A full year of a child's school education has a total of 190 days. This means that children are expected to be in school for 52% of a year. This also means that for 175 days or 48% of the year children are not in school.*

At Uley School there has been a clear increase in the number of children not being in school due to a holiday during term time or out of education without a reasonable explanation. The week prior to and after the two week Easter break, 14% of the children registered at Uley School during this period have been registered with an 'unauthorised' code.

Looking at patterns, there seems to be a trend of taking a little bit of time off at the end of a term or not returning on the first day when the new term starts. Children still miss valuable learning and important school events during these times. There are also processes for requesting time out of school for exceptional circumstances which can be found on the school website or can be requested from the school office.

A comparison of this spring term 2026 compared to the spring term 2025, demonstrates an increase in unauthorised absences.

Spring term 2024 – 2025 unauthorised absences **0.4%**

Spring term 2025 – 2026 unauthorised absences **1.3%**

Regular school attendance is an essential part of a child's education. The link between good attendance and good attainment is well established. Children who attend school regularly are more likely to maintain friendships and enjoy the wider activities of the school community.

Parents and carers are required by law to ensure that their children of compulsory school age attend school regularly – everyday that school is open. Schools are required to manage the attendance of pupils and take appropriate action in relation to absences.

If a child is absent from school, the parent/carer must provide a reason as soon as possible. Any absences will be coded appropriately in line with statutory guidance from the DFE. This may mean your child's absence is recorded as unauthorised if the reason for absence does not meet guidance.

Please note schools have a duty of care to be informed where your child is when they are absent from school. When the school is not made aware of an absence, we will initially make Calls/Texts/Emails home to parents/carers. If there is no communication from the parent/carer, we may carry out a home visit as this is classed as a safeguarding concern. If the home visit is unsuccessful the school must then pass this information to the local children services team to action.

During 2024, The Department for Education introduced a national threshold for all schools and local authorities to adhere to when considering, and issuing, penalty notices in relation to irregular school attendance.

Prior to issuing a penalty notice, 'notice to improve' can be implemented. Over the next week, we will be looking at data to see if there are any children who have had 10 or more sessions of unauthorised absence within 10 school weeks. If so, families may receive a 'Notice to Improve' notification, sent via email on behalf of the school and issued by Gloucestershire County Council.

Each day of absence is recorded as two sessions (morning and afternoon). Unauthorised absences include:

- unauthorised absence, where there is no reasonable circumstance for the absence taking place;
- arriving late after the register has closed; or
- a combination of these, with holidays taken during term time.

These 10 weeks can span different terms, academic years, and even different educational settings, such as transitions to secondary school or in-year school changes. For example, if your child misses 3 days of school for a holiday in July (6 sessions) and is late after the register closes on 4 occasions (4 sessions) between September and October, you may be issued a 'Notice to Improve' notification.

### **Smartphone Free Childhood Campaign**

The Smartphone Free Childhood campaign is a rapidly growing movement encouraging parents to delay giving children smartphones until at least their early teenage years. It raises awareness of the potential impacts of early smartphone use on mental health, sleep, attention, and social development. By promoting alternatives such as basic phones and more offline activities, the campaign aims to give children the time and space to develop safely, build meaningful real-world relationships, and enjoy a less digitally dependent childhood.

More than 180,000 British children are now covered by the online parent pact, with families committing to delay smartphones until at least age 14 and social media until at least 16.



Many secondary schools, for example Rednock School in Dursley, are now revising their policies to become phone-free and it will not be necessary for children to have a smartphone when starting Year 7.

If you are considering delaying giving your child a smartphone, or are still undecided, you are encouraged to visit <https://www.smartphonefreechildhood.org/>. The website offers clear, practical information, including child-friendly alternatives to smartphones.

A WhatsApp group has also been set up for parents of Uley School children. This provides a supportive space to connect with others, ask questions, and share experiences. The aim is not to judge individual choices, but to create a sense of collective support—helping to establish a new normal where children without smartphones feel included, not isolated.



<https://chat.whatsapp.com/DK9MR7baF2M9DtVbGFVMhz?mode=hqctcla>

I'll be in the playground on Friday mornings from next term and would love to chat with anyone interested in Smartphone Free Childhood or anything smartphone-related. Whether you're just curious, have questions, or want to share your thoughts, please feel free to come and say hello—it would be great to see you!

Alice Muir (Lowri's and David's mum)

#### **Dates for your Diary**

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May** – KNEX challenge final am Renishaw

**Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May** – RSE (Relationship Sex Education) week – email sent out

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May** – SCARF (Safety, Caring, Achievement, Resilience and Friendship) workshops

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May** – Dauncey's Non-uniform Day

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May** – Sports Enrichment Day

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May** – End of Term 5

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June** – Start of Term 6

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June** – KS1 (Year 1 and 2) Multi-skills morning at Rednock – letter to follow

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June** – Track and Field event at Rednock – correspondence to follow

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June** – Track events at Dursley Primary 5-7pm – correspondence to follow

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June** – Year 6 Cathedral Service – letter to follow

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June** – New Parents Evening 5.30pm at Uley School

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June** – Uley School Transition 10.45am – 12pm

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June** – Uley School Transition 1.30-3pm

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July** – Homework Share 9 – 9.30am

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July** – Class 2 Live, Learn, Flourish worship 9.10am

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July** – Class 4 trip to Skillzone – letter to follow

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July** – Uley School Transition 9.30 – 11am

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July** – Sports afternoon

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July** – 9.30am Year 6 Celebrations at Uley School – information to follow

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July** – Sport afternoon reserve

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July** - End of year service, 1.30pm

Term dates can be found on the school website