



LIVE LEARN FLOURISH



ULEY C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Tuesday 21st April 2026

Welcome back! I hope you all had a fantastic Easter break and had a good first week back at school.



You may have noticed the school was a little quieter last week. Class 4 were in Wales on their residential and what a brilliant time we had!

Morfa Bay praised us for our super behaviour and very good manners.

The children were amazing, they certainly flourished and grew in confidence throughout the week. The staff were pretty amazing too!



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 21st 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




Value for the Summer term

The value for the summer term is Service.

Through the term, we will be exploring the value of Service through:

-  Using our talents to serve
-  Receiving as well as giving
-  Giving with no strings attached
-  Living for others



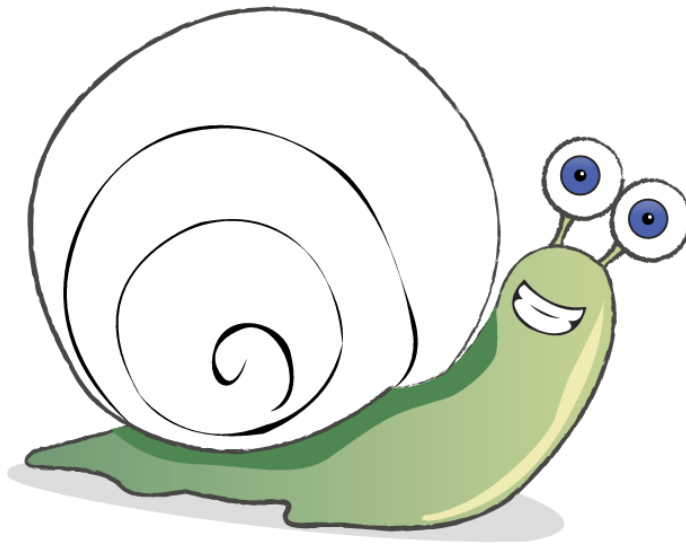
FAMILY FOCUS

Service with a smile

Complete a 'service snail'.

Living a life of **service** is about keeping your eyes open and looking out for ways to make others smile.

Draw a large smiley snail. Can you fill in the spirals on the snail's shell with ways in which as a family you serve each other in one week? When the snail shell is full take it to school to display in the Challenge Gallery.



School Policies

All of our school policies can be found on the school website. If you have any questions regarding any of our school policies, please come and ask.

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.

Parent Survey - Please complete the survey if you have not done so already.

Every year we seek parental views regarding your child's education at Uley School. You will have now received a questionnaire via email. If you would like a hard copy, please ask. We have previously used Survey Monkey and feel we do not get as many responses. As always, if you do have any questions or matters which you would like to discuss, we encourage you to ask us for a chat.

Let's go Zero – Zero Carbon 2030

Thank you for the responses so far. We have had **20** responses and need more! Please follow the link to complete a very short travel survey.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XFGNSC5>



“We’ve taken the [Let’s Go Zero](#) pledge, declaring our aim to become zero carbon by 2030. We’re joining schools across the UK in this national campaign to show the overwhelming support for zero carbon schools, and inviting government and local councils to work with us to reach this goal.

We are only just starting, but we are committing to cut carbon. Find out more about the Let’s Go Zero campaign here: <https://letsgozero.org/>

Our first job is to complete an audit, part of which explores how we travel to school.

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)





Governing Body Vacancies

We currently have two governing body vacancies, both non-parent roles. If you know someone who you feel would be interested, then please show them this advert and signpost them to the school.

Are you passionate about giving children the best possible start in life and have a drive to help children to flourish and reach their full potential?

We are looking for committed volunteer School Governors to join our governing board at Uley C of E Primary School. Governors play a vital role in supporting the distinctively Christian character, the strategic direction of the school, supporting and challenging the leadership team, and ensuring every child has the opportunity to flourish.





What's involved?

-  Attending around 10 meetings per year - Wednesday evenings 6.30pm
-  Agreed and focussed governor visits to school
-  Working collectively with the Head Teacher and fellow governors to evaluate the school's vision and priorities
-  Monitoring progress and ensuring resources are used effectively

Who can apply?

You do not need to be an education expert. Skills in areas such as finance, premises, curriculum or community are especially valuable, but enthusiasm and commitment are just as important.

Why become a governor?

-  To work collectively as a body to make a difference to children's education
-  To develop new skills and experience
-  To work with a dedicated and supportive team
-  To give back to your local community

Interested?

If you would like to find out more, please contact **01453 860350**. We would love to hear from you!

Uley Pre-school Update

Plans for the Uley Pre-school have been submitted and can be found on the Stroud District Council website.

We invite all members of the community and school community to visit the school hall **between 5.30pm and 7.30pm on Wednesday 13th May**, when you can see the plans for the new building, discuss with us the details of the project and ask any questions you may have.

Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 22nd April – Class 3 Live, Learn, Flourish worship, 9.10am

Week commencing Monday 11th May –Year 6 Statutory Test week

Monday 18th May – KNEX challenge final am Renishaw

Thursday 21st May – SCARF (Safety, Caring, Achievement, Resilience and Friendship) workshops – information to follow

Friday 22nd May – Sports Enrichment Day

Friday 22nd May – End of Term 5

Monday 1st June – Start of Term 6

Term dates can be found on the school website