



Madresfield C.E. Primary School

Mrs R Hibell – Headteacher

Tel: (01684) 573620

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14th April 2026

Dear Parents/Carers

Buzzards Bell Boating – Monday 18th May 2026

We have arranged for Buzzards to go Bell Boating at Upton Marina in Upton upon Severn on Monday 18th May 2026.

Bell Boating is increasingly popular within Worcestershire schools as it provides a great introduction to paddle sports, encourages teamwork and is great fun!

A Bell Boat is essentially a twin hulled canoe which is joined together by a platform. This makes it very stable and therefore ideal for children and those who have never been afloat on water before in this type of craft.

The session instructor will be Andy Train who is a BCU qualified coach and hugely experienced. The children will be accompanied by school staff and will be fully supervised at all times.

We are asking for a contribution of **£5.00** for the cost of the Bell Boating. To avoid additional transport costs, please could you take your child to meet us at Upton Marina at 9.30am. Please could the children be collected at 2.30pm.

In order to take part in the activity your child will need:

- Packed Lunch plus a morning snack
- Drink – enough for the whole day
- Warm Clothes & waterproof coat (and trousers if possible) – children should wear warm layers including a jumper top and jogging bottoms (**jeans are not suitable**) on their bottom half
- Spare clothes and a towel in a separate bag
- Depending on the weather your child should have sun cream applied and bring a hat or wear gloves and hat if it's cold.
- Children should wear trainers or sturdy shoes (**wellies are not suitable**)

Please provide your consent and payment via the Arbor Portal by **Friday 15th May 2026**.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Squire
Buzzards Teacher





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SAFETY AND HYGIENE ADVICE

Paddle-sport on placid water is an enjoyable and safe activity provided buoyancy aids are worn and people are aware of water hygiene. By way of reminder, we'd like to share the following information.

Weil's Disease is a bacterial infection normally believed to be spread by rat urine, though can also be transmitted by cat, fox and rabbit urine. Transmission is usually through an open wound or abrasion but can also be caused by ingestion of contaminated water.

Symptoms

The most common symptoms are lethargy, diarrhea, headaches, vomiting a high temperature, muscle and joint pain, sometimes referred to as flu like symptoms.

Notify Doctor

Be reassured that it is a rare illness but it's wise to be vigilant. Anyone falling ill with the symptoms after fishing, sailing, paddle or other water sports, particularly **within the three weeks following** the activity, **MUST** see a doctor straight away and advise him or her of when and where the activity took place.

Prevention

To prevent infection, cover scratches and cuts with water-proof plasters AND wash or shower after water-based activities, particularly before eating.

Further advice can be found at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/Leptospirosis/>

