



USWORTH COLLIERY

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

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WHAT HAPPENED IF.....?

We have been extremely lucky at Usworth Colliery not to have a positive case of coronavirus amongst staff or children so far. The government have said that we have to plan for all eventualities to ensure that children do not miss out on their education and we can move to home learning immediately. We have made the decision that work will be mainly set through Seesaw as this is the safest way to communicate. We have spoken to all children and there are very few who cannot access Seesaw. There are, however, a number of children who can access Seesaw but choose not to! The government have told us that we will be given a limited supply of laptops that those children who do not have a device can loan. However, we are only able to order these if a bubble has been told by Public Health England to isolate.

This week we have come up with the following scenarios and actions to make home learning work effectively should we need to:

A child in the class has to self-isolate due to a member of the household having a positive test or are awaiting a test result

- Teacher will provide Seesaw home learning each day and mark/comment/approve the work.
- Seesaw slides will reflect what is being taught to the class that day. Homework will continue to be uploaded also.
- Child should also have access to their 'Reading Plus' and 'Times Table Rockstar' login. This will be monitored by the teacher and reacted to when necessary during their isolation.
- If the child has not responded to any work after three days, the teacher will not continue to upload work until they have completed the work already provided. Parent/Carers will be contacted to see if we can support.

The teacher and the class are self-isolating due to a positive case within the class and the teacher is well

- Teacher will provide Seesaw home learning each day and mark/comment/approve the work.
- Seesaw slides will reflect what has been planned to be taught in the year group that day and will mirror the teaching going on in school in the other year group class. Homework will continue to be uploaded also.
- Child should also have access to their 'Reading Plus' and 'Times Table Rockstar' login. This will be monitored by the teacher and reacted to when necessary during their isolation.
- A 45 minute daily face-to-face teaching/catch up session will be delivered by the teacher to the isolating class from Monday to Friday during the isolation period. This will be through Microsoft Teams. Further information will be given and ground rules set if we find ourselves in this scenario. To access Teams in this situation, teachers will send a link to the parent/carer's email address which we have on our system.
- Parent/carers can contact the teacher through Seesaw or via the teacher's email account set up specifically for this situation. This email account will be shared when necessary.

The teacher and the class are self-isolating but the teacher is ill

- Teacher in the other year group class to provide Seesaw home learning each day. Seesaw slides will reflect what is being taught in their own class. Homework will continue to be uploaded also.
- The partner teacher does not need to mark/comment/approve this work, as the class teacher will do so when they are well.
- Child should also have access to their 'Reading Plus' and 'Times Table Rockstar' login. This will be monitored by the teacher and reacted to when necessary during their isolation.
- When the teacher is well enough to work they will take over marking and delivering of lessons remotely.

We will be ready to begin these arrangements from next week. I am sure that there will be other scenarios that we have not thought about and we will deal with complications as they arise. It is highly unlikely that we will close again even if there are more lockdown rules, however we will adopt the ideas above if we do.

COVID 19 TESTS

A reminder that if your child or anyone in your household has a Coronavirus test then the whole of household MUST SELF-ISOLATE until you receive the result. If someone in your household is going for a test, please inform the school office and then let them know the outcome as well. From here, we will be able to give you advice of the next steps.

If you are self-isolating at home, then you MUST NOT let your child play out with other children on an evening. Even though you may think that the result will be negative, you need to avoid all contact with anyone outside of your household.

PARENT/CARER TELEPHONE MEETINGS

We are busy trying to organise our parent/carer meetings this half-term which will take place over the telephone. The aim is for reception and Y1 conversations to happen during the week beginning 12th October and Years 2 to 6 during the week beginning 19th October.

Teachers will be given time out of class for half a day to complete these and the remainder of the calls will be made after school.

I will send a survey early next week which will give you options of when the telephone calls can take place for your child. I would be grateful if you could indicate your preferred times. Then you will receive confirmation of a day and 30-minute slot when you can expect your child's teacher to give you a call. The purpose of these meetings is to see how well they have settled into their new class, discuss how they are working and discuss any support they need to succeed. You will also be able to ask any questions that you might have.



BUBBLES

Just a reminder that each class is a bubble. The children do not mix in school with children from other classes. It is important that we do this to reduce the risk of whole year groups isolating if there are positive tests. We strongly recommend that you do not allow your child to play with other children outside your household as this is against the local lockdown rules.

DERWENT HILL

We have been awaiting confirmation about whether our Derwent Hill trip in December will be going ahead. This week we have been told that it has been cancelled. All parents will be given a refund for the money that they have paid already. The office will be in touch to arrange the refund.

HOT SCHOOL MEALS

Next week we are starting hot meals for Year 3 to 6, the BASE and Thrive. We have been practising this week with the children who are school meals collecting their packed lunch from the kitchen and eating in the main hall. We have managed to do this in a COVID friendly way with different times, exits and entrances, separate bubbles and limited tables. Next week I am sure will be more challenging when hot food is on the menu! Once we have mastered the hot meals with these year groups, we will look at extending the provision to Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. I will keep you informed.



RECOMMENDED READING – NEW RELEASES

ONE HUNDRED STEPS: THE STORY OF CAPTAIN SIR TOM MOORE BY CAPTAIN TOM MOORE AND ADAM LARKUM

A book about adventure, about family, about never giving up, and about what we can achieve when we work together.

This is an inspirational picture book, published in support of the creation of the Captain Tom Foundation, which tells the incredible story of the man who walked 100 laps of his garden and captured the heart of a nation. Fully illustrated for younger readers, and following the key moments from Captain Tom's incredible life, the book shows what is possible when we come together and never, ever give up.

AUTUMN TERM DATES 2020

Week beginning Monday 12th October Reception & Year 1 Parents' telephone meetings (by appointment)
Week beginning Monday 19th October Years 2-6 Parents' telephone meetings (by appointment)
Monday 26th October to Friday 30th November - HALF TERM HOLIDAY
Monday 2nd November Children back in school
Friday 11th December Autumn Term Reports (sent out to parents).
Monday 21st December to Monday 4th January – CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS
Monday 4th January 2021 TEACHER TRAINING DAY
Tuesday 5th January 2021 Children back in school

DOJO POINTS

Check out our dojo/house point counter at <https://www.usworthcolliery.co.uk/children/house-point-counter>. Children are awarded points throughout the week for following the Colliery Code. This week's classes with the most house points are:

1st – 6CJ 2nd – 5BR 3rd – 2CB

TWITTER STARS

Remember to check out this week's Twitter Stars! These are tweeted on: @TStarKS1_UCPS or @TStarKS2_UCPS. They also appear on @UCPrimary and on our website Twitter feed.

ATTENDANCE WINNERS

These classes have the highest attendance this week. Well done everyone!

Whole school attendance – 95.5%

EYFS/KS1 – 2CB with 98.4% KS2 – 3CR with 97.2%

Mr Gary Wright

Headteacher