



USWORTH COLLIERY

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Issue 247 4th September 2020

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@UCPrimary#

After such a long time, it has been brilliant to have everyone back in school this week. I am so proud of how the children have adapted to the new timings and procedures. Everything seems to be working well with only a few tweaks being made.

Although there are some things that have changed, a lot of things have stayed the same. The children seem to be thriving on their new routines and it is so lovely to hear and see the learning taking place (only from passing by the doorways as I am not able to go into the classrooms yet!) I'm sure that you'll have some very tired children this weekend.

I have had a lot of parents asking how long these procedures will be going on for. Unfortunately, we don't know. We are following government guidance and making it fit with our school building. We cannot have breakfast club as it would involve too many children from different bubbles mixing as we have over 100 children in this provision each day. This would be impossible to manage in our school building. I know some schools have breakfast clubs running but this may be to do with the smaller numbers and building capacity.

Parents meetings will be a telephone call this term. Further details will be given nearer the time. Your child's report at the end of the term will include some images of their work, so you get a chance to see what they are producing in class.

At the moment there are no school trips. We will look to reintroducing these as soon as we can.

There will be no whole school events in school either this term. As we get settled into our new routine, we will look to see how we can manage Christmas, which may involve a virtual whole school socially distanced Christmas performance, Santa visit and staff pantomime.

We will also look to see how we can organise some socially distanced fundraising (maybe to pay for the hand-sanitiser!) We will certainly have to 'think outside the box'.

As changes are happening all the time, please make sure that you keep the office up to date with your new contact details, especially email addresses and mobile telephone numbers.

It has been a great start to the term, even if it has been a bit strange. Thank you again for your patience and support at this time.

We will try to make things as 'normal' as possible for the children during this time. So do not hesitate to contact the office if you need anything via email or phone, as it remains closed to visitors. Myself and Mrs Forster are on the yards at drop off and pick as well so you can speak to us then.



BIKES

Children can ride bikes/scooters into school and use our bike racks. This may be particularly relevant to those children in Years 5 & 6 who are allowed to come to and from school by themselves. If your child does bring in a bike or scooter, then they must use a lock to secure it. We cannot bring bikes/scooters into the school building. We will obviously monitor these at playtimes but we cannot accept responsibility for any damage. Please make sure that bikes/scooters are socially distanced on the racks!

STAFF LIST 2020/2021

Gary Wright	Headteacher	Jean Green	Teaching Assistant – Y6
Alison Forster	Deputy Headteacher	Laura Smith	Teaching Assistant – Y5
Alicia Walker	Assistant Headteacher	Carole Allen	Teaching Assistant – Y3
	Reception/Year 1 Teacher	Deb Andrews	Teaching Assistant – resources
Emma Prinn	Year 5 Teacher Senior Manager	Ellen Hickey	Teaching Assistant – Y4
Jessie Brown	Year 1 Teacher Senior Manager	Lorraine Edmonds	Higher Level Teaching Assistant
Victoria Perrett	Maternity leave Senior Manager	Jackie Bloomer	Teaching Assistant – Y2
Sarah Jones	ASD Base Teacher. SENDCO	Ravinder Kaur	Teaching Assistant – ASD Base
Jayde Davidson	Reception Teacher	Lisa Newall	Higher Level Teaching Assistant
Kimberley Raine	Reception/Y1 Teacher	Debbie Normanton	Teaching Assistant – Y1
Lesley Dickinson	Thrive Teacher	Pauline Prosser	Teaching Assistant – ASD Base
Ellie Shepherd	Year 2 Teacher	Tara Wall	Teaching Assistant – Reception
Cara Fowler	Year 2 Teacher	Craig Foster	Teaching Assistant – PE/Nurture
Christine Robertson	Year 3 teacher	Holly Held	Teaching Assistant Apprentice – R/Y1
Charlotte Hilton	Year 3 Teacher		
Claire Swinburn	Year 4 Teacher	Paula Thomson	School Business Manager
Rebecca Dixon	Year 4 Teacher	Marcus Dickinson	Parent Liaison & Attendance Manager
Bethany Reay	Year 5 Teacher	Michelle Telford	Finance Officer
Stuart McVittie Mathews	Year 6 Teacher	Aimee Donkin	Administration Assistant
Claire Justice	Year 6 Teacher	Ken Hall	Caretaker
Steven Millett	Year 6 Teacher	Susan Leech	Lunch Supervisor
Rebecca Wilkinson	Maternity leave	Pamela Longworth	Lunch Supervisor
Louise Steel	ASD Base Teacher	Victoria Morris	Lunch Supervisor
Geraldine Mole	PPA Teacher – Art	Joy Turnbull	Lunch Supervisor
Philip Arthur	PPA Teacher – ICT	Alison Wiberg	Lunch Supervisor

FACE MASKS

Government guidance regarding the wearing of face masks has been confusing. Primary children are not required to wear a mask. The recent U-turn was regarding secondary school children. Our risk assessment follows government guidance and no primary school children are required to wear a mask. The children are in bubbles with their class. They only spend time with their class. They are not mixing with other bubbles, therefore the use of masks is not necessary. Our full risk assessment is available on our website.

WELCOME EMAIL

You will be receiving an email from your child's teacher about key information needed for the year, including PE days. Remember, no PE kits as yet, but your child needs to come to school in trainers that day. Thanks.

SCHOOL MEALS

The arrangements for school meals (packed lunches) will be in place for the foreseeable future. We will look at if we can manage any type of service from the kitchen for hot meals as the term progresses. However, the difficulties lie in managing movement of bubbles around school as well as separating bubbles within the hall. If you pay for school dinners, then these are now **£2.30**. They can be payable via the City of Sunderland website - details on our school website. Please the inform office, if your child changes meal plan.

FLU VACCINE LETTERS

Letters are being sent home today regarding the annual Flu vaccine which will take place in school. These consent forms need to be returned to school by Thursday 10th September. Complete the form and return it into the envelop that the information is sent out in. In order to collect these in a COVID friendly way, there will be a box at each entrance for the children to drop these in when they come in on a morning. They will be quarantined and then sorted after 72 hours.

RECOMMENDED READING – NEW RELEASES

DARE TO BE YOU BY MATTHEW SYED

From the bestselling, award-winning author of *You Are Awesome* comes the much-anticipated follow-up, *Dare to Be You*.

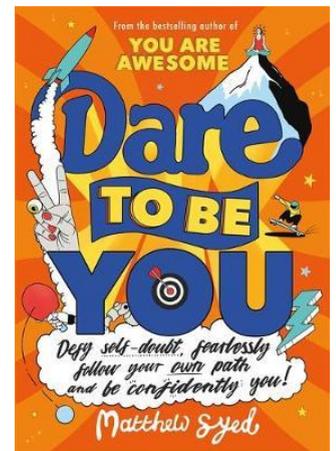
What would you dare to try if you stopped worrying about fitting in?

If you're the kind of person who thinks: *I don't like standing out from the crowd ... I wish I could be more like the cool kids ... There's no point trying to change things ...* then this book is for you.

Because guess what? There's no such thing as normal.

Drawing examples from sport, science and even business, *Dare to Be You* empowers young readers to follow their own path, love what makes them different and question the world around them. With *You Are Awesome's* trademark mix of hilarious text, stylish illustration, personal insights and inspiring real-life examples, including Greta Thunberg and Malala Yousafzai, Matthew Syed introduces children to the power of diverse thinking.

When you stop doubting yourself, embrace change and let your kindness loose, you become your own action hero. This ground-breaking, practical and positive book will help kids develop the inner confidence to grow into happy adults who know - and, more importantly, LIKE - themselves.



SECONDARY SCHOOL

Letters have arrived today for each child in Year 6 regarding their application for secondary school places in September 2021. These should be given out today.

HOME SCHOOL BOOKS

Your child should have been given their new home/school book this week. These are to allow you, your child and their teachers to monitor progress in reading, attitude to learning and homework in one place. **It is very important that it is brought into school EVERY DAY along with their reading books.** They will always have it on the table in front of them regardless of which lesson or teacher they are with. If it is not brought into school every day, then you will receive a phone call informing you. There is more information below to remind you how this book will be used.

READING - Reading regularly has a huge impact on your child's progress in all lessons. Both home and school can help by listening to your child read regularly. The home school book has a double page for every week where reading will be recorded. Reading books are being sent home and we have a system in place to quarantine these books once they need changed. Our school reading books are a useful tool, however they are not the only things that children should be reading.

We encourage children to read a range of books from home or borrowed from the class library. For our younger children, you may wish to record when you have shared books together or you may record when you have read to them (there is enough space). Older children can record this themselves but we always advise parents to listen to children at some point, even if they are fluent. Teachers will also record in their diaries when they have heard them read or they have been reading on Lexia or Reading Plus. There is a space at the front of the diary for log in details for all of these online platforms so that your child can also use them at home.

ATTITUDE TO LEARNING - All children in school are expected to be ready to learn and always try their best. All teachers can use a space in the book on the weekly double page spread to write comments about your child's behaviour. This may be in the form of stamps. The most important thing is that your child will be given a grade each Friday to show their attitude to learning that week. There is a description of the grades at the front of the book (also attached to the back of this newsletter) and what happens when you receive those grades. Parents/Carers can write comments if they wish but MUST also sign the book each week. Teachers will be checking to see that this has been done on a weekly basis before signing it themselves.

We expect all parents to be onboard with it, so we will be contacting you if there is an issue. Any home school books that are lost will have to be replaced at a cost of £2. Myself and my Senior Management Team will be keeping a very close eye on how they are being used and looked after.

AUTUMN TERM DATES 2020

Week beginning Monday 19th October 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

EARRINGS

Earrings are not allowed in school as part of our school policy because of health and safety. Earrings therefore need to be removed before coming into school. We are not allowed to remove earrings and children are not allowed to wear tape over their ears. The full Uniform Policy can be found on our website. All children wearing earrings have been given a week's grace and we expect them all to be removed by next Friday. If they are not, then we will contact individual parents.



MUSIC LESSONS

We are hoping to resume all music lessons at the end of September/beginning of October. We wanted to get all the children back in school and settled first before making sure we can accommodate social distancing and bubbles with the music tutors. These sessions may run from 2.30pm as the first set of children leave but we will give you more information when we have worked out the best possible solution. Those children who had lessons last year will continue, unless you have told us otherwise. We may have places for instrument lessons and if you would like your child to take up an instrument.

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 – 95.6%

EYFS/KS1 – 100% for 1RAW/KH & 1JB

KS2 – 100% for 6CJ

Mr Gary Wright

Headteacher