



CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

The few children who had to isolate, due to an adult in school testing positive for the Coronavirus, are all now back in school. We have had no more cases linked directly to the school. This is great, although I am sure by the law of averages classes/bubbles will be affected as the year goes on. However, we will continue to follow all our risk assessments as they seem to be working well. There have been a large number of children who have had to isolate at home, either due to a close contact or household member having the virus, but this has not affected them or anyone else in school. This is likely to be the case for the foreseeable future.

As we are now in the second national lockdown, I know the pressures that this can bring to families. Please just catch me on the yard or speak to any member of staff if you need support and we will do our best to help. Make sure that you all follow the new rules and keep safe. As far as school goes it is business as usual (or semi-usual!)

CHILDREN IN NEED

Next Friday is Children in Need appeal day. As part of our efforts to raise money for this worthy cause, we will be having a non-school uniform day on Friday 13th November and ask that you bring in a donation (suggested donation of £1). Money can either be brought in on the day and it will be collected in a bucket or you can pay for donations on the Sunderland Council website as described in a previous newsletter – under ‘contribution to school fund’. There is no theme – just no uniform. We will also be taking part in some workouts made especially by Joe Wicks, the nation’s PE teacher, in the classroom. The annual Children in Need show will be shown on BBC1 and BBC2 on Friday 13th November. We look forward to having some fun as well as raise money for charity. Mrs Swinburn



PARENT/CARER MEETINGS

Thank you for attending parent/carer meetings this week and patience whilst we are getting used to the system. I know that it is different to usual but it generally worked well. There were a few glitches as it was the first time that we have used video calls, but most meetings went as planned. Where parents couldn’t access or internet connections were not strong, then staff were able to contact most parent/carers on the telephone. If you have missed the meeting and would like to talk to your child’s teacher, then get in touch with the school office. I am really pleased with the feedback from staff and it seems that you are very happy with how the children have settled back into school after an extended absence. At the end of this term you will receive a short written report with targets, your child’s attendance and we will also upload some of the work your child has been doing onto Seesaw. Obviously, if you have any issues in the meantime contact your child’s class teacher or you can catch myself, Mrs Forster or Mr Dickinson on the yard every day.

CHRISTMAS

As Christmas is approaching, we know that things are not going to be the same as usual due to the current restrictions. However, we want to try to make the children feel like they are not missing out. Therefore, we are going to be producing two different Christmas plays on video. One production with reception, Year 1 & Year 2 entitled ‘Lights, Camel, Action!’ and another with key stage two (Years 3, 4, 5 & 6) entitled ‘Bah, Humbug!’. The idea is that each class/bubble will be responsible for recording a part of the performance and then they will be all edited together. Parents/carers will be given the link to the video and a password so they can watch the final performances at home – just like we did the virtual lockdown assemblies. These videos will only be available to watch on the Vimeo website and only for those with passwords. I would be really grateful if you could fill in a survey (link below) to say if you give permission for your child to be involved in the performance. We need to start recording soon as the editing will take a significant amount of time. Therefore, I ask you to complete the survey as soon as possible. You should have also received this link via a text.



<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=d4jtHyqiS06il2->

[IgOU6N1K0aplgG7IFrvURkjRkWX1UODE0SVpCUkhOMjg1NTExNjA5T0JZMjdYUj4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=d4jtHyqiS06il2-IgOU6N1K0aplgG7IFrvURkjRkWX1UODE0SVpCUkhOMjg1NTExNjA5T0JZMjdYUj4u)

I will let you know when it is available to watch but this is likely to be the final week of the term. We are also in the process of doing the staff pantomime in this way. You will be able to pay for a family ticket to watch the performance online. More details to follow.

WINTER COATS

St Micheal’s and All Angels church (Mickey’s Place) are looking for donations of winter coats for both adults and children. If you have any that are in good condition that you are looking to get rid of, then please drop them off at the church. Any donations are very much appreciated.



RECOMMENDED READING – NEW RELEASES

THE MIDNIGHT GAURDIANS BY ROSS MONTGOMERY

Sometimes at the darkest hour, hope shines the brightest...

When Col’s childhood imaginary friends come to life, he discovers a world where myths and legends are real. Accompanied by his guardians - a six-foot tiger, a badger in a waistcoat and a miniature knight - Col must race to Blitz-bombed London to save his sister. But there are darker forces at work, even than the Nazi bombings. Soon Col is pursued by the terrifying Midwinter King, who is determined to bring an eternal darkness down over everything.

REMINDER: OPERATION SANTA PAWS

This year we will be taking part in fundraising for 'Operation Santa Paws' - this is an event run by the Northumbria Police Team who aim to deliver dog and cat food, treats and toys to various RSPCA centres this Christmas. The Operation Santa Paws poster competition is open to all primary schools. Children can design a poster around animal cruelty prevention or promoting animal welfare. It can be as simple as how to look after your pet or what to do if you find an injured hedgehog! The entry fee is a donation of food, toys, treats etc. which we will be collecting at school (donations will be put into a box and left until they are collected by the charity). One packet or can of food is all it needs! The posters from all of the different schools will be put together and two overall winners will win an Xbox each. There are some amazing prizes to be won so get drawing. Posters can be sent to the class teacher via Seesaw or bought into school and left in a box with the donations. See the flyer at the end of this email. *Mrs Swinburn*

AUTUMN TERM DATES 2020

Friday 13th November	Children in Need Day – non-uniform
Friday 11 th 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 – 5BR 2nd – 5EP 3rd – 3CH

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 – 95.9%

EYFS/KS1 – 2CB with 98% KS2 – 4RD with 98.2%

Mr Gary Wright

Headteacher