



PARENT/CARER MEETINGS



We have thought carefully about how to manage parent/carer meetings during the pandemic and initially we decided to complete telephone calls. However, this week we have been made aware of an online system that allows parents/carers to book a time slot for an appointment and have the meeting using video call. After looking into the system called **Parent Meetings System**, we have decided to use this option instead.

parentevening
system

In order to make sure that the system is working well and everyone is set up, **we are postponing meetings until the week after half-term (week beginning 2nd November)**. We have spread appointments over the week, so each teacher is doing a different day and a selection of times.

Monday 2nd November - Miss Davidson (RJD), Mrs. Hinde/Mrs. Walker (1RAW/KH) and Mr. Millett (6JM)

Tuesday 3rd November- Mrs. Barella (2CB), Mrs. Robertson (3CR), Mrs. Swinburn (4CS), Mr. McVittie-Mathews (6SMM), Mrs. Prinn (5EP) and Mrs. Dickinson (THRIVE)

Wednesday 4th November - Miss Shepherd (2ES), Mrs. Dixon (4RD), Miss Reay (5BR) and Mrs. Hilton (3CH)

Thursday 5th November - Mrs. Justice (6CJ) *NOTE: Mrs. Justice also has some appointments on Tuesday 3rd November.*

Friday 6th November - Miss Brown (1JB) *NOTE: Miss Brown also has some appointments on Thursday 5th November*
Mrs. Jones/Mrs Steel (BASE) *NOTE: Those children who have had or have appointments for annual reviews do not need an appointment for this parents/carers meeting*

Although it may sound complicated to set up, it is surprisingly simple.

You have to log in to the website <https://usworthcolliery.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

You use **your name and email address**. This has to be an exact match to the information that we hold for you on our system. This includes the spelling of your name and the email address from which you received this email. You also use your child's name and date of birth. If you are struggling to do this, then it is likely that what we have on our records does not match what you are typing in. It could be the difference between a Miss, Mrs. or Ms. If this happens, contact the school office via telephone or email and we will help.

Once logged in you can select the time of your appointment. You will receive an email confirmation with a link. On the day of your appointment, log in and click on 'Join Video Appointment', then wait for the teacher to join the meeting.

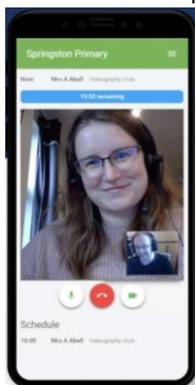
You do not need to download an app. It is all through logging on to the website, so the booking and the appointment can be completed on your phone, tablet or computer, as long as you have access to the internet or data allowance on your phone.

The booking system is live now, so you can make your booking at any time.

We will send you reminders over the next few weeks.

If you need any further help, then please contact the school office via email (info@usworthcolliery.co.uk) or telephone 0191 4178888. You can also catch me on the yard at the beginning or end of the day and I'll use my iPad to try to resolve any issues.

We hope that this will make parents evening much easier to manage and run smoother on the event. Fingers crossed!



HOT SCHOOL MEALS

The hot meals for Year 3 to 6, the BASE and Thrive has worked very well this week. We are therefore, extending this to Year 2 from next week. A survey has been sent out to Year 2 parents to complete about their child's meal options for next week. All Year 2 parents are to complete the survey, even if your child usually has packed lunch. This will give us an idea about the amount of food we need to order.

The quality of the food now we are with Dolce is so much better and the menu choice is good. Look on our website for the new menu. <https://www.usworthcolliery.co.uk/about-us/lunchtimes> All the children have commented on how good the food is.

Once we have mastered the hot meals with these year groups, we will look at extending the provision to Reception and Year 1. I will keep you informed.

RECOMMENDED READING – NEW RELEASES

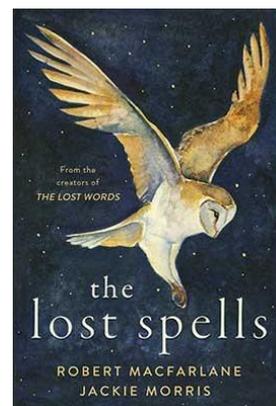
THE LOST SPELLS BY ROBERT MCFARLANE AND JACKIE MORRIS

The unmissable sequel to bestselling, award-winning, multi-adaptation hit *The Lost Words*.

Kindred in spirit to *The Lost Words* but intriguingly new in form, pocket-sized gem *The Lost Spells* introduces another beautiful set of spell-poems and artwork by formidable creative duo Robert Macfarlane and Jackie Morris.

As in *The Lost Words*, these "spells" take their subjects from relatively commonplace, and yet underappreciated, animals, birds, trees and flowers -- from Barn Owl to Red Fox, Grey Seal to Silver Birch, Jay to Jackdaw. But they break out of the triptych format of *The Lost Words*, finding new shapes, new spaces and new voices with which to conjure.

Written to be read aloud, painted in brushstrokes that call to the forest, field, riverbank and also to the heart, *The Lost Spells* summons back what is often lost from sight and care, and inspires protection and action on behalf of the natural world. Above all, it celebrates a sense of wonder, bearing witness to nature's power to amaze, console and bring joy.



BAGS

A reminder that we cannot have bags in school at the moment. This is due to the lack of space as everything has to be stored in the classroom. This includes book bags. Thank you.

RECEPTION YARD

There has been some damage to the signage in the reception yard over the last week, including the letters and images attached to the fence. We suspect some of this could be through older children trespassing on an evening. However, we ask all parents/carers of reception and Year 1 children, who are waiting on the yard for the doors to open, to make sure that they are supervising their children at all times. At the times before your child enters school and after they are dismissed then they are your responsibility.

There are staff on duty throughout the week on this yard and they will be making sure that this is happening. Thanks for your help.

BEAMISH LIVE VIDEO LINK

On Tuesday, Year Three participated in a 'virtual' visit to The Beamish Museum to enrich our History topic where we are learning about what life was like as a Miner in Washington. We went on a virtual tour of the Beamish town following clues given to us by the Bank Manager, a shopkeeper, local miners and the head of the local Primary School to learn all about the Children's Strike of 1917. We found out through interviews, different evidence and even singing traditional songs, that this was a very difficult time for the people of Washington. The children went on Strike and chanted 'No School Today Sir!' but eventually they were victorious and the school agreed to feed the children soup for lunch. It was great to watch History come alive, even if it was on a screen! *Mrs. Hilton*



AUTUMN TERM DATES 2020

Monday 26th October to Friday 30th October - HALF TERM HOLIDAY

Monday 2nd November **Children back in school**

Week beginning Monday 2nd November **Parent/carer video call meetings (by appointment) – see above.**

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 – 4RD 3rd – 1JB

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 – 98%

EYFS/KS1 – 1JB with 98.7% & THRIVE with 100% KS2 – 4CS with 99.2%

Mr Gary Wright

Headteacher