



USWORTH COLLIERY

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Issue 278 10th September 2021

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WELCOME BACK

Welcome back everyone! It has been so lovely to see the children in their new uniforms. School feels like it is back to some level of normal. As I explained in the email before the term began, we are trying to keep year groups together at breaks and lunches to reduce the number of people meeting together. We are encouraging handwashing, alongside ventilation and more cleaning of surfaces. The yards at the end of the day are busier, but once after-school clubs and catch up sessions start next week, then this will not be as bad.

We welcome some new staff to Usworth Colliery:

Miss Sheldon (Art teacher), Mrs Hopper (Year 4 Teaching Assistant) and Mr Hendry (Thrive Teaching Assistant).

I am sure you will give them a warm welcome. I have added a list of all staff below.

At the end of this month we will be sad to say goodbye to Mrs Telford, our Finance Officer, who has been with us a few years, and Mrs Surtees who has been a lunchtime supervisor across school for seven years. Both members of staff have new jobs and we wish them well for the future. Mrs Donkin in the office left during the summer holidays. We are in the process of recruiting for each of these positions. As usual there are lots of new things happening this year, however at the moment we are not putting any large scale events into the diary until we know what the infection rate is like. I look forward to sharing these with you in future Newsletters.

I am always eager to hear your thoughts and ideas, so feel free to catch me or if you would prefer to make an appointment don't hesitate to contact me. You can also contact me via the school email address or Mr Dickinson (our Family Liaison Officer) can be contacted via the School Office. I try to be on the yards every day but there may be times when I am not around to speak to parents and sometimes it may be more appropriate for class teachers or Mrs. Forster and Mrs. Walker (Senior Leadership Team) to deal with issues. If you do speak to another member of the team, I always know about it as we have an online logging system to which I get alerts and check the progress of actions. Please make sure that you keep the office up to date with your new contact details, especially email addresses and mobile telephone numbers, as this is extremely important. We are looking forward to a great year!

STAFF LIST 2021/2022

NAME	POSITION	NAME	POSITION
Gary Wright	Headteacher	Tara Wall	Teaching Assistant Reception
Alison Forster	Deputy Headteacher Year 5 teacher (0.2)	Holly Held	Teaching Assistant Reception
Alicia Walker	Assistant Headteacher Reception Teacher	Jackie Bloomer	Teaching Assistant Year 1
Jayde Davidson	Reception Teacher	Debbie Normanton	Teaching Assistant Year 2
Kimberley Hinde	Maternity leave	Lisa Newall	Higher Level Teaching Assistant Year 2
Jessie Brown	Year 1 Teacher	Carole Allen	Teaching Assistant Year 3
Ellie Shepherd	Year 1 Teacher	Caroline Hopper	Teaching Assistant Year 4
Ellen Hickey	Year 2 Teacher	Laura Smith	Teaching Assistant Year 5
Cara Barella	Year 2 Teacher	Jean Green	Teaching Assistant Year 6
Claire Swinburn	Maternity leave	Lorraine Edmonds	Higher Level Teaching Assistant Year 6
Charlotte Hilton	Year 3 Teacher	Ravinder Kaur	Teaching Assistant ASD Base
Rebecca Dixon	Year 3 Teacher	Pauline Prosser	Teaching Assistant ASD Base
Rebecca Bell	Year 4 Teacher	Craig Foster	Teaching Assistant Thrive
Emma Prinn	Year 4 Teacher	Adam Hendry	Teaching Assistant Thrive
Stuart McVittie Mathews	Year 5 Teacher	Deb Andrews	Teaching Assistant resources
Claire Justice	Year 5 Teacher (0.8)	Paula Thomson	School Business Manager
Victoria Moore	Year 6 Teacher	Marcus Dickinson	Family Liaison Officer.
Jimmy Millett	Year 6 Teacher	Michelle Telford	Finance Officer
Bethany Reay	Year 5/6 Teacher groups	Ken Hall	Caretaker
Sarah Jones	ASD Base Teacher	Susan Leech	Lunch Supervisor
Louise Steel	ASD Base Teacher (0.8)	Pamela Longworth	Lunch Supervisor
Lesley Dickinson	Thrive Teacher	Victoria Morris	Lunch Supervisor
Molly Sheldon	PPA Teacher (0.8) Art	Joy Turnbull	Lunch Supervisor
Philip Arthur	PPA Teacher ICT (0.8)	Alison Wiberg	Lunch Supervisor

CATCH-UP SESSIONS

From next week, we will once again be delivering catch-up sessions for children after school. They run from **3pm until 3.30pm** and your child needs to attend one session each week. They will run every week throughout the year.

This is to support the children with their learning and help them to catch up with missed learning as a result of the school closures. This is in addition to all the work we are doing in the classroom.

Your child will be taught by their class teacher. They will be in a group of no more than 10 children from their class. It will take place on the same day each week and involve the same children. The learning will be tailored to the needs of each child within the group.

We have tried to make sure that siblings are doing catch-up on the same evening. If for some reason, this hasn't happened then please get in touch with the school office.

Reception, Base and Thrive children do not have catch-up sessions.

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 at the beginning of next week.

WALKING HOME

Anyone who wishes their child to walk home unaccompanied from Years 4 to 6 need to have signed a form from the office and any previously signed forms are still valid. **Reminder: All children should be picked up from clubs after half-term until February half-term due to the darker evenings.**

AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS

After school clubs begin next week. You should have received an email to sign up. The clubs run the whole term and require a commitment from your child to attend each week as places are limited.

There will be more clubs added to the list as the term moves on. All the clubs below are free. However, we may be able to offer some clubs that occur a small charge. Watch out for more information soon.

Day	Club name	Club Leader	Year Groups	Location
Monday	Construction Club	Mrs Jones	All	The Base
Monday	Board games	Mrs Thomson & Mrs Kaur	3-6	Breakfast room
Tuesday	Film Club	Mrs Steel/ Mrs Prosser	3-6	The Base
Tuesday	The Movie Review Crew	Mrs Wall/ Mrs Bloomer	1-2	Small Hall
Tuesday	Running Club	Mr Wright	3-6	Outdoors
Wednesday	Dodgeball	Mr Dickinson	4-6	Main Hall
Thursday	Board games	Mrs Dixon/Mrs Hilton	2-4	3RD
Thursday	KS2 Football Club	Mr Mcvittie-Mathews	3-6	Yard/ Field

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 on-board 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.

RECOMMENDED READING – NEW RELEASES

THE UNEXPECTED TALE OF BASTIEN BONLIVRE BY CLARE POVEY

The open door felt like an invitation, or a trap. Bastien wasn't sure which, but with no other choice, he stepped inside...and hoped he'd make it out again alive.

Bastien Bonlivre is a boy with a big imagination, determined to finish the story his parents started, left to him in a red notebook. On the other side of Paris, bestselling author Olivier Odieux is struggling to complete his latest novel. Along with his villainous brothers, he is masterminding his greatest plot yet...one that will spread fear throughout the city and beyond.

What connects these two stories is a dangerous secret, a hidden mystery and an unexpected race across Paris for the truth. Can Bastien and his friends Alice, Theo and Sami be brave enough to stop Olivier stealing the ending they deserve?

A classic adventure story about friendship, hope, bravery and the power of imagination.



FLU VACCINE LETTERS

Letters have been sent home regarding the annual Flu vaccine which will take place in school. This is voluntary. Consent forms need to be returned to school by Monday 13th September. Any late returns may mean that your child will not be able to have the vaccine.

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 as soon as possible. If they are not, then we will contact individual parents.

LEADERSHIP IN YEAR 6

We are re-introducing leadership roles within Year 6 once again this year. We will have monitors for various things around school and we have also allocated our Head Boy and Head Girl with their deputies. These children will play a key role in being role models, assisting with decision making throughout the year and also support events.

We are pleased to say that Darnell Mullen and Lexi Dun are our Head Boy and Girl, whilst Daisy Laing and Bobby Duff are their deputies. All the roles allow the children to achieve a sense of responsibility in their final year. I know that all Year 6 leaders will be brilliant in their roles.

MUSIC LESSONS

All music lessons will begin next week. These sessions may run in the afternoons. 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 – guitar, ukulele and rock band. Please contact the school office.

SCHOOL MEALS

It is good to have all children back in the main hall to eat their lunches. Year groups sit together with packed lunches and school dinners sitting alongside each other. School meals can be ordered only for specific days now and you do not need to give notice of swapping over. You only need to give consent to be put onto the computerised system – Schools Grid – and then you can pick and choose which days your child has school lunches. You can pre-order from home or your child can order food on the morning in class. This is much better system rather than giving notice and your child doesn't have to have school dinners every day. If you need any more information, then please get in touch with the school office.

WELCOME EMAIL

You will be receiving a letter from your child's teacher about key information needed for the year, including PE days. Thanks.

AUTUMN TERM DATES 2021

PLEASE NOTE: There will be further events added for parents (including Christmas performances and family mornings) however we need to make sure that COVID cases are at a safe level to do so following government guidance.

Wednesday 20 th October	Parents' Meetings
Monday 25th October to Friday 29th October	HALF TERM HOLIDAY
Monday 1 st November	Children back in school
Friday 12 th November	Children in Need Day
Week beginning 15 th November	Anti-Bullying Week
Friday 10 th December	Autumn reports (sent out to parents).
Monday 20th December to Monday 3rd January	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY
Tuesday 4 th January	TEACHER TRAINING DAY
Wednesday 5 th January 2022	Children back in school

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.

Whole school attendance – 96.5%

EYFS/KS1 – 1JB, THRIVE & ASD BASE with 100% KS2 – 4RB with 100%

Mr Gary Wright

Headteacher