



USWORTH COLLIERY

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Issue 265 16th April 2021

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parentevening system

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 completed by logging on to the website, so the booking and the appointment can be done on your phone, tablet or computer, as long as you have access to the internet or data allowance on your phone. Further information will be sent out prior to the appointment about joining.

We will also send you reminders over the next few weeks to book an appointment.

If you need any further help, then please contact the school office via email (info@usworthcolliery.co.uk) or telephone 0191 4178888.

SCHOOL DINNERS

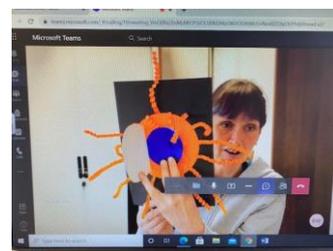
We have started the new computer system for school dinners this week and it has worked well after a slow start on Monday. If your child has school dinners, then I strongly recommend that you go onto the system to pre-order their food together. This can also be done in school by your child each morning but it is much better if it has been completed before this. You will have received a log-in when you gave your permission for your email address to be used. If you need any help logging in, then contact the school office via email or phone.

With the new system, you don't have to give advance notice of moving from packed lunch to school dinners and you can choose to have a mix of packed lunches/school dinners across the week. It is much more flexible. If you pay for lunches, then you only pay for what your child has had.



YEAR 3 SCIENCE WORKSHOP

On Monday we had a virtual workshop with Northumbria University called 'Imagining the Sun'. The children in Year 3 became 'Solar Physicists' for the afternoon and learnt all about the sun. Through a series of exciting facts, images and videos, the children learn all about the Parker Solar Probe and we generated our own questions that we wanted to know about the sun. We ended the session with a quiz to see what facts we could remember. Did you know that light from the Sun reaches Earth in around 8 minutes? After the virtual workshop, the children showed their commitment to what they had learnt through a creative session making pop-ups relating to the sun and the probe. The photos of our finished creations are on Twitter for everyone to see. *Mrs Hilton*



MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

We are really proud of how resilient our children have been coming back to school after such a bizarre start to the year. We believe the well-being of our pupils, staff and families is paramount and are working towards achieving the Sunderland Council's Mental Health Charter Mark - Bronze level. Within school we are having a renewed focus upon mental health and well-being. To launch this, we have had a Mental Health and Well-being Week this week. We have focused on the NHS initiative '5 Ways of Wellbeing' and throughout the week, children have accessed a range of activities to support these. Keep a look out on the newsletter and your class Twitter page for more information! As well as this, we will be sending home a termly wellbeing leaflet with tips, tricks and helpful advice on how to look after the mental of you and your family. *Mrs Swinburn and Miss Hickey*

BREAKFAST CLUB

Unfortunately, we cannot operate breakfast club as we have done in the past due to COVID restrictions. However, we are operating a session for working parents who are struggling to get to work in time due to the staggered starts. **Any children accessing this need to be in school by 8.15am due to staffing restrictions.** The children don't receive breakfast but have the offer of toast in the classroom as they have done all year. The children in the group are socially distanced from other classes and are sent along to class at their start time. If you need to access this please contact the school office, so that they can put your child's name on the register.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB SESSIONS

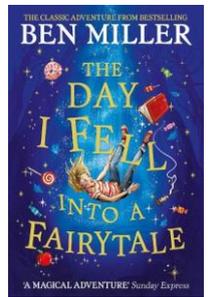
As the nursery have started their after school club again, we are not operating the same service we have offered in its absence. We are running a reduced session for those parents who have siblings with different start and finish times and also to hold the children who are going to nursery after school club until they are picked up. **NOTE: this provision is for these children only.** It runs from 2.30pm (when the first classes finish) to 3.30pm each day, except Friday which is a 3pm finish (as there are no after school catch up sessions to accommodate on Friday).

RECOMMENDED READING – NEW RELEASES

THE DAY I FELL INTO A FAIRYTALE BY BEN MILLER

Lana loves stories. Especially the ones she and her brother, Harrison, share in their make-believe games. But when Harrison decides he's too grown-up to play with Lana she finds herself feeling lonely. Until something magical happens ... Hidden in the strange new supermarket in town, Lana discovers a portal to a fairytale world! But these aren't the happy-ever-after fairytales that Lana knows, they are darker and more dangerous, and the characters need Lana's help to defeat an evil witch. But she can't do it alone.

Can she convince Harrison to believe in stories again and journey to the world with her ... before it's too late? Fall into this bestselling classic adventure about the power of stories, with beautiful illustrations throughout from Daniela Jaglenka Terrazzini.



NEXT ACADEMIC YEAR

We are busy looking at the timetabling of the school day for next academic year (assuming that we will no longer need to socially distance classes). We want to keep what has worked well this year but make it more manageable for parent/carers. This may include looking at staggered breaks and lunches for year groups (not classes), including the new afternoon break. We are also looking at the possibility of staggering entry and exit for year groups but making it much simpler with possibly only two times and a cross-over time where siblings can be dropped off together. Start and finish times will definitely be closer to those prior COVID.

This is at the very early stages and we have to make sure that we can accommodate assemblies, after-school clubs, catch-up sessions (which are likely to continue), etc. When we have a rough plan in place, then we will let you know. It is likely that this will be trialled initially. Whatever we do, we will make sure that it works for everyone. Watch this space!

SUMMER TERM DATES 2021

Monday 3rd May

Week beginning 24th May

Thursday 27th May

Friday 28th May

Monday 31st May to Friday 4th June

Monday 7th June

Friday 9th July

Friday 16th July to Tuesday 7th September

School closed for MAY DAY HOLIDAY

Parent/carer meetings via video calls (dates and times to be confirmed)

Last day of the half-term for children

School closed for TEACHER TRAINING DAY

HALF TERM HOLIDAY

Children back in school

End of Year Reports to parents

SUMMER HOLIDAYS

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 – 96.9%

EYFS/KS1 – RJD with 99.22% KS2 – 4CS with 99.23%

Mr Gary Wright

Headteacher