



USWORTH COLLIERY

Weekly Newsletter



18th September 2026

ATTENDANCE TO CELEBRATE THIS WEEK

Classes with 96% and above who were in the green zone this week

Base Red	98.34%
Base Yellow	98.34%
3BB	98.36%

Three classes made it into the green zone this week for attendance! Congratulations to **3BB** for full best attendance this week and for winning the attendance trophy.

Whole school attendance this week was **91.16%**

Remember every school day counts

YEAR 6 PARENTS: APPLYING FOR A SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACE

All year 6 parents should have received an email from school last week with information about how to apply for secondary school places for your child. Here is a brief outline of the information sent out.

Applying online is the simplest option.

Go to www.sunderland.gov.uk/admissionsonline to complete your application. You can apply on a variety of devices including a phone, tablet and PC or alternatively you can visit City Hall where there are facilities to apply online. The online facility is open during the preference period - 14 September to 31 October 2026.

It is only possible to apply at this web address if you live in Sunderland. If you live in another area, you must apply through your 'home' Council, i.e. where you pay your Council Tax. Therefore, you need to contact your 'home' Council for further information on how to apply.

Please note that they use the Family Portal which parents/carers may have previously used to apply recently for school places or Free School Meals or the 2 year old offer for any children within your family, therefore you will already have log-in details.

When you apply online you will receive an email confirmation once your application has been submitted. You will also receive an email notification regarding your child's school place on 1 March 2027, if you apply online. If it is not possible to access or submit an online application, a paper application form can be obtained by emailing school.admissions@sunderland.gov.uk or by telephoning 0191 520 5553. If you apply on a paper application form, you will be informed of your child's school place by letter, which will be posted second class on 1 March 2027

SPOTLIGHT ON.....



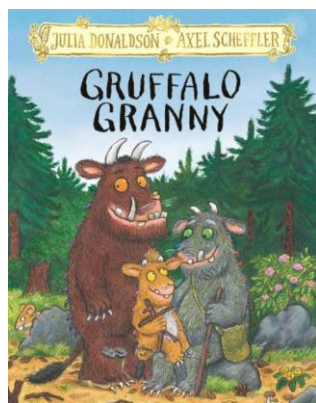
This week, we are shining a spotlight on our school values: **Care, Resilience, Aspiration and Safety**. Through carefully chosen books, our children will explore what these values look like in everyday life. From showing kindness and looking after others, to persevering when things feel difficult, dreaming big and believing in what we can achieve, and making safe and responsible choices, our stories will encourage children to reflect on how they can live out our school values every day. We hope our recommended reads will also provide families with opportunities to share a story together and talk about our values at home.



Visit our Spotlight on.. blog on the school website to see our new recommended reads that coving our values in a child friendly way! <https://usworthcolliery.co.uk/blog/2026-06-19-08-00-subjects-in-the-spotlight>

RECOMMENDED READS AND NEW RELEASES

GRUFFALO GRANNY BY JULIA DONALDSON AND AXEL SCHEFFLER



Say hello to another member of the Gruffalo family as Granny pays a visit in this wonderful, eagerly-anticipated third picture book in Donaldson and Scheffler's iconic series.

The Gruffalo said to his daughter one day,
"Your Gruffalo Granny is coming to stay."

Return to the deep dark wood with the first new Gruffalo story in over 20 years, and meet Gruffalo Granny as she visits the Gruffalo family. This fresh and exciting new Gruffalo adventure features the return of much-loved characters and is destined to become a classic.

CREATIVE SPARKS CLUBS AVAILABLE IN THE LOCAL AREA

Creative Sparks Clubs

The free weekly Creative Sparks Clubs are restarting for the autumn term. The clubs give children aged 7–11 the chance to try creative activities led by professional artists, meet other young people and develop their confidence and creativity in a relaxed and welcoming environment.

Current clubs include:

- Creative Sparks Drama Club - Monday, 3.30-5pm at St Anne's RC Primary School, Pennywell
- Creative Sparks Club Hendon - Tuesday, 3.30-5pm at Back on the Map Youth Hub, Hendon
- Creative Sparks Club Pennywell - Thursday, 4-6pm at Next Door @ Hope4All, Pennywell
- Creative Sparks Club Sulgrave - Thursday, 3.30-5.30pm at Sulgrave Centre Top Club, Sulgrave

The clubs are free to attend, with all materials and equipment provided. Creative Sparks can also provide support with things such as transport where needed.

To book: <https://www.sunderlandculture.org.uk/projects-partnerships/culture-start/creative-sparks-clubs/>

Future Creatives – activities for young people

They are also continuing their Future Creatives programme for young people aged 13–18 (up to 25 for young people with SEND). Future Creatives offers free opportunities to try different creative activities, develop skills, meet creative practitioners and find out more about opportunities in the creative sector.

Upcoming activities include:

- Future Creatives Young Film Makers (fortnightly) - restarts 17 Sept (currently full, but waiting list in place)
- The Social Edit: Practical Content Creation and Storytelling - 27 Sept
- Podcasting Taster Session - 3 Oct
- Photography: Lighting Painting Workshop - 25 Oct
- Love to Sing: Vocal Workshop - 28 Nov
- Future Creatives Cosy Christmas Social - 6 Dec
- And more opportunities added every month!

To access these opportunities, young people need to join the free Future Creatives network:

<https://www.sunderlandculture.org.uk/projects-partnerships/culture-start/future-creatives/events-opportunities/>

HEALTHY HEADS MENTAL HEALTH WEBINARS

Please check out the Healthy Heads poster at the bottom of the newsletter for information about mental health webinars open to all parents and careers

AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS

Day	Club name	Staff	Year Groups	Location
Monday	Choir	Mrs Barella	Y2-Y6	Class 1CB
Monday	The Story Studio - Creative Writing Club	Miss Brown	Y3-Y6	Class 1JB
Monday	KS1 Sports Club	Mrs Prinn	EYFS KS1	Main Hall
Monday	Lego Club	Mrs Green and Mrs Edmonds	Y1-Y6	Art Room

Monday	Film Club	Mrs Jones	Y1-Y6	Base Blue
Tuesday	Games Club	Mrs Calcutt	Y1-Y6	KS2 Intervention Room
Tuesday	STEM Club	Mr Warner	Y5 & Y6	Class 6JW
Tuesday	Forest School Club	Miss Coxon and Miss Rodden	EYFS KS1	Forest School
Wednesday	Creative Sparks Club	Sunderland Culture	KS2	Main Hall/ Art Room
Thursday	Mindfulness Colouring Club	Mrs Quinn	Y2-Y6	Class 2PQ
Thursday	Playdoh Club	Mrs Burrell	Y1-Y4	Class 3BB
Thursday	Jewellery Club	Mrs Dixon	Y3-Y6	Class 5RD

AUTUMN TERM DATES

Events next week

New dates added

AUTUMN TERM DATES

Thursday 24th September **EYFS Intergenerational Visit to Care Home**

Tuesday 6th October Flu immunisation team in school
Monday 12th October Y5/6 STEM Roadshow in school
Monday 12th October Y6 Lindisfarne
Tuesday 13th October Y6 Lindisfarne
Wednesday 14th October Parents Afternoon/Evening
Tuesday 20th October 4GS visit to Vindolanda
Wednesday 21st October 4KB visit to Vindolanda
Thursday 22nd October EYFS Intergenerational Visit to Care Home
Friday 23rd October **Last day of this half term**

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

Monday 2nd November **Staff Training (INSET) Day (school closed to children)**
Tuesday 3rd November **Children back to school**
Thursday 5th November Police Anti-Social Behaviour Workshop Y5 and Y6.
Monday 9th November EYFS Art Studio Visit
Monday 16th November EYFS Art Studio Visit
Wednesday 18th November RLC Intofilm Festival
Friday 20th November EYFS Art Studio Visit
Monday 23rd November Y6 YDAP Sunderland Drug and Alcohol Talk
Wednesday 25th November RAW Intofilm Festival
Thursday 26th November EYFS Intergenerational Visit to Care Home
Friday 27th November STEM/Science Family Moring (9:30am -11am)
Monday 30th November EYFS Art Studio Visit
Wednesday 11th November Remembrance Tea for Senior Citizens
Monday 23rd November School Individual/Family Photographs
Monday 30th November Start of Derwent Hill residential week
Thursday 3rd December RLC Northern Stage Christmas Show
Monday 7th December Staff Training (INSET) Day (school closed to children)
Wednesday 9th December RAW Northern Stage Christmas Show
Friday 11th December Autumn Term pupil attainment reports sent out
Friday 11th December Reception Christmas performances
(am performance no pre-school children pm performance all welcome)
Wednesday 16th December EYFS Intergenerational Visit to Care Home
Monday 14th December Year 3&4 Christmas performance
(am performance no pre-school children pm performance all welcome)
Wednesday 16th December Christmas Fair
Thursday 17th December School Christmas Dinner
Thursday 17th December Senior Citizens Christmas Dinner
Friday 18th December **Last day of Autumn Term**

Children return to school on Monday 4th January

SUPERSTARS

Remember to check out this week's **SUPERSTARS**! These are shared on our school Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/people/Usworth-Colliery-Primary-School/61572535178981/#>

Alternatively, you can also use the School Facebook link at the top of the school website.

HOUSE POINTS

Check out our house point counter at <https://www.usworthcolliery.co.uk/children/house-point-counter>. Children are awarded points throughout the week for demonstrating our school values and following the Colliery Code.

This week's House point winners are

1st 4KB

2nd 3RL

3rd 3BB

PATHWAY TO...

This week, our Pathway to... careers feature is all about animators! Children can discover how animators bring characters, stories and ideas to life through drawing, creativity and technology, and explore the different pathways they could take to enter this exciting career.

Our children can also have a think about this week's "Would You Rather?" challenge: Would you rather be a film animator or a game animator? 🎮 What would you choose, and why?

USWORTH COLLIERY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Pathway to... Animator

Bring ideas to life through creativity, technology and imagination!

➤ Create Stories
Design Characters
Make an Impact

What do they do?

Animators create moving images and bring characters, stories and ideas to life. They work on films, TV shows, games, adverts and online content, using special software and drawing skills to make things move!

Why choose this career?

- ✓ You can be really creative and turn your ideas into something amazing.
- ✓ You could work on your favourite films, shows or games.
- ✓ It's a fast-growing industry with lots of different roles, from 2D and 3D animation to visual effects and game design.

What do you need?

- ✓ GCSEs (especially English, Art and Maths).
- ✓ A Levels (or a college course).
- ✓ A degree in Animation, Media, Film or a related subject (or a degree apprenticeship).
- ✓ Skills and experience (e.g. building a portfolio, work experience or freelance projects).

The journey to get there

- 1. GCSEs**
Build a strong foundation in English, Art, Maths and ICT.
- 2. A Levels (or College)**
Study subjects that interest you (e.g. Art, Media, Technology).
- 3. University (or Apprenticeship)**
Complete a degree or apprenticeship in Animation, Film, Media or Games.
- 4. Build Your Portfolio**
Create your own work, take part in competitions and do work experience.
- 5. Start Your Career**
Join a studio, games company, advert agency or work freelance.

Skills you'll need

- Creativity**
Imagine, design and bring ideas to life.
- Technical skills**
Use software like Adobe Animate, Maya, Blender or Toon Boom.
- Communication**
Work well with a team and take on feedback.
- Problem solving**
Find creative solutions to challenges.
- Patience and determination**
Good things take time!

Did you know?

- Many animators start with a love of drawing, films or games from a young age.
- Animation is used in films, TV, games, advertising, education and even theme parks!
- Some animators work from home, while others work in studios with big teams.

From sketches to screen... it all starts with an idea!

Would You Rather?

This week's question...

Be a Film Animator
(create characters and stories for films, TV or games)

OR

Be a Game Animator
(design characters and worlds for video games)

This week's challenge...

Would you rather choose a career you are passionate about or a career that pays more? Explain your answer.

DREAM
CREATE
ACHIEVE

Accreditation -
Supportive Level

**Speech and
Language UK**



We are **enrich**

**Problem-solving
School**
Enriching maths



Eco-Schools
2022-2023



**GOLD
Active
Sunderland**
School 2024-25



**Artsmark
Silver Award**
Awarded by Arts
Council England

NOTICES

South Tyneside and Sunderland
Mental Health Support Services

Mental Health Webinars For Parents/Carers

Introduction to Our Service	23 rd September 2026	6 - 6:30pm
Managing Worries and Anxieties	15 th October 2026	6 - 6:30pm
Managing Stress	23 rd November 2026	6 - 6:30pm
Children's Mental Health Week (theme TBA)	28 th January 2027	6 - 6:30pm
Managing Difficult Behaviours	23 rd February 2027	6 - 6:30pm
Exam Stress	24 th March 2027	6 - 6:30pm
Supporting Your Child to Talk About Their Feelings	26 th April 2027	6 - 6:30pm
Five Ways to Wellbeing	25 th May 2027	6 - 6:30pm
School Transitions	24 th June 2027	6 - 6:30pm
Anxious Returners	10 th August 2027	12-12:30pm
Anxious Returners (repeat)	26 th August 2027	6 - 6:30pm

Join the webinars here by scanning the QR code or clicking the link below:

[Click here to join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 380 800 268 987 181

Please note: For privacy and safeguarding reasons (in line with GDPR), we ask that parents/carers join as guests, keep microphones and cameras off, and do not use the chat function during the session.

helping and supporting you: The Healthy Minds and Healthy Heads Teams
Service provided by South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust

THE WORLD AT YOUR FEET

FUTURE MAKERS

By age 7, children are already limiting their future 20,000+ UK children studied*

What they found:

Boys > engineering and construction
Girls > teaching and caring

ASPIRATIONS ARE SHAPED BY WHAT CHILDREN SEE, NOT WHAT THEY CAN BE

Future Makers is a 10-week programme funded by the Premier League

Broader career awareness
Links interests to jobs
Engages families

FIND OUT MORE, CONTACT
sarah.coyne@foundationoflight.co.uk

*stats from Education and Employers - Drawing the Future



Future Makers brings families together to imagine, explore and prepare for the careers of tomorrow. Through engaging activities and innovative technology, children can discover how their hobbies, interests and skills connect to real-life jobs and career pathways.

Supported by the Premier League Charitable Fund and the PFA, this eight-week programme encourages adults and children to work side by side, taking part in hands-on activities that broaden horizons, raise aspirations and highlight the exciting opportunities that the future can offer.

Venue: Usworth Colliery Primary School

Start Date: Thursday 24th September 2026

Time: 1:45-3:15pm

Who: Best suited Parents/Carers of children in Key Stage 2

Duration: 8 weeks (+ 2 independent learning sessions)

Scan the QR code
to sign up:

