



LOCAL LOCKDOWN

As you know a local lockdown for the North-East began at midnight last night. The new restrictions do not affect school and we are carrying on 'business as usual'. The only request I have, in line with the new restrictions, is that adults do not socialise with others from different households on the yard. I know the whole lockdown rules may seem strange and do not make sense, but as a school community we need to follow the guidance to protect each other.

I have emailed today a document written for parents and carers by the government explaining what to do if your child or anyone in your household has symptoms or if you are contacted by Track and Trace. Although this does not give you all the answers, it is definitely a starting point. Please contact the school office for further advice if you are ever unsure. We will put this document on our website. I know parents/carers are concerned about the possibility of another national lockdown. Again, we don't have answers for this. We are prepared to offer home learning if we need to close the school again. However, we will not know what is happening until it is announced. As usual, I will be in touch as soon as we know.

We have had a number of children/families having tests, but we have not yet had a positive test. I know other local schools have not been so lucky. The idea of having class bubbles is that if we do have a positive test, then we would not need to close the whole school. Only those who have been in close contact with the child who tests positively would need to self-isolate. If there is a positive case then those affected would be contacted directly and told to self-isolate. However, I will of course inform everyone about what is happening. Ultimately, it is Public Health England and the Department for Education who make the final decision.



Y2 - THROUGH THE YEARS

Last week our Year 2 children dressed up in clothes through the decades (1970s-2020s). This was an opening activity to their history work. Each class had a great day having a party and playing games relevant to the decades.



HOMEWORK

We have been thinking carefully about the best way to organise homework in a safe, COVID friendly way. We have decided to set all homework using Seesaw. Yourself and your children are familiar with using this as it is how we operated home learning during lockdown. We have been talking to the children and understand that there are very few of them who are not able to access it. We are happy to make other arrangements for these children to complete it after school using our school iPads. Further details will be sent out next week.

PICK UP/DROP OFF

Thank you so much for your cooperation with pick up and drop. It seems to be working well. I am on duty on the yard every day. This is mainly the top yard and where you can find me. However, I am going to try to get onto the front and reception yard at least once a week. I am happy to answer any questions or concerns you may have.

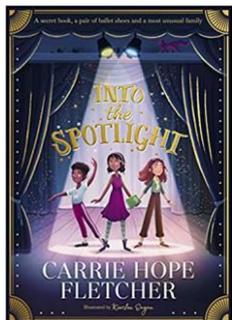
I have noticed that there have been a few more families arriving later this week. The registers generally close at 9am and 9.10am for those children starting at 9am. The pedestrian gates are open until between 9.05 - 9.10pm as most children are in by this point. If they are closed, then please come in through the main car park entrance. Mr Dickinson will be in touch with anyone who is persistently late as according to our policy.

AFTER SCHOOL CATCH UP SESSIONS

A big thank you to all parents/carers who have had to change their schedules to allow their children to attend catch up sessions this week. The overwhelming majority of children have attended and I have had reports from staff that they have been very useful. It gives us that little bit extra time in small groups to support all children with their learning. Thank you for your support.

PARKING

I'd like to remind parents about appropriate parking outside the school on the main road. There has been some dangerous parking and road crossing this week. I know that it is difficult when you have to use specific gates, but the staggered approach should ease congestion. We have been in touch with the council to see if they can support us in monitoring this.



RECOMMENDED READING – NEW RELEASES

INTO THE SPOTLIGHT BY CARRIE HOPE-FLETCHER

Inspired by the much-loved classic Ballet Shoes by Noel Streatfeild, *Into the Spotlight* is a magical new story from bestselling author and acclaimed performer Carrie Hope Fletcher. Great Aunt Maud visits seaside the world over and has become quite the pebble collector. Pebbles of all shapes, sizes and colours and even one that looked a bit like Elvis Presley if you held it up to the light and squinted a bit. Her favourite pebbles, however, are Marigold, Margot and Morris. One by one, and by strange and unusual ways, each child arrives at the stage door of Great Aunt Maud's theatre in the heart of London. They spend their summer holidays backstage with an extraordinary cast of theatre acts - Dante the miraculous magician, Petunia the storyteller and seventy-year-old contortionists - the Fortune Sisters! One day, as they are exploring the many nooks and crannies of the theatre, they stumble upon something they were never meant to find . . .

MESSAGE FROM WASHINGTON ACADEMY FOR CURRENT YEAR 6

We are currently in strange times, meaning that unfortunately, our Year 6 Open Evening which was scheduled for Monday 21st September 2020 has had to be cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions. We will be sending out packs of information to children in our feeder primary school in the coming weeks. However, in the meantime we will be happy to meet any family individually after school at your convenience, for a look around and a chat. If you would like to do this, please contact school by phone (0191 580 4956) or via email info@washingttonacademy.co.uk In addition, we are currently producing a video of the school which we will place on our website for you to see a virtual tour, meet next year's Year Leader for Year 7 and hear what our students have to say about their fantastic school. Please take time to visit our website for all up to date information <http://www.washingtonacademy.co.uk/2020/09/16/year-6-open-evening-2/> We look forward to meeting you. *Mrs Hamilton, Headteacher, Washington Academy*

AUTUMN TERM DATES 2020

Week beginning Monday 19th October **Parents' telephone meetings (by appointment)**
Monday 26th October to Friday 30th November - HALF TERM HOLIDAY
Monday 2nd November **Children back in school**
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 4CS 2nd 4RD 3rd 6CJ

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 – BASE with 98.8% & 2CB with 98.5% % KS2 – 3CR with 97.7%

Mr Gary Wright

Headteacher