



# USWORTH COLLIERY

## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Issue 287 19<sup>th</sup> November 2021

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@UCPrimary



### COVID UPDATE

Although most of the restrictions within school have lifted regarding bubbles and social distancing, we are still living with COVID within the community.

In school, we continue to limit contact between different year groups and make sure that the children are washing their hands more regularly, as well as make sure that the school building is well ventilated. This is all guidance from Public Health. If your child has any symptoms of COVID at all, it is really important that you take them for a PCR test or a lateral flow test at home. Do not bring them into school. If

the test is negative, then they can return. If anyone else in the house has a PCR test, even if they do have symptoms, your child can still attend school (unless they have symptoms themselves). If anyone in the household has a positive test but your child tests negative, then they can still attend school. This is all according to government guidance.

Current guidance states that symptoms are: **a high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature), **a new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual) and/or **a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

There are other common symptoms reported but they **are NOT recognised by Public Health** such as headaches, sore throats, etc. If in doubt, then test your child if you can.

Basically, the only reason your child should be absent is if they have symptoms and are awaiting a test result or if they have COVID. This is all part of the process of trying to live with COVID. School are not to put any restrictions in place unless there are five cases within a year group over a 10-day period or if 10% of the school have a positive test. Even at this stage, Public Health have to tell us what to do. School do not do any track and trace anymore and have been told we only inform you of cases if cases reach the level described above.

As a pre-caution, we have been in touch with our cleaning provider to do a deep clean throughout school this weekend.

COVID is still in the school community, so please follow the guidance outline above to keep everyone safe.

Thank you for your support.

### CHILDREN IN NEED

What an excellent effort today to raise money for Children in need! Thank you for your kind donations. I'll let you know next week the final amount we raised. Well done!



### REMINDER: CAROL SERVICE

We are going to hold a carol service for Years 1 to 6 outdoors. This will be on the KS2 yard on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December at 9.30am and 2.15pm (weather permitting). Each year group will have a song to sing and they will be singing three songs altogether. Although we are outdoors we will still have to limit the number of tickets available. We are allowing two adults per child. You are welcome to bring pre-school children but please be mindful that they do not distract from the carol service.

There is an online form to complete to reserve your places. [Click here.](#)

### WINTER WONDERLAND

Our planned **WINTER WONDERLAND** experience in the wildlife area on **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December** has proven to be very popular. The family initial slots were taken within 30 minutes of going live and then the next set sold out in a similar time. We have added as many slots as possible to maintain social distancing. Therefore, **the event is now sold out.**

It is important that families stick to their times to make the event work. We will try to keep on time at our end but there may be some delays in entering the winter wonderland as we maintain appropriate social distancing measures.

All families with appointments will have received a confirmation email and we will remind you of your time on the day. Families can walk around together and should pick their children up from the school office 10 minutes prior to their slot.

The children must walk around with family members as this is a family event. There will be a charge for this event of £3 per child.

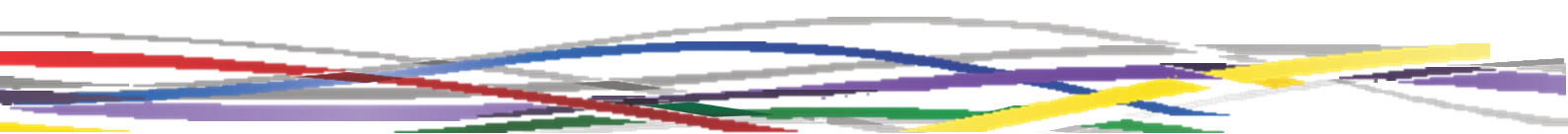
It is certainly shaping up to be an exciting afternoon.

**Money raised from the Christmas events will be used for extra playground equipment for the children to use at playtime and lunchtimes.**

**We are busy collecting Christmas decorations to use in the displays. If you have any old indoor or outdoor decorations that are in good condition, then we would be very grateful for donations. Please spread the word and collect from family and friends as we would like to make the event as special as possible. We are taking donations via the school office.**

### MRS HENDERSON

During half-term, Miss Shepherd, who teaches in Year 1 was married after several delays due to the pandemic. We want to congratulate her and wish her well in her married life. She is now called Mrs. Henderson, so her class will be 2EH.



## RECOMMENDED READING – NEW RELEASES

### THE GOOD BEAR BY SARAH LEAN

A story of friendship to treasure this Christmas...

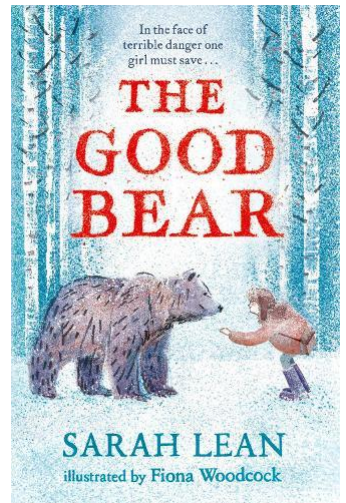
From the bestselling author of *A Dog Called Homeless*, this is the perfect Christmas gift for fans of Michael Morpurgo, Lauren St John and Sara Pennypacker's *Pax*.

It's the Christmas holidays and Thea is looking forward to spending them with her father. She can tell him all about her plans to become a writer, and maybe he'll buy her the typewriter she's been dreaming of.

But when Thea arrives in snowy Norway, everything feels... wrong. Her father is as distant as ever and now she has to share him with his new family: his girlfriend Inge and her children. Then Thea makes a surprising discovery. Deep in the snowy woods by the house, is a bear. He's scared and hungry and he desperately needs Thea's help.

When the town hears about a bear living in the woods, Bear's life is in even greater danger. Thea needs to show everyone that he's not dangerous - he's a good bear - if she's to save him.

A gorgeous Christmas story for readers aged 9+ that will warm your heart and take you on an adventure you will never forget. Beautifully illustrated by award-winning illustrator Fiona Woodcock, the artist behind Abi Elphinstone's *The Snow Dragon*.



## AUTUMN TERM DATES 2021

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> November

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December**

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December.

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December

Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December

**Monday 20th December to Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> January - CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY**

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022

**6VM trip to Lindisfarne**

**Christmas Carol Service (outdoors) 9.30am and 2.15pm (first choice date weather permitting)**

**Video link sent to parents for reception performance 'A Little Bird Told Us'.**

**Reception to Millennium Centre Soft Play am**

**Rocksteady concert for parents 2pm**

**Reception to watch Hansel & Gretel at Washington Arts Centre 1.30pm**

**Autumn reports (sent out to parents).**

**Video link sent to parents for staff pantomime – Beauty and the Beast**

RESERVE DATE for Christmas Carol Service.

**Winter Wonderland event in Wildlife Garden**

**TEACHER TRAINING DAY**

**Children back in school**

## AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS

Clubs and catch-up sessions will run all term EXCEPT the last week (week beginning 13<sup>th</sup> December)

Day	Club name	Club Leader	Year Groups	Location
Monday	Construction Club	Mrs Jones	All	The Base
Monday	Crazy crafts	Mrs Kaur	3-6	Art room
Monday	Little Kickers	Mr Mcvittie-Mathews	1-2	Outdoors
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	3 <sup>RD</sup>
Thursday	KS2 Football Club	Mr Mcvittie-Mathews	3-6	Yard/ Field

## 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

## 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:

1<sup>st</sup> – 2EH 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4EP 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6JM

## ATTENDANCE WINNERS

Whole school attendance – 88.4%

These classes have the highest attendance this week.  
EYFS/KS1 – 2CB with 95.6% KS2 – 6VM with 95.6%

**Mr Gary Wright**

**Headteacher**