



CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

We welcomed back both our reception and reception/Year 1 classes yesterday after their isolation period. It has been so good to see them all back in school.

The number of children who are having to self-isolate due to exposure to a positive case outside of school seems to be reducing. There have been 185 children who have been absent from school due to COVID reasons this term so far. This includes those who have been awaiting test results for themselves or their household or have been told to isolate.

I will continue to keep you informed of any updates in future newsletters. In the meantime, stay safe by following the government guidelines outside of school.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Unfortunately, due to restrictions this year children will not be able to hand out Christmas cards in school. We are thinking creatively about how we manage a lot of our events but unfortunately there is no way we can do this safely.

BUBBLES

There are only ever a few occasions where some bubbles/classes may be waiting to enter the building at the same time. Please make sure that your child is not mixing with other bubbles/classes whilst you are waiting for the doors to open. It is fine for them to play with other children in their class but no other class.

CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCES

We will be starting to film the Christmas performances in the next few weeks. Thank you to those of you who have returned the permission survey to say that you are happy for your child to be filmed. We will be chasing up the few parents who haven't responded. Your child may come home with a simple costume request from their teacher to be brought in or wear on the day of filming. Some children may also be receiving some lines to learn over the next few weeks. Once the productions, 'Lights, Camel, Action!' and 'Bah, Humbug!', are completed and edited, then we will send you the free link so that you can view them.

STAFF PANTOMIME

This year we will be recording our staff pantomime – 'Trouble in Pantoland', which will feature all your favourite pantomime characters (played by the same people as usual!) The recording will be made available via a link to Vimeo as we did with the whole school assemblies during lockdown.

Access will be £5 per link and you can pay for this via Sunderland City Council website (Pay – School meals & expenses – Usworth Colliery Primary – Contribution to school funds). You can pay anytime from now and please make sure that you put STAFF PANTOMIME in the message box when you pay.

All funds raised will go towards school fund. The link for the pantomime will be sent to you via email on Friday 11th December and you will be able to access it until the end of December. This means that you can watch it as many times as you like! Oh, yes you can!



WE RAISED £223.57 AS A SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN IN NEED LAST FRIDAY.

WELL DONE

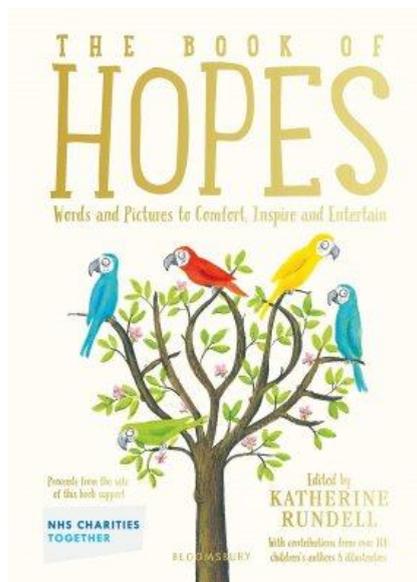
RECOMMENDED READING – NEW RELEASES THE LITTLE BOOK OF HOPES EDITED BY KATHERINE RUNDELL

In difficult times, what children really need is hope. And in that spirit, bestselling author Katherine Rundell emailed some of the children's writers and artists whose work she loved most:

'I asked them to write something very short, fiction or non-fiction, or draw something that would make the children reading it feel like possibility-ists: something that would make them laugh or wonder or snort or smile. The response was magnificent, which shouldn't have surprised me, because children's writers and illustrators are professional hunters of hope ... I hope that the imagination can be a place of shelter for children and that The Book of Hopes might be useful in that, even if only a little.'

This collection, packed with short stories, poems and pictures from the very best children's authors and illustrators, aims to provide just that. Within its pages you'll find animal friends from insects to elephants, high-flying grandmas, a homesick sprite, the tooth fairy, and even extra-terrestrial life. There are 133 contributions from authors and illustrators, including Anthony Horowitz, Axel Scheffler, Catherine Johnson, Jacqueline Wilson, Katherine Rundell, Lauren Child, Michael Morpurgo and Onjali Q. Rauf.

Proceeds from this book will be donated to NHS Charities Together, in gratitude for the incredible efforts of all those who worked in hospitals over the quarantine period.



PLEASE DO NOT USE THE CAR PARK GATES AS A SHORTCUT. YOU SHOULD ONLY BE USING THE PEDESTRIAN GATES TO ENTER AND EXIT THE SCHOOL SITE DUE TO HEALTH AND SAFETY REASONS

MICKEY'S PLACE

Thank you so much for your donations of coats at St Micheal's and All Angels church for their new charity - Mickey's Place. Although they are not taking any more donations, they have coats to give away now. Feel free to call in.

They also have a Toy Giveaway planned for Monday 30th November, Wednesday 2nd December and Friday 4th December between 10am and 2pm. Due to COVID restrictions they ask that only one person per household attends but they will be happy to see you.

REMINDER: OPERATION SANTA PAWS CLOSING DATE MONDAY 23rd NOVEMBER

This year we have been taking part in fundraising for 'Operation Santa Paws' - this is an event run by the Northumbria Police Team who aim to deliver dog and cat food, treats and toys to various RSPCA centres this Christmas. The Operation Santa Paws poster competition is open to all primary schools. Children can design a poster around animal cruelty prevention or promoting animal welfare. It can be as simple as how to look after your pet or what to do if you find an injured hedgehog! The entry fee is a donation of food, toys, treats etc. which we will be collecting at school. One packet or can of food is all it needs! The posters from all of the different schools will be put together and two overall winners will win an Xbox each. There are some amazing prizes to be won so get drawing. Posters can be sent to the class teacher via Seesaw or brought into school and left in a box with the donations. **We also accept donations without an entry.**

Mrs Swinburn

AUTUMN TERM DATES 2020

Friday 11 th 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 5 th 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 – 4RD 2nd – 2CB 3rd – 1JB

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 – 93%

EYFS/KS1 – RJD with 99%

KS2 – 6SMM with 98.8%

Mr Gary Wright

Headteacher