



22nd March 2024

ART COFFEE MORNINGS

Thank you to everyone who attended our Art coffee mornings. It was lovely to see the children getting creative and expressing themselves by taking part in the workshops and sharing their knowledge with their adults.



PARENT CARER SURVEY

This week an email was sent to all parents and carers with a link to the annual school survey. We are completing our survey online once again and it can be accessed on any device. If you haven't already, please take time to answer the simple questions about your child/children and their experience at school. They are completely anonymous. Although most questions are multiple choice, we would welcome your comments both positive and negative in the final question.

Here is the link: <https://forms.office.com/e/rHnyiP4BGQ>

The deadline for completion is Friday 29th March and the results will be collated after this date and shared with you. Remember that you do not need to wait until a survey to share your thoughts. You can contact any senior member of staff at any time throughout the year. Thank you for taking the time to answer the questions.

IMPORTANT MESSAGE ABOUT READING BOOKS IN KS1 BASE & THRIVE

We are thrilled to let you know that we have purchased some new reading books to be used at home and in phonics. These books are essential for teaching your children to read. However, we would also like to share that over this year and last we have spent **£10,000** on books to restock our supplies as hundreds are not being returned or are returned in such disrepair that we cannot use them. This is a plea to you all to look after the books and to return them to school as we are not in a position to finance anymore stock. We were lucky this time that we were able to get a grant from the English Hub but we have exhausted our entitlement and there is no more money available. It is a shame that such a substantial amount has been spent on replenishing stock rather than other things for your children.

You may have noticed that we send books home weekly regardless of whether children have returned their previous book. We do this as phonics and reading are the foundation to the whole curriculum. We are passionate about all children being readers as reading skills are a predictor for success in later life. Please support us to do this by taking care of the books and returning them to school in good condition.

If you have any books at home, we are having a book amnesty until Easter so please return them and there will be no charge. From Easter every lost or damaged book will be charged at £4.50.

UCPS GIRLS' FOOTBALL NEWS

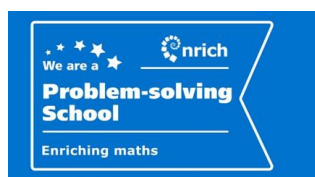
After a last minute change of venue, UCPS girls football team headed off to Rickleton to compete in the girl's cup. Our first opponent was Blackfell. Captain Ocean started us off brilliantly with a well finished goal to put us 1-0 up. Strong play from Jessie and Lola in midfield kept us in control throughout the match until an unlucky break-away goal drew the score back to 1-1, which was how the match finished. Next up was a very strong Rickleton team who scored a couple of quick goals to sap the energy from our players. Despite battling hard, the girls could not get a foothold in the game and were thankful to Olivia in goal, who made a number of incredible saves to keep the score down- so much so that she drew plaudits from both sets of players, coaches and supporters. Holley Park were our next opponents in a highly competitive match, which was enjoyed by both sets of supporters. Some excellent interplay between Ruby and Ocean carved out many chances but, unfortunately, we were unable to capitalise on any of them and were sunk by a late breakaway goal to fall to a 1-0 defeat. Our final opposition was the best team on the night - JFK. Despite the daunting opposition, Abi, Lydia and Lola stood strong in defence, with the imperious Olivia once again in fine form behind them in goal. Despite this, we unfortunately fell to another defeat. Even though the results were not what we hoped for, the attitude of all of the girls in supporting each other was a joy to see and they all did their school proud.

Miss Skeen and Mr Millett

ANOTHER AWARD FOR OUR CHILDREN!

We are pleased to announce we are now recognised as a problem-solving school. This is an area of the curriculum we have worked hard to develop and is now embedded into our maths curriculum.

Through explicit teaching of the different problem-solving skills our children are able to explore and represent their mathematical thinking in a way that is meaningful to them. These skills equip our children for the next stage of education, work and life. Through problem solving our children develop their curiosity, build resilience and realise it is okay to make mistakes.





EASTER EGG DECORATING COMPETITION

Don't forget our annual egg-cellent Easter Egg Decorating Competition. We love seeing the amazing creations that the children make each year. All entries must be labelled with your child's full name and class and brought into school on Thursday 28th March.

If you have never entered our competition before do not worry, follow these simple steps to help your child make a decorated egg:

1. Take an egg and hard boil it for 10 minutes.
2. Once cooled, decorate your egg or eggs.
3. Label your entry and bring it into school on Thursday 28th March.

We look forward to seeing what the children have created!

NEWS FROM ST MICHAELS (MICKY'S PLACE)

Micky's Place has asked school to inform all parents and carers that over the Easter holiday children can eat **for free** at breakfast and lunchtimes on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

WHO HAS BEEN IN MY OFFICE THIS WEEK?

Travis 4VM came to show me his writing this week. He was bursting with pride because his handwriting has improved so much. We looked back at his writing in September and we couldn't believe the difference. Travis has tried so hard and the results are wonderful. Well done Travis!

Myah 6JM has produced some exceptional work about the Maya Civilisation. She worked as part of a team to identify reasons why this civilisation was undiscovered for so long. She then did extra research about different archaeological sites – choosing to stay in at playtime as she was so engrossed in her work. What a fantastic attitude to learning Myah!

Emily 5GS brought me two poems that she had found and written in her personal journal. The poems were about being yourself and appreciating what makes you unique and special. They were so lovely and uplifting to read. Well done Emily

DEPUTY HEAD APPOINTMENT

I am pleased to announce that Mrs Moore who is currently Acting Deputy Head was successfully appointed as permanent Deputy Head last week. We know she will do a fantastic job in this role.



YEAR 2 DANCE FESTIVAL

This week Year 2 made us super proud by taking to the stage and performing in this year's Gateshead Schools Dance Festival. This year's theme was equality and the children performed to a song called 'I believe'. Despite some nerves, the children were very excited and performed beautifully. This is the youngest group of children we have ever taken to this festival and they showed real strength of character to perform to such a huge audience! Well done Year 2!

THE BOOK FAIR IS HERE

We have the Scholastic Book Fair in school this from Thursday 21st March until Wednesday 27th March. It will be open after school each night until 4pm if you would like to come and browse with your children



SCHOOL MEALS

From 1st April 2024 the cost of school meals is increasing to £3:00 per meal (£15:00 per week) payable in advance.

Unfortunately, our school meal provider is having to increase the cost of school meals due to rising costs for the supply of food and staffing.

If you think you may be eligible for free school meals, please apply direct via the following link:

[Free School Meals - Together for Children](#)

SPRING TERM DATES COMING UP

Monday 25th March (am) – 5GS to Newcastle Reform Synagogue

Monday 25th March – Rocksteady Concert (for parents/carers of pupils who have lessons)

Monday 25th March – Easter Performance for Y2 parents and carers (2:30pm)

Wednesday 27th March Easter Performance for Y1 parents and carers (9:30am)

Tuesday 27th March (am) – 5JW to Newcastle Reform Synagogue

Wednesday 27th March - SATs parent meeting (5pm.)

Thursday 28th March – Easter Egg Competition

Thursday 28th March - Break up for Easter Holidays

EASTER HOLIDAY Friday 29th March to Friday 12th April

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES SPRING TERM

There are no after school clubs running next week!

Next term's activities will be posted in the Newsletter next week

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

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 following the Colliery Code. Termly winners will be announced next week

ATTENDANCE WINNERS

These classes have the highest attendance this week. Well done everyone!

Whole school attendance – 93.45%

EYFS/KS1 –96.36 - 1RD KS2 – 96.54 - 6JM

Mrs Alison Forster **Headteacher**

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[@UCPrimary#](https://twitter.com/UCPrimary#)



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

NOTICES

Why not pop along to join Washington's Clean and Green Team, who are at Usworth Park on Thursday 28th March 9am-11am litter picking as part of the Great British Spring Clean. All equipment will be provided.



Washington Spring 2024 Schedule

Monday Session	Venue	Time
Book Club	Washington Mind	10:30-11:30
Third Monday of every month		
Film Club	Washington Mind	13:00-15:30
The Otto Collective (Youth Music Group)	Café Otto	15:30-17:00

Tuesday	Venue	Time
Gardening Group	Washington Mind	10:00-12:00
Walking Group	Washington Mind	12:00-13:00
Craft Connection	Washington Mind	13:00-15:00
Man Space	Washington Mind	13:00-14:30

Wednesday	Venue	Time
Creative Minds	Washington Mind	10:00-12:00
Knit and Natter	Washington Mind	13:00-15:00
Company & Support Group	Washington Mind	14:00-16:00
Rainbow Renegades (LGBTQIA+ Youth Group)	Washington Mind	16:30-18:30

Thursday	Venue	Time
Woman Space	Washington Mind	10:00-12:00
Craft Group	Washington Mind	10:00-12:00
Lunch Club	Washington Mind	12:00-13:30
£3.50 for two-course lunch		
Creative Mind @ Hetton	The Hetton Centre	13:30-15:00

Friday	Venue	Time
Brunch Club	Washington Mind	10:00-12:00
Knit and Natter	Washington Mind	10:00-12:00

Sessions take place at: Washington Mind, The Life House, Grasmere Terrace, Columbia, Washington, NE38 7LP,
The Hetton Centre, Hetton-le-Hole, Houghton le Spring DH5 9NE and
Café Otto, Stockton Road, Sunderland, SR2 7AQ
Want to know more about a session, or are you interested in joining us?
Give us a call on: 01914178043.



Spring 2024 Schedule

Activities in The Life House schedule are delivered by external partners. If you are interested in any of the sessions, please contact the facilitator directly.

Monday Session		
Washington History Society First Monday of every month	13:30-15:30	07837629556
'Good for the Soul' Sound Bath Second Monday of every month	13:30-14:30	Book online at: washingtonmind.org.uk/our-shop or call: 01914178043
Mindfulness & Meditation Third Monday of every month	15:30-16:30	Book online at: washingtonmind.org.uk/our-shop or call: 01914178043
Andy's Man Club Every Monday, a peer-support group for men.	19:00-21:00	Just turn up to attend, visit andysmanclub.co.uk for more info
Tuesday Session		
Megs Moves Workout All abilities welcome to a combined dance and fitness class.	12:00-13:00	Book online at: washingtonmind.org.uk/our-shop or call: 01914178043
Washington Station WI Every 3rd Tuesday of the month.	19:00-21:00	Elaine.wright22@yahoo.com
Wednesday Session		
Iyengar Yoga Suitable for all levels of ability. £5.	18:30-19:30	yoginortheast@gmail.com
Thursday Session		
Flow2Sow Hatha Yoga 1 hour free hatha flow class moving mindfully.	11:00-12:00	Book online at: washingtonmind.org.uk/our-shop or call: 01914178043
Trimmed, Toned and Toddlers Kids come and play while the mams take part in a guided fitness class,	13:30-14:15	Book online at: washingtonmind.org.uk/our-shop or call: 01914178043
Slimming World	18:00-19:00, 19:30-20:30	07960750886
Friday Session		
Slimming World	08:00-09:00, 09:30-10:30, 11:00-12:00, 17:30-18:30	07960750886
Saturday Session		
Slimming World	08:30-09:30, 10:00-11:00	07960750886