

## HAVE A GREAT HALF-TERM HOLIDAY AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING EVERYONE SAFE AND WELL ON MONDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER.

### FREE SCHOOL MEAL VOUCHERS

We have been informed that Sunderland LA are offering vouchers to all free school meals children once again over the half-term holiday. Each child, who is entitled to free school meals, will receive a £15 voucher. We are not using Edenred this year for online vouchers. We have decided to order gift cards from Asda. These have been ordered and due to arrive in school by the middle of next week. The school office will let you know when they are available to pick up via text. If you think that your child may be eligible for free school meals, then we urge you to complete the online form. <https://www.togetherforchildren.org.uk/parents-carers/free-school-meals> More vouchers are likely to be offered over other holidays this academic year and we would like everyone who is entitled to receive them. We get updated lists of those who have applied on a weekly basis.

### OFFICE STAFF

We are pleased to have a full complement of staff in the school office now. Mrs. Hall started three weeks ago as our finance officer and Mrs Jacobs started this week as our administrative assistant. So, along with Mrs Thomson (School Business Manager) and Mr Dickinson (Family Liaison Officer) the team is complete. We are very excited to have them working at the Colliery and know that they will receive a warm welcome from the whole school community.

### HAPPINESS HAMPERS

This week we received food hampers from through Spread the Happiness. All those parents, who were drawn out of the hat to receive one, have been informed. A huge thank you to the charities for thinking of us and I know that that they were well received. As usual we are always so grateful for their support.



### PARENT/CARER MEETINGS

Thank you for attending parent/carer meetings this week. I know that it is different but it generally worked well. There were a few glitches, but most meetings went as planned. Where parents/carers couldn't access or internet connections were not strong, then staff were able to contact most parent/carers on the telephone. If you have missed the meeting and would like to talk to your child's teacher, then get in touch with the school office.

I am really pleased with the feedback from staff and it seems that you are very happy with how the children have settled back school after. At the end of this term, you will receive a report with targets and your child's attendance. Obviously, if you have any issues in the meantime contact your child's class teacher or you can catch myself, Mrs Forster or Mr Dickinson on the yards at the beginning or end day.

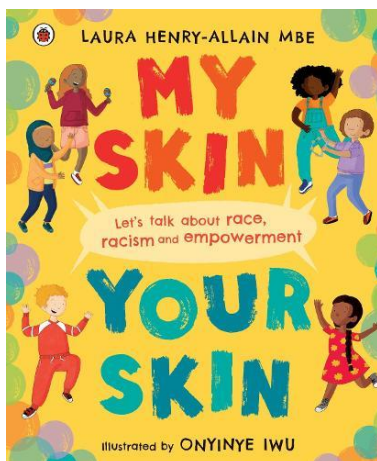
### RECOMMENDED READING – NEW RELEASES

#### MY SKIN YOUR SKIN BY LAURA HENRY-ALLAIN MBE & ONYINYE IWU

*My Skin Your Skin* is a powerful book to help children and adults have meaningful discussions about race and anti-racism. Most importantly, the book empowers children to be the best versions of themselves; to have self-love, self-esteem and self-worth, irrespective of their skin colour.

This book was specifically written by Early Years expert and children's media creator, Laura Henry-Allain MBE, to support parents, teachers and guardians to explain what racism is, why it is wrong, and what children can do if they see it or experience it. It also explores how important it is for children to celebrate their achievements and greatness.

Fully-illustrated throughout by talented illustrator Onyinye Iwu, *My Skin, Your Skin* is aimed at children aged four and above. Containing explanations on key words and concepts written in child-friendly, accessible language, with relatable examples, this book supports children's understanding in building an anti-racist stance from an early age. It is perfect to read at home, and in classrooms, to support your child's life-long learning journey.



### 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.

**WE AIM TO FINALISE OUR ARRANGEMENTS FOR CHRISTMAS EVENTS AFTER HALF-TERM AND WE WILL LET YOU KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**

## AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS

Clubs are continuing after half-term. There are a few places in construction club, running club, film club and little kickers. Please contact the school office if you would like a place.

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	3RD
Thursday	KS2 Football Club	Mr Mcvittie-Mathews	3-6	Yard/ Field

## AUTUMN TERM DATES 2021

**Monday 25th October to Friday 29th October - HALF TERM HOLIDAY**

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November

**Children back in school**

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> November

**Children in Need Day**

Week beginning 15<sup>th</sup> November

**Anti-Bullying Week**

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December

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

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

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January

**TEACHER TRAINING DAY**

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

**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:

1<sup>st</sup> – 4EP 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5CJ 3<sup>rd</sup> – 2CB

## ATTENDANCE WINNERS

These classes have the highest attendance this week.

**Whole school attendance – 93.5%**

**EYFS/KS1 – 1JB with 96.7% KS2 – 4RB with 99.2%**

**Mr Gary Wright**

**Headteacher**