

HAVE A GREAT HALF-TERM HOLIDAY. STAY SAFE AND SEE YOU ALL BACK IN SCHOOL ON MONDAY 2ND NOVEMBER.

PARENT/CARER MEETINGS

Thank you to everyone who has booked an appointment for parent/carer meetings when we return after half-term. We are really looking forward to sharing with you what we have been doing and how your child is settling into their new year group. It is very easy to join the meeting online. I have added details below, but it will be straightforward on your phone or device.

1. JOIN THE VIDEO CALL

On the day of the video appointments, login to Parents Evening at the usual web address for your school, **or click the login link from the bottom of the email confirmation you will have received.** Once logged in you will see a notice that you have upcoming video appointments and under this the details of the event, along with a *Join Video Appointments* button. This will become available 60 minutes before your first appointment.

2. THE VIDEO CALL SCREEN

When you click *Join Video Appointments* the video call screen will be displayed. You may at this point be asked if you wish to allow access to your camera/microphone, in which case please click yes. On this screen you can see the following:

- At the top left the teacher name (and subject details) for the current and next appointment
- At the top right a countdown to the start of the appointment.
- At the bottom the controls for the microphone and camera (once a teacher is available or you are in a call these also show a pick up and hang up button).
- In the middle, when your appointment is due to start, the *Start Appointment* button.

3. MAKING THE CALL

Click the *Start Appointment* button. You will see yourself in the bottom right corner of the screen (unless you have no camera, or have chosen to turn it off). If the teacher has not yet joined you will see a notice to that effect in the centre of the screen.

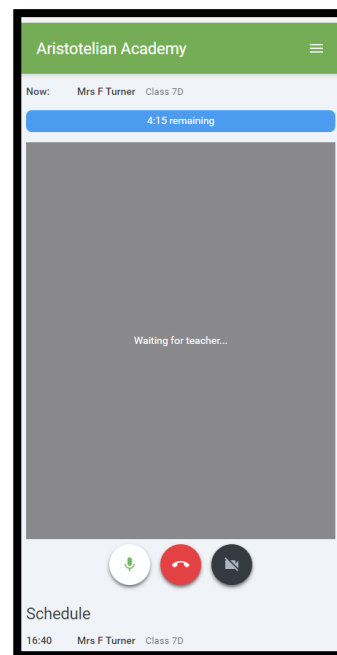
When a teacher joins a call you will see them in the main part of the screen and can start your discussion with them. You will also see the remaining time for the appointment counting down in the blue bar at the top of the screen.

If you lose access to the system for some reason during the call, log in again and click *Start Appointment* on the video call screen. As long as the teacher is still in the call this will let you continue with the appointment (this is the same for the teacher if they lose their access). When the countdown in the blue bar stops the appointment time is over and the call will automatically end. **Note** that if you or the teacher are late, or leave and re-join the call, it does **not** reset the timer.

The appointment will always end at the scheduled time.

4. FOLLOW ON CALLS

If you have another appointment scheduled for another child the screen will display a *Start Next Appointment* button. When you are ready to proceed, click on it. **Note** that if you delay starting a call it does **not** extend the duration for that appointment. The appointment will always end at the scheduled times. If you do not have a consecutive appointment, but you have not completed your final scheduled appointment you will see a countdown telling you how long until the start of your next appointment.



REMINDER: OPERATION SANTA PAWS

This year we will be 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 (donations will be put into a box and left until they are collected by the charity). 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 bought into school and left in a box with the donations. See the flyer at the end of this email. *Mrs Swinburn*



HAPPINESS HAMPERS

We have received a batch of groceries from 'Spread the Happiness' in association with DHL this week.

The range of groceries are different to usual due to the COVID restrictions and the partners who have offered donations. We have managed to create 25 hampers and families have been notified if they have won one of these. We also had £20 Asda vouchers from Spread the Happiness.

There was a large amount of goods left over, so we were able to offer these to all our families. We are also expecting another pallet of groceries which will be available on a first come first served basis. I will let you know when they are available to collect.

A huge thank you to both Spread the Happiness and DHL who always include our families in this amazing initiative. We are so grateful.

PAYMENTS

We have managed to extend our payment system with Sunderland City Council. Usually we would use this to pay for school dinners or trips, however now we can use this to pay for other things such as tickets for events, raffles, etc. You can choose 'contributions to school fund' in the drop down menu when paying.

You can access the payments through the Sunderland Council website <https://www.sunderland.gov.uk/>, select PAY, then SCHOOL MEALS AND EXPENSES, select USWORTH COLLIERY PRIMARY (be careful not to select the nursery) and the CONTRIBUTIONS TO SCHOOL FUNDS. We will let you know which items you can pay for in this way.

COMMUNITY EVENT

FREE HALF-TERM HALLOWEEN PLAY ACTIVITIES

Halloween arts and crafts, games, sports, free lunch and much more at the Millennium Centre, The Oval, NE37 2QD on Friday 30th October 2020 from 10.30am to 12 noon.

Also Spooky Halloween Scavenger Hunts at Fatfield Park on Saturday 31st October, Princess Anne Park on Thursday 29th October and Oxclose Playing Field on Wednesday 28th October – all from 4.45-6pm. All children attending the scavenger trail will receive an activity pack of to complete at home.

All events are suitable for children aged 7 to 11 years only and will be held outdoors, so please wear appropriate clothing.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Miss Smith (our Year 5 teaching assistant) who got married last week. I am pleased you had such a good day and wish you all the best as you start your married life together, Mr. and Mrs. Calcutt.

Also congratulations to Mrs. Bell who gave birth to a beautiful baby girl at the beginning of the month. Again, we wish both you and your husband well and hope you don't have too many disturbed night's sleep!

HOT SCHOOL MEALS

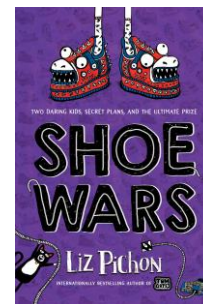
After half-term we will be able to offer hot school meals to reception and reception/Year 1. All children will be having their meals in the small hall, including packed lunches. This means that we are now offering hot meals to all children. Watch out in newsletters after half-term where we will be sharing more information about the food we are offering.

RECOMMENDED READING – NEW RELEASES

SHOE WARS BY LIZ PICHON

The brand new, laugh-out-loud, spectacular, stand-alone story from multi-million-copy bestselling author, Liz Pichon. Welcome to Shoe Town - and meet Ruby and Bear Foot. They are running out of time to rescue their inventor dad from his hideous boss, Wendy Wedge. She'll do ANYTHING to win the glitzy Golden Shoe Award and knows that entering flying shoes is her hot ticket to the trophy. Flying shoes that Ruby and Bear just happen to be hiding...

Get ready for a gadget-packed, wedge-of-your-feet adventure like no other!



AUTUMN TERM DATES 2020

Monday 26th October to Friday 30th October - HALF TERM HOLIDAY

Monday 2nd November **Children back in school**

Week beginning Monday 2nd November **Parent/carer video call meetings (by appointment) – see above.**

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 – 6CJ 3rd – 4RD

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 – 95.3%

EYFS/KS1 – 1JB with 98% and the BASE with 100% KS2 – 3CR with 97%

Mr Gary Wright

Headteacher