



# USWORTH COLLIERY

## WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

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### HOT SCHOOL MEALS

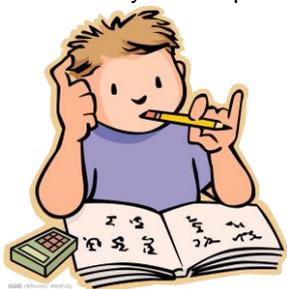
We are going to try to offer hot school meals from 5th October. Initially, this will be only for Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6, THRIVE & the ASD BASE. Therefore, reception, Y1 & Y2 will still receive school packed lunches in the classroom. However, we hope that if it is successful then extend it to the other year groups possibly after half term.

Hot meals will be in the main hall. Only school dinners will eat in the hall and packed lunches from home will eat in their classrooms. We have obviously organised this using a staggered approach and using different entrances/exits, so that classes/bubbles do not mix.

A menu to show you what is available this term is on our school website <https://usworthcolliery.co.uk/about-us/lunchtimes>. We will operate a slightly reduced menu with no jacket potatoes to begin with, but still offer the main course and the vegetarian option. Children will be able to make their choice in school on the day, until we get our new computerised system and running.

Next week, we will attempt to have a trial run with school packed lunches in these year groups collecting their lunches and eating these in the hall. This will give us an opportunity to see how it will work with hot meals the following week.

Thank you to all parents in these classes/year groups for completing the survey. It will help us enormously with the planning which will be like a military operation! I'll let you all know how it goes.



### HOMEWORK

As I suggested in last week's newsletter, all homework will now be set through the Seesaw app that was used for home learning during lockdown. This avoids books being brought in and out of school and avoids teachers having to handle and mark books that have been in different households.

Each half term teachers will set two tasks that can be completed across the half-term related to the creative curriculum topics that are currently being taught. These tasks can be completed at any time during the half term and you can be as creative as you like with children taking photos of art work, craft work and experiences and uploading these onto Seesaw.

Maths and English tasks will be set every week and these must be completed in the same week.

Tasks will be approved by teachers on seesaw and commented on as we did during lockdown. We have asked the children if they are able to access seesaw at home and as there are only a very small minority of children who do not have a device on which they can access seesaw these children will be offered time after school (in after school club) to access the maths and English homework using a school device. All children in Years 2 to 6 need new QR codes to access the apps. We use seesaw in school but in these year groups they have to have a separate account for their homework. These will be given out over the next week.

It is very straightforward but may take some time to get used to the system.

### FLU VACCINE

The flu vaccine team are coming into school on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> September to complete the nasal spray vaccine. This is only for children whose parents have requested their children to be vaccinated. Many of you have told us about fake news on social media about schools allowing all children to be vaccinated, including those who do not return the forms. This is complete nonsense. Every year there are tight protocols the NHS school nurses have to go through where they double and quadruple check the forms. Even if there is the slightest doubt, parents are called or the child is not vaccinated. I can assure you that the school nursing team will only vaccinate those children where parents have asked them to do so.

### COATS

Please make sure that your child brings a coat into school. The weather at the moment is changeable. The children will be going outside at some point during the day to play regardless of weather. At lunchtime the classrooms are cleaned by our cleaners, so they definitely need to be outside for a short time then. As the children are in the same classroom all day, they need a break, even if it a shorter length of time.

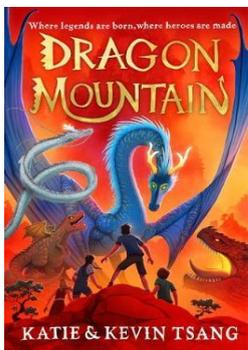
### TRACK AND TRACE

Yesterday, NHS Test and Trace has launched the [NHS COVID-19 app](#). The app has been launched to help control the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19). It will do this by alerting people who may have been exposed to infection so that they can take action. The app is available to download on smartphones for anyone aged 16 or over. The government are recommending that everyone who can downloads this app. I have attached a document to your email with the newsletter explaining how it works.



### KS2 GATES

I am aware that there is congestion at both pedestrian gates on Manor Road. This is often due to parents watching their children into school or waiting for someone else dropping off their children. There is particular congestion just outside the gates where there are barriers to prevent children running onto the main road. I know parents are trying their best to socially distance and this makes it very difficult. If you are waiting, I would prefer you to come into the school grounds and wait near the gate, where you are not blocking the path. For KS2 children, once they are on the yard there is always a member of staff on duty, so if parents/carers want to leave then this is fine. If you have a dog and are waiting, then this also causes issues. Some children are scared of dogs regardless of how friendly they are and don't want to pass. I'd like to suggest that if you bring a dog to drop your child off, you could stand at the other side of the road. There is grass opposite the KS2 yard or at the side of the yard near the gym equipment. This way the path is not blocked and everyone feels safe. We will continue to monitor the situation. Thank you for your support.



## RECOMMENDED READING – NEW RELEASES

### DRAGON MOUNTAIN BY KATIE & KEVIN TSANG

Beast Quest meets Percy Jackson in this epic new fantasy series for 9+ readers! *Deep within the mountain, a great creature stirred in its sleep. Its eyes rolled back in its head, and its wings jerked wide open...*

When 12-year-old Billy Chan finds out his parents are sending him to a summer camp in middle-of-nowhere China he doesn't know what to expect. There he meets fellow campers Dylan, Charlotte and Ling-Fei and together they stumble upon an age-old secret: four powerful warrior dragons, hidden deep within the mountain behind the camp. They have been trapped since an epic battle with the Dragon of Death and need the children's help to set them free before terrible evil is unleashed on the earth. Billy and his friends must set off on a dangerous adventure that will take them to the heart of the Dragon Realm. But can they save the dragon and human worlds from destruction?

## AUTUMN TERM DATES 2020

Week beginning Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October **Parents' telephone meetings (by appointment)**

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

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

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December **Autumn Term Reports (sent out to parents).**

**Monday 21st December to Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January – CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS**

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> 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:

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

## 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 – 95.8%**

**EYFS/KS1 – ASD BASE with 98.3% & 2CB with 98%      KS2 – 3CR with 97.5%**

**Mr Gary Wright**

**Headteacher**