



### ISSUE WITH EMAIL ATTACHMENTS

There was an issue with parents opening attachments from our emails this week. This is due to an error with Pupil Asset who run our system. They are aware and are working on resolving the issue.

### FREE SCHOOL MEALS

We have been told this week that Sunderland Council are going to pay for supermarket vouchers for those children who are entitled to free school meals. They will be the usual £15 for each child per week over the holiday. We have to organise this and then we will be refunded. We will be doing this through Edenred once more, so once the vouchers are organised then those families will receive an email directly from them so you can claim them.

Please remember that these vouchers are only for those children who are entitled to free school meals where parents have applied as they are on benefits. If you feel like you do qualify then follow the link <https://www.togetherforchildren.org.uk/families/free-school-meals>. As soon as we get receipt that you are eligible then we will add you on our system.

We are hoping to have all the vouchers distributed during the last week of this term.

### PHOTOGRAPHS

Individual photographs are due to be taken on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December. Unfortunately, this year due to coronavirus restrictions and not mixing bubbles within school, we are not able to have sibling photographs. Consent forms have been sent home. They need to be completed and returned as soon as possible. Anyone who has not received a form then please contact the school office as photographs cannot be taken with a completed consent form.

### CHRISTMAS LUNCH

We would like to invite all our children who would normally have a packed lunch the option to have a Christmas School Meal on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December. If your child is currently on school meals we do not need to know as your child will automatically receive a Christmas Meal.

If your child is in **Years 3 to 6** this meal will cost **£2.30**

If your child is in **Reception, Year 1 or 2** this meal will be free. If your child is entitled to Free School Meals but usually chooses a packed lunch this meal is also free.

Whatever your circumstances, please inform the office by email and if you need to pay do so on the [Sunderland City Council website](http://Sunderland City Council website) (Pay – School meals & expenses – Usworth Colliery Primary – School meals). You can pay anytime from now and please make sure that you put CHRISTMAS LUNCH in the message box when you pay.

**We need to know number by Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December** so that the kitchen can order the food.

### CHRISTMAS DRESS DOWN DAY

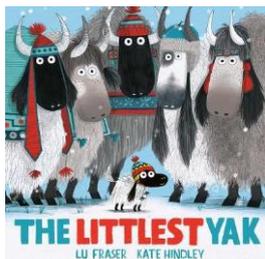
On the final day of term, Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December, the children are allowed to wear non-uniform. They can wear Christmas jumpers if they wish, but do not feel that you have to go and buy anything new (you will have enough to spend your money on at this time of year without another expense).

### REMINDER: 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) and the same jokes! 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](http://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 11<sup>th</sup> 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!



### RECOMMENDED READING – NEW RELEASES

#### THE LITTLEST YAK BY LU FRASER

*On the tip of the top of a mountain all snowy, where the ice-swirling, toe-curling blizzards were blowy, in a herd full of huddling yaks, big and small, lived Gertie . . . the littlest yak of them all.*

**Gertie** is the littlest yak in her whole herd, and she's feeling stuck in her smallness - she wants to grow UP and have **bigness** and **tallness**! But when it turns out that there are some things that *only* Gertie can do, might she come to see that she's perfect, just the way she is?

A rollicking, heartwarming and reassuring story from debut author, **Lu Fraser** and much-loved illustrator, **Kate Hindley**.

## **AUTUMN TERM DATES 2020**

Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December	Individual photographs
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	Autumn Term Reports (sent out to parents).
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas dress down day
<b>Monday 21st December to Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January – CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS</b>	
<b>Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021</b>	<b>TEACHER TRAINING DAY</b>
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> 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> – 6CJ      2<sup>nd</sup> – 5EP      3<sup>rd</sup> – 2ES

## **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.

## **ONLINE SAFETY**

Each week at the end of the newsletter I am going to share some information from National Online Safety. We have shared documents they produce in the past and further information can be found at [www.nationalonlinesafety.com](http://www.nationalonlinesafety.com). As all of our children are either playing games online or using the internet on a daily basis, parents often find it difficult to know how to manage this for the best. This company produce some excellent advice which is easy to read and makes sense. Today is a ten top tips to keeping your child safe on the internet. Some weeks may be about specific social media sites or online games. We will also share links on our website. I hope you find it useful.

## **ATTENDANCE WINNERS**

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

**Whole school attendance – 96.4%**

**EYFS/KS1 – R1KH/AW with 99.6%    THRIVE & BASE with 100%    KS2 – 4CS and 6JM with 100%**

**Mr Gary Wright**

**Headteacher**

# ONLINE CONTENT

## 10 tips to keep your children safe online

The internet has transformed the ability to access content. Many apps that children use are dependent on user-generated content which can encourage freedom of expression, imagination and creativity. However, due to the sheer volume uploaded every day, it can be difficult for platforms to regulate and moderate everything, which means that disturbing or distressing images, videos or audio clips can slip through the net. That's why we've created this guide to provide parents and carers with some useful tips on keeping children safe online.



### 1 MONITOR VIEWING HABITS

Whilst most apps have moderation tools, inappropriate content can still slip through the net.



### 2 CHECK ONLINE CONTENT

Understand what's being shared or what seems to be 'trending' at the moment.



### 3 CHECK AGE-RATINGS

Make sure they are old enough to use the app and meet the recommended age limit.



### 4 CHANGE PRIVACY SETTINGS

Make accounts private and set content filters and parental controls where possible.



### 5 SPEND TIME ON THE APP

Get used to how apps work, what content is available and what your child likes to watch.



### 6 LET CHILDREN KNOW YOU'RE THERE

Ensure they know that there is support and advice available to them if they need it.



### 7 ENCOURAGE CRITICAL THINKING

Talk about what people might post online and why some posts could cause distress.



### 8 LEARN HOW TO REPORT & BLOCK

Always make sure that children know how to use the reporting tools on social media apps.



### 9 KEEP AN OPEN DIALOGUE

If a child sees distressing material online, listen to their concerns, empathise and offer reassurance.



### 10 SEEK FURTHER SUPPORT

If a child has been affected by something they've seen online, seek support from your school's safeguarding lead.

 **National Online Safety**  
#WakeUpWednesday