



USWORTH COLLIERY

Weekly Newsletter



4th September 2026

ATTENDANCE TO CELEBRATE THIS WEEK

Classes with 96% and above who were in the **green zone this week**

3BB - Mrs Burrell	97.73%
6JW - Mr Warner	100%

Two classes made it into the green zone this week for attendance! Congratulations to **6JW** for full attendance at **100%** and for winning the attendance trophy.

Whole school attendance this week was **92.09%**

Remember every school day counts

WELCOME BACK!

I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone back to school for our new academic year. The children all look so smart in their uniform. It has been great fun catching up with them all this week and finding out about their holidays. It has also been a pleasure chatting with some of you this week in the yard.

We are delighted to begin the new school year with a couple of additions to our staff team. We would like to extend a warm welcome to **Mr Barker**, who will be teaching in one of our Year 4 classes, and **Mrs Palmer**, who has joined our ASD Provision Team as a Teaching Assistant in Base Red. We are confident that they will quickly become valued members of our school community, and we know you will join us in making them feel very welcome. I am also thrilled to share some wonderful personal news. **Mrs Henderson** welcomed a beautiful baby boy in August. I am sure you will join us in congratulating Mrs Henderson and her family on this very special addition. We send them our very best wishes as they enjoy this exciting new chapter together.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind all parents and carers that myself, Mrs Moore and Mrs Thubron are usually available at the start of the school day and are always happy to help, so please feel free to speak to us then if you have any questions or concerns. If you would prefer a more private conversation or need more time to discuss something, please do not hesitate to make an appointment.



You can contact us via the school email address or through the School Office. Mrs Thubron, our Family Liaison Officer, is now based in our Rainbow Room, a welcoming and supportive space where parents and carers can meet with her to discuss any concerns, seek advice or access support. The Rainbow Room provides a calm, private environment where families can talk openly, knowing they will be listened to with care, understanding and confidentiality.

Please remember to keep the School Office informed of any changes to your contact details, particularly your email address and mobile telephone number, so that you continue to receive important information and updates throughout the year.

At Usworth Colliery Primary School, we value the strong partnership we have with our families and know that by working together, we can ensure every child enjoys a happy, successful and rewarding time at school.

Here's to another exciting year ahead. We look forward to working with you and supporting your children as they learn, grow and thrive!

INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR CHILD'S NEW CLASS



Next week, all children will bring home a very useful booklet designed to help parents and carers navigate their child's new class and year group. This booklet will replace our traditional Meet the Teacher meetings, which we know many families found difficult to attend last year.

The booklet contains all of the important information that would usually be shared during these meetings, including class timetables, details of your child's teacher and key staff members, homework expectations, reward systems, behaviour routines, uniform expectations and much more.

We encourage you to take the time to read through the booklet carefully and keep it somewhere handy, perhaps on the kitchen table, pinned to the fridge or in a safe place at home, as we are sure it will prove useful throughout the year whenever you need to refer back to it.

Alongside the booklet, we will also be sending home our updated Home-School Agreement. We ask that parents and carers sign and return this agreement. Children in Key Stage 2 will also be asked to sign it, giving our older pupils greater responsibility for staying organised, making positive choices and taking ownership of their learning and behaviour.

We would be grateful if signed agreements could be returned to your child's class teacher as soon as possible. Thank you for your support in helping us work together to ensure every child has a successful and enjoyable year ahead.

Home School Agreement KS1

Our Shared Commitment

At Usworth Colliery Primary School we believe that positive behaviour and successful learning are built on mutual respect between children, parents, carers, and staff. This agreement sets out how we will work together to support learning, wellbeing, and a safe, respectful school environment.

The School Will:

- Provide a safe, inclusive and respectful learning environment for every pupil.
- Uphold high expectations for behaviour, learning and conduct across the school.
- Treat all pupils and families with respect, fairness and understanding.
- Communicate regularly and constructively with families.
- Address any concerns promptly and professionally.
- Maintain clear standards of behaviour and conduct on school property, including:
 - No animals (except assistance dogs) allowed on school grounds.
 - No vaping or smoking on school premises.
 - All visitors, including parents/carers, are expected to be dressed appropriately when on school grounds.

Signed: **AJ Foster** Name and Role: **Aileen Foster, Headteacher**

Parents/Carers Will:

- Support the school's policies on behaviour, attendance, uniform, and respect.
- Treat all staff, pupils, and other families with courtesy and dignity, using respectful language at all times.
- Communicate respectfully and safely with staff.
- Avoid using school-related devices or concerns on social media and will support respectful, constructive communication at all times.
- Ensure children are ready, arrive on time, and are ready to learn.
- Promote good behaviour and respectful conduct in and out of school.
- Follow the school's expectations when on or near school grounds:
 - No animals (except assistance dogs) allowed on school grounds.
 - No vaping or smoking on school premises.
 - No visitors, including parents/carers, to be dressed appropriately when on school grounds.

Pupils Will:

- Follow school rules and show respect to all children and adults, using respectful language at all times.
- Wear the correct school uniform and be dressed appropriately for school activities.
- Arrive regularly, arrive on time, and be ready to learn.
- Listen carefully and try hard at all times.
- Care for school property and help keep the school and the school equipment functional, tidy and safe.
- Speak politely and behave respectfully both on and off the school premises.
- Ask for help when needed and talk to adults if feeling worried.

Signed (Parent/Carer): _____

Name: _____ Date: _____

UNIFORM RECYCLING THANK YOU!

Thank you so much to everyone who has brought in preloved uniform so far this term. Our station has been stacked high this week and although I have seen lots of families using it we still have a lot of stock. I am so proud of our uniform donation station and so pleased that as a community we are supporting each other and doing our bit for the environment!



Items we can recycle include:

Navy sweatshirt or cardigan

Gold or yellow 'polo' shirt

Navy, black or grey skirt or pinafore

Navy, black or grey trousers

School summer dresses/skirts in either blue or gold/yellow checks.



RECOMMENDED READS AND NEW RELEASES

OAK, THE LITTLEST LEAF GIRL BY LUCY FLEMING



Olivia lives in a house with a little red door. Mouse lives in an oak tree behind the house. When a storm blows the oak tree down, Olivia tries her best to find a new house for her neighbour, but are any of the houses the right home?

When Mouse loses his old oak tree home in a snowstorm, his neighbour Olivia offers many different options for a new house, but none are quite right. It is only when she offers a place in her own house with the little red door that it becomes a home for both of them. Illustrator Grace Easton brings her expressive character illustration and beautiful hand-painted scenery to a story of two lonely neighbours finding friendship in the face of a disaster. 22 die-cut flaps reveal details around the cosy setting, bringing dimension to a story sure to bring warmth to a cold winter's bedtime.

AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS

You will have received an email regarding the clubs we have on offer this term. We are currently allocating places and will inform you next week if your child has been successful in securing a place in their chosen club(s). Clubs will begin week beginning **14th September**.

Day	Club name	Staff	Year Groups	Location
Monday	Durham Cathedral Choir	Mrs Barella	Y2-Y6	Class 1CB
Monday	The Story Studio - Creative Writing Club	Miss Brown	Y3-Y6	Class 1JB
Monday	KS1 Sports Club	Mrs Prinn	EYFS KS1	Main Hall
Monday	Lego Club	Mrs Green and Mrs Edmonds	Y1-Y6	Art Room
Monday	Film Club	Mrs Jones	Y1-Y6	Base Blue
Tuesday	Games Club	Mrs Calcutt	Y1-Y6	KS2 Intervention Room
Tuesday	STEM Club	Mr Warner	Y5 & Y6	Class 6JW
Tuesday	Forest School Club	Miss Coxon and Miss Rodden	EYFS KS1	Forest School
Wednesday	Creative Sparks Club	Sunderland Culture	KS2	Main Hall/ Art Room
Thursday	Mindfulness Colouring Club	Mrs Quinn	Y2-Y6	Class 2PQ
Thursday	Playdoh Club	Mrs Burrell	Y1-Y4	Class 3BB
Thursday	Jewellery Club	Mrs Dixon	Y3-Y6	Class 5RD

AUTUMN TERM DATES

Events next week New dates added

AUTUMN TERM DATES

Wednesday 2 nd September	Years 1-6 back to school
Wednesday 2 nd – Friday 4 th September	EYFS Home Visits
Monday 7th September	Reception start half days
Monday 14 th September	Reception classes start full days
Thursday 24 th September	EYFS Intergenerational Visit to Care Home
Tuesday 6 th October	Flu immunisation team in school
Monday 12 th October	Y5/6 STEM Roadshow in school
Monday 12 th October	Y6 Lindisfarne
Tuesday 13 th October	Y6 Lindisfarne
Wednesday 14 th October	Parents Afternoon/Evening
Tuesday 20 th October	4GS visit to Vindolanda
Wednesday 21 st October	4KB visit to Vindolanda
Thursday 22 nd October	EYFS Intergenerational Visit to Care Home
Friday 23 rd October	Last day of this half term

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

Monday 2 nd November	Staff Training (INSET) Day (school closed to children)
Tuesday 3 rd November	Children back to school
Thursday 5 th November	Police Anti-Social Behaviour Workshop Y5 and Y6.
Monday 9 th November	EYFS Art Studio Visit
Monday 16 th November	EYFS Art Studio Visit
Friday 20 th November	EYFS Art Studio Visit
Thursday 26 th November	EYFS Intergenerational Visit to Care Home
Friday 27 th November	STEM/Science Family Moring (9:30am -11am)
Monday 30 th November	EYFS Art Studio Visit
Wednesday 11 th November	Remembrance Tea for Senior Citizens
Monday 23 rd November	School Individual/Family Photographs
Monday 30 th November	Start of Derwent Hill residential week
Thursday 3 rd December	RLC Northern Stage Christmas Show
Monday 7 th December	Staff Training (INSET) Day (school closed to children)
Wednesday 9 th December	RAW Northern Stage Christmas Show

Friday 11 th December	Autumn Term pupil attainment reports sent out
Friday 11 th December	Reception Christmas performances (am performance no pre-school children pm performance all welcome)
Wednesday 16 th December	EYFS Intergenerational Visit to Care Home
Monday 14 th December	Year 3&4 Christmas performance (am performance no pre-school children pm performance all welcome)
Wednesday 16 th December	Christmas Fair
Thursday 17 th December	School Christmas Dinner
Thursday 17 th December	Senior Citizens Christmas Dinner
Friday 18 th December	Last day of Autumn Term

Children return to school on Monday 4th January

If you require any further information, please contact the school office.

At the bottom of this newsletter, I have attached our 2026/2027 term dates starting in September.
Any dates that are circled are **Teacher Training Days** and children **will not** be attending school that day.
Please do not book holidays within term time
If you require any further information, please contact the school office.

SUPERSTARS

Remember to check out this week's **SUPERSTARS!** These are shared on our school Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/people/Usworth-Colliery-Primary-School/61572535178981/#>
Alternatively, you can also use the School Facebook link at the top of the school website.
Please note the school Twitter account, @UCPrimary, is no longer in use.

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 demonstrating our school values and following the Colliery Code.

Mrs Alison Forster Headteacher

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Tel: (0191) 417 8888 info@usworthcolliery.co.uk [@UCPrimary#](https://twitter.com/UCPrimary#)

Accreditation -
Supportive Level
**Speech and
Language UK**



We are a
**Problem-solving
School**
Enriching maths

Eco-Schools
2022-2023

**SCHOOL
GAMES**
BRONZE
2023/24

GOLD
**Active
Sunderland**
School 2024-25

Sunderland Mental Health
Charter Mark

ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND



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

NOTICES

TERM DATES 2026/2027

AUTUMN TERM Autumn 1: 39 days Autumn 2: 35days Autumn Term: 74 Days	SEPTEMBER 2026 22 days						
	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			BH	2	3	4	5
	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
SPRING TERM Spring 1: 30 days Spring 2: 24 Days Autumn Term: 54 Days	JANUARY 2027 20 days						
	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1	2
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
SUMMER TERM Summer 1: 34 days Summer 2: 33 Days Summer Term: 67 Days	APRIL 2027 15 Days						
	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	25	26	27	28	29	30	
	OCTOBER 2026 17 days						
	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2	3
	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	NOVEMBER 2026 21 Days						
	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	DECEMBER 2026 14 Days						
	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4	5
	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	FEBRUARY 2027 10 Days Term 1: 5 Days Term 2						
	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4	5
	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	MARCH 2027 19 Days (prior Easter)						
	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5	6
	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	April 2027						
	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1	2
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	10						
	MAY 2027 19 Days						
	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
							1
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	June 2027 18 Days						
	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4	5
	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	July 2027 15 Days						
	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1	2
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	10	11	12	13	14	15	1

Total Number of Days within the academic year: 195

Schools Must be open to pupils for 190 days. Staff must be available for work on a further 5 days (195 in total) or the equivalent for in-service training.

School will re-open on Monday 6th September 2027

- Bank holidays
- School holidays
- INSET days (teacher training days school closed to children)

