



### RESIDENTIALS FOR KS2

**LONDON** Places on the Year 6 visit to London planned for the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> July this year are now open to book. An email has been sent out with some basic information and the cost of this residential. Paper copies are also available from the office

**DERWENT HILL** Places for the Derwent Hill trip for the current Year 4 & 5 pupils are also now open to book. Derwent Hill week next academic year will be the week beginning 25<sup>th</sup> November 2024. An email has been sent out with some basic information the cost of this residential. Paper copies are also available from the office

We try to do everything in our power to keep the costs of these residentials down but due to the wonderful experiences we can offer through these trips we continue to offer them.

There are payment plan schemes available for both trips which can help spread the cost over a longer period. Please contact Mrs Hall in the office if you want any further information regarding anything about these residentials

### GIRLS FUTSAL TEAM

Last night, the girls futsal team took part in the second part of the competition. All girls started this week's session with a renewed enthusiasm and determination to win. Our first match (against Barmston) started off strong with great teamwork resulting in an early goal from Ocean. The girls were able to find space on the pitch and make clever passes to dominate the opposition. Great teamwork allowed Jessie-May to get a well-earned shot on target. At this point, Barmston started to fight back but fresh legs from our substitutes and two excellent saves by Christine allowed us to keep a clean sheet. Attacking pressure caused an own goal mistake from the opposition. The girls were over the moon to get their first win (2-0).

Whilst waiting for their next game, the team worked well together to watch their competitors and come up with tactics for their next opposition - Biddick. In the second match, we again started strong and a clever pass from Abi which was then tapped in by Ocean got us back to our winning ways. However, Biddick went straight on the counter attack and made Christine work hard to save their shots before they finally scoring two of their own. This game was filled with end-to-end football with both teams playing excellently. In the final minute of the match, the girls positioned themselves well for a corner which caused the keeper to block a number of shots before Ocean scored another goal in the final moments. The match ended 2-2.



### YEAR 5 BIKABILITY

This week some children in Year 5 took part in a bikeability training course. The week consisted of developing skills for cycling on the roads, making good and frequent observations and understanding the rules of road cycling. After practicing these skills, first on the school yard and then later on the roads around the school, they have the opportunity to earn their level one and two awards. We love to offer this opportunity to the children in Year 5 as we realise how important it is to equip them with the skill to be safe on the road and to encourage them to be active and maybe even cycle to school. Well done to everyone who took part.

### YEAR 5/6 SCIENCE IS MY SUPERPOWER

Last Saturday, Olivia, Ava, Mya and Christine from Years 5 and 6 visited Newcastle High School for Girls where they worked with sixth form students and other Y5 and 6 pupils from other primary schools to learn about and investigate DNA. The work was challenging, competitive and extremely interesting but the girls from Usworth Colliery excelled. They extracted DNA from a banana, built DNA towers and necklaces and compared human and pig DNA. Because there were only the four of them, they were split up and had to work in teams with girls they had never met before. They were polite, hardworking and incredibly resilient. We were so proud of how they represented the school. Well done girls!



### LEGO LEAGUE TOURNAMENT AT NISSAN

Well done to the team from Year 6 who competed in this year's First Lego Tournament at Nissan, Sunderland. I was really impressed with how the girls stayed calm under pressure and worked together to overcome tricky problems. I couldn't be prouder of the team, they did us proud! They started the day with a score of 95, on their practice run, and finished the event with an impressive 165 points. Great improvement and effort!

Mr Arthur

## RECOMMENDED READING AND NEW RELEASES

### A POCKETFUL OF STARS BY AISHA BUSHBY

A Pocketful of Stars is a sad but heart-warming tale of finding hope in the past to help survive the present. Thirteen-year-old Safiya is an avid gamer with a big imagination, who feels both misunderstood and distance from her mum since her parents split up.

But when she suddenly falls ill, it's up to Safiya to use her gaming skills of following clues and building stories to uncover the truth about her mum's history and find the things about her that will bind them together forever. A beautifully written and page-turning read, set in London and Kuwait, that deals with changing friendships, family dynamics and learning how to say goodbye. A good read for those interested in stories around world-building, magic and dealing with bereavement.



## EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

By now you should have received a text offering your child a place on an afterschool club  
All clubs will start the week beginning Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January

Day	Club name	Staff	Year Groups	Max number	Location
Monday	KS1 Homework	Mrs Dixon	1-2	20	1RD classroom
Monday	Construction	Mrs Kaur	1-6	12	Base 3
Monday	Mindful colouring	Mrs Allen	3-6	20	3LC classroom
Monday	Book Club	Miss Bell	3-6	10	4SB classroom
Monday	Lego	Mrs Green/Mrs Edmonds	1-6	12	KS2 intervention room
Tuesday	Just dance	Mrs Lines	2-6	10	Base 2
Tuesday	KS2 Homework	Miss Skeen	3-6	30	5GS classroom
Tuesday	Gardening	Mrs Lowe	3-6	15	3RL classroom/Wild garden
Tuesday	Dodge Ball	Mr Warner	5-6	20	Hall
Thursday	Review crew	Mrs Bloomer	1-2	10	TBC
Thursday	Mindful colouring	Mrs Burrell	Rec-2	12	Reception class

## SPRING TERM DATES

Monday 8th January - Children and staff return to school

Tuesday 9th January – EYFS/Y1 (5 year old) Dental Check

Thursday 11th January - Reception Mini Movers Intergenerational Visits

Thursday 11th January - 'Mastering Challenging Behaviour' Parents Course (1:00 pm – 3:00 pm)

Friday 19th January - Reception Stay and Play (Gruffalos)

Friday 19th January - Year 3 Class Assembly (2:15pm) 3RL

Monday 22nd January - Reception trip to Discovery Museum.

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January - Mastering Challenging Behaviour' Parents Course (1:00 pm – 3:00 pm)

Friday 26th January - Reception Reading and Phonics workshop

Monday 29th January - Reception Maths workshop

Friday 2nd February - Reception Stay and Play (Peter Rabbits)

Saturday 3rd February - Year 5 Science is my Superpower

W.C 5th February - Children's Mental Health Week

Monday 5th February - Year 5 Bikeability

Wednesday 7th February - Spring Term Parents' Meetings (Please note, appointments are available from 1:00-6:00pm)

Thursday 8th February - Reception Mini Movers Intergenerational Visit

Thursday 8th February - Mastering Challenging Behaviour' Parents Course (1:00 pm – 3:00 pm)

Monday 12th February - Reception trip to Chinatown

Friday 16th February - Reception Stay and Play (Elmers)

**HALF TERM HOLIDAY Monday 19th February to Friday 23rd February -**

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> February – Mastering Challenging Behaviour' Parents Course (1:00 pm – 3:00 pm)

Wednesday 6th March - Year 5 Science is my Superpower

Thursday 7th March - World Book Day

Thursday 7th March - Reception Mini Movers Intergenerational Visit

Friday 8th March- Reception Stay and Play (Cat in the Hats)

Thursday 14th March - Wednesday 20th March - Scholastic Book Fair

Friday 15th March - Comic Relief Red Nose Day

Friday 15th March- Reception Stay and Play (Paddington Bears)

Monday 18th March - Reception (RAW) trip to Hall Hill Farm  
Wednesday 20th March - Reception & KS1 Art Coffee Morning (9:15am)  
Thursday 21st March - KS2 Art Coffee Morning (9:15am)  
Thursday 21st March - Reception (RBD) trip to Hall Hill Farm  
Friday 22nd March - Spring Term Reports  
Wednesday 27th March -SATs parent meeting (5pm.)  
Thursday 28th March - Break up for Easter Holidays  
**EASTER HOLIDAY Friday 29th March to Friday 12th April**

## **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**


## **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 following the Colliery Code. This week's classes with the most house points are:  
1<sup>st</sup> – 3LC 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3RL 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6CS

## **ATTENDANCE WINNERS**

These classes have the highest attendance this week. Well done everyone!  
Whole school attendance – 91.75%  
EYFS/KS1 – 2CB -with 97.17% KS2 – 4SB with 97.83%

**Mrs Alison Forster      Headteacher**

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