



Tudhoe Colliery Primary School

School Newsletter September 2018



Trail Reminder



A polite reminder that as the signs on the fence show, the Tagessel Activity Trail is out of bounds to children and parents before and after school. The trail is timetabled through the week so that all children have an opportunity to play on it at play-time or lunchtime when it is supervised by staff.

A New Arrival!

Congratulations to our Reception teacher and Phase 1 leader, Miss McLaughlin, who is expecting her first baby! The new arrival is due in December. As there are already two teachers within Reception, her maternity leave will be covered in house, meaning there will be no changes of staff.



ATTENDANCE

Last year, our attendance was **96.12%** which is **BELOW** the school target of **97%**. We also saw a significant increase in the number of holiday requests during term time. Last year we had **1000** sessions of unauthorised absence: **607** of those were holidays with no exceptional circumstances, **36** were late arrivals and **357** were other unauthorised absences.

As a school, we are increasingly under pressure from the local authority and Ofsted to improve our attendance figures. As a consequence of this, from September 2018, we will not be authorising any holidays. Unfortunately, this may result in us having to fine families for taking holidays within term time, something we have always tried hard to avoid.

Whilst we understand the benefit of a family holiday and the financial constraints that families face when booking holidays outside of term time, we also see the impact that missed school time has on children's education. The way that our curriculum works means that content the children miss when they are absent cannot always be revisited. To put it simply, the time lost can't be claimed back. *If you need to make any medical appointments, please make them outside of school time wherever possible. If a school time appointment is unavoidable, please ensure you provide evidence of your appointment to the school office.*

If you would like to discuss this further, please contact Jim.

Forest Fun

Miss Cottle is now fully Forest Schools trained! This means that this year, each class will have a half term block of visiting the woods to take part in different outdoor learning opportunities linked to their work in class.



This term, Year 3 and Year 5 are both enjoying Forest Schools fun. Year 3 have been using the woods as inspiration for writing and Year 5 have been exploring Mayan spirit animals.

We are so lucky to have a woodland so close to our school and the children are really benefiting from learning outdoors.

Possible disruption

Over the next few weeks, there will be building work being carried out within the school grounds. This will be the offices for Tudhoe Learning Trust and we apologise for any disruption there may be during this period.

Please note...

Mr Smith will be off work for around 6-8 weeks, from 26th September due to a hip operation. He will be fully in contact with school during that time and everything in school will run as normal.



THE FRIENDS

HALLOWEEN DISCO

On Thursday 18th October, we will be holding our Halloween Disco. Tickets cost £2 and must be purchased before the event as there will be no option to pay on the door. Letters will be sent out next week.

Warning: The Halloween outfits children wear can often be quite scary and in the past some younger children have become upset by some of the costumes/masks the older children wear at this event. If you feel your child will be easily upset, please don't allow them to attend. The next disco will be the 'Spring Ball' which may be a better one for your child to be involved in.

THANK YOU TO THE FRIENDS

for giving up their time to organise events in school. We really do appreciate the time and effort that goes into making the events a success.

THANK YOU TO YOU

for supporting Friends events in school. By purchasing raffle tickets, sending in 50p for dress down days, buying tickets for discos and supporting fairs, you raise money that goes directly into school to benefit the children. Last year, the Friends contributed £300 to each class to help cover the cost of trips, meaning that we could avoid asking parents for contributions. In times of budget cuts for schools, this really makes a huge difference!

E-Safety

NSPCC Online Safety Workshop

As you will have seen from our date list, on **8th November** the NSPCC are coming into school to work with the children on '**Speak out Stay Safe.**' They will also be holding a free online safety workshop for parents at 9am. The hour long workshop will help you understand your child's online world, build confidence in talking to your child about online dangers and show you where to go for help and advice.

Useful links...

Free **O2 NSPCC Online Safety Helpline 0808 800 5002**

Download the **Net Aware App** on the app store or Google Play.

Did you know you can call into your local O2 store for online safety help from a Guru? You don't even need to be an O2 customer.

O2 😊 NSPCC
Net Aware)))

Be smart on the
internet



Twitter Page
@TudhoeColliery

Find us at @TudhoeColliery for regular updates including photos of children's work and general day to day life in school.



Other stuff!

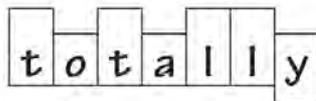
Ideas for Spelling Homework

Sometimes parents comment that our spelling homework is the same every week and can become repetitive. We feel that a benefit of our homework is that you are free to vary it every week, using different strategies to record spellings, or looking in different places to find words that follow the pattern.

Here are some ideas for strategies you can use when practising spelling with your child.

When practising weekly 'tricky words' or in 'Skills Week' for KS2, why not try...

Drawing around the words making a clear distinction in size where there are tall letters and small letters. Look carefully at the shape of the word and the letters in each box. Now try to write the word making sure that you get the same shape.



Pyramid Words - This method of learning words forces you to think of each letter separately.

You can then reverse the process so that you end up with a diamond.

p
py
pyr
pyra
pyram
pyrami
pyramid

Rainbow writing - Using coloured pencils in different ways can help to make parts of words memorable. You could highlight the tricky parts of the word or write the tricky part in a different colour. You could also write each letter in a different colour, or write the word in red, then overlay in orange, yellow and so on.

Drawing around the word - This strategy is all about making a word memorable. It links to meaning in order to try to make the spelling noticeable. It won't work for all words, but it might be good for the tricky ones!



Harvest Food Collection



As part of our Harvest Festival, we will be collecting for the Durham Food Bank again this year. Food items from the list can be sent into school from Monday 1st October. As always, thank you for your support—it is very much appreciated!

The list below are the main things we need:

Fruit Juice (non-chilled)	Cereal/Porridge
UHT Milk	Meat paste
Tinned Meat	Jam
Tinned Fish	Sugar
Tinned Vegetables	Instant Mash Potato
Tinned Spaghetti	Tea
Tinned Fruit	Coffee
Sponge Pudding (non-chilled)	Custard
Biscuits/Chocolates/Sweets	Children's treats/snacks

Food we currently have a good stock of but are still accepting:
Pasta, Rice, Baked Beans, Rice Pudding, Soup

We also accept donations of toiletries.

COME AND

Read with us!

As you will have seen from our date list, this term we are inviting parents into our 'Love Reading' sessions on a Friday morning.

This is simply an opportunity for you to come into school for half an hour to share a book with your child. They can read to you, or you can read to them. Children could bring their favourite book from home or share a book from school. It's also an opportunity for you to chat to staff about any questions you have about home reading.

We have seen a huge increase this term in the number of children reading at home and we really hope that children are developing the love of reading that we are aiming for.



See the date list for the date of your child's Love Reading session!



SPORTING NEWS



Last year was another successful sporting year for us and we recently found out we have been successful again in our application for the School Games Gold Award!

Coaches

Every year as part of our partnership with the SSP (Sedgefield Sports Partnership), we access blocks of coaching for each class which are delivered by expert coaches. This year we have been adventurous in the choice of sports our children will be experiencing. Later this term, Year 2 and 3 will be starting a block of 'Free Running' and later in the year, other classes will be getting involved in hockey or boxing. We wanted to try and give the children experience of sports that they might not ordinarily have access to. Hopefully they enjoy it!



Leagues

This term, selected Year 5 and 6 pupils will be competing in Football and Netball Leagues after school. Trials have already been held for the football team and their first match is on 25th September. The netball league begins on 7th November and the team will be selected from the Netball club which starts this week after school. Last term, our football and netball teams achieved great success in the leagues, so fingers crossed we can do the same this year!

Competitions

As you will have seen from the date list, we have a huge number of sporting competitions going on this term! Letters will be sent via Parent Mail if your child is selected to attend. Check out our next newsletter to find out how we've done, or follow us on Twitter @tudhoecolliery.

Your responses...

On the last newsletter we had a comment from a parent about her child loving the school and making excellent progress every year. The parent also said, 'I love the garden and outside play area. Forest schools is a great opportunity for children to explore and have contact with nature.'



Thank you for your feedback!!

What Do You Think?

In each Newsletter we ask for parents' views about our school. Do you have any suggestions? Is there anything we could do better? What are we doing well? Any general comments? Just pop your comment into the box below, cut across the line and send it into the school. (Only include your name if you would like to!)