



Tudhoe Colliery Primary School School Newsletter November 2020



THE FRIENDS

We hope you've all been clearing out your wardrobes in preparation for our Bags2School collection on **Monday 9th November!** If you have bags to bring into school, please only bring them on the morning of 9th November. The bags will not be coming into the school building and there will be a drop off point outside of school for you to leave them when you drop your child off. There is no limit on the number of bags you can bring in, so fill as many as you can, but please make sure they're sealed. A reminder of what can't be included is given below:



Yes to...	No to...
Clothing Paired shoes Bags Hats Scarves and Ties Jewellery Lingerie Socks Belts Soft Toys Household linen Household curtains Household towels Household bedding	Duvets and blankets Pillows and cushions Carpets, rugs and mats Soiled, painted, ripped or wet clothing School uniform Corporate clothing Textile cut offs

Virtual Christmas Fair

The Friends are organising a Virtual Christmas Fair on **Saturday 5th December** to help raise funds for school. If you are on Facebook, please search 'Tudhoe Colliery Primary School Online Christmas Fair' to receive regular updates and see what we have to sell. Please also share the event with friends and family; the more we raise, the more we can do for the children next year!

Features include a raffle, guess the name of the elf, guess the number of sweets in the jar, guess the weight of the Christmas cake as well as items to buy such as Snowman Soup, Reindeer Dust, gifts for family and pets!

If you would like to advertise your own business at the fair and/or sell your own crafts/items, please contact us to book a place.

All items will be quarantined to meet Covid safe requirements and we will provide you with an order form so that you can easily pay for and receive your items in plenty time before the end of term. We look forward to seeing you there!



Poppy Appeal

Just a reminder that children can currently purchase poppies and other poppy related items from school. Please see the letter sent before the half term break for details of prices.



Tying Shoe Laces

We have a number of children in classes across the school who are unable to tie their shoe laces. If your child is not yet able to tie their laces, please can we ask that you work with them on this at home? Due to Covid, we're currently trying to maintain 2m distancing wherever possible, which is tricky when tying a shoe lace!



WINTER CLOTHES

As the weather gets colder, please can we remind parents to send children into school in suitable clothing as several children have been complaining about being cold at playtime while having bare legs, or no winter coats.

SEESAW

Can you access Seesaw? We are building up our Seesaw usage across the school, so if you have any issues with logging on, please contact your child's class teacher through the class email address.



Home Reading Changes

As mentioned in the letter we sent out before half term, we will now be gathering information about children's reading habits via a ParentMail form, rather than the daily home to school books used previously. This decision has been made for several reasons: to make it easier for parents, to provide school with more reliable information about children's reading at home, and also to help limit items being transferred between school and home. The form will also give you an opportunity to ask any questions about reading e.g asking for book recommendations, info on reading colours, comments on Dream Reads etc.

W

We encourage children to read 4 or more times per week, but rewards will no longer be based around the frequency that children read. We want to create a culture where children read because they love reading, and not because they're trying to get a reward.

Waterstones

We will still be taking our KS2 children to Waterstones regularly, Covid permitting! This is an experience we believe all children should have in our school and we LOVE taking them!

BOOK CLUB

We are still running Book Club across Key stage 2 where children read a book in a group with an adult over a few weeks. Our big change for this year is that these books are kept in school for Y3-5 and children have an opportunity to read set pages for the next session during school time. We lost a huge number of books due to them not being returned after lockdown. We are working to replace them, but keeping these books in school helps ensure we don't lose even more.

Reading FAQs

Should my child read to me aloud?

When children are younger, reading aloud is vital so you can support them with sounding out words, help them with expression etc, but older children still really benefit from this too. The benefit to them reading aloud is that you're sharing the story with them and it becomes a shared experience.

Can I read to them?

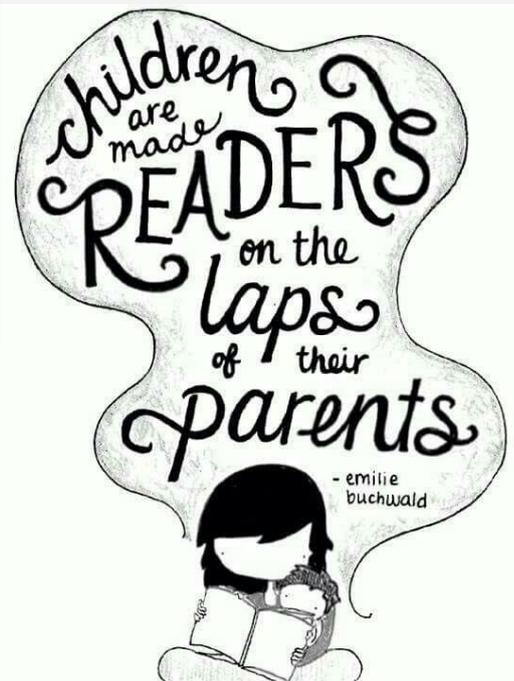
Yes! In Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 our Dream Reads have been chosen for adults to read to children, but in Key stage 2 children will still benefit HUGELY from you reading to them. In pupil voice, the children often say that they miss parents reading to them and research shows that once children reach the age of 8 only 30% are read to regularly at home.

Should I ask them questions?

The biggest benefit to children comes from you sharing a book with them and just talking about it generally, rather than you feeling like you need to ask detailed questions about the text. Children have regular opportunities in school to read and respond to questions, both verbally and written - you don't need to do this at home.

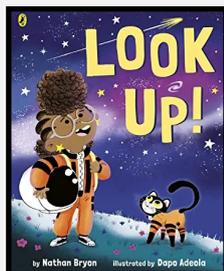
What if they get stuck on a word?

We follow the Read Write Inc phonics programme in school and details of this can be found on our school website, including links to videos for parents on the Read Write Inc site. Basically, we teach children to break a word into the sounds and then blend the sounds back together.



Recommended Reads

Looking for a book to buy your child? Try one of our recommended reads...

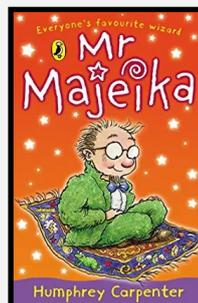


Reception:

Rocket dreams of becoming an astronaut like her hero Mae Jemison. This beautifully illustrated book focuses on Rocket's enthusiasm for all things space and also her relationship with her phone obsessed brother!

Year 1:

Last half term, Year 1 completed a lot of their work around the book 'Here we are' by Oliver Jeffers. 'What we'll build' follows on from this story and is a gorgeously illustrated book about a father and his daughter building their new life.



Year 2:

As a rule, magic carpets don't turn up in schools, but this is exactly what happens when Class Three's new teacher flies in through the classroom window and lands on the floor with a bump. This is the first book in a 14 book series and is a great introduction for Year 2 children into short novels.



Year 3:

This is the second book in the 'Wizards of Once' series by Cressida Cowell. Year 3 read the first as their class novel last half term. You can also watch videos of Cressida reading the first book (Wizards of Once) and also How to Train Your Dragon on her You Tube channel.



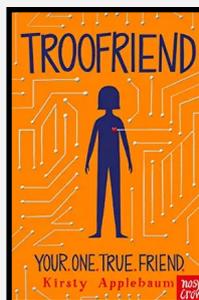
Year 4:

Year 4 have just finished 'Crater Lake' by Jennifer Killick and while they're waiting for the second in the series, they can experience another book by the same author in the form of Alex Sparrow!



Year 5:

The Castle of Tangled Magic is the latest book from Sophie Anderson, who also wrote 'The House with Chicken Legs,' which was Year 5's class novel last half term. It tells the story of Olia and her mission to travel magical lands in a bid to save her family's castle.



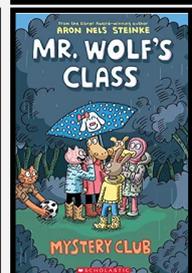
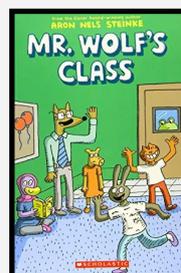
Year 6:

Can a robot have true feelings? Sarah's mum buys her the 'Troofriend 560,' a robot designed to be the perfect friend, but can you be friends with a robot? This is a brilliantly unusual science fiction story that really makes you think about the value of true friendship. Kirsty Applebaum also wrote 'The Middler,' which is one of Year 6's Book Club books.

A focus on...Graphic Novels

Graphic Novels are books that combine comic style images and text and can be a brilliant way to encourage 'reluctant readers.' At first glance these comic style books can seem less challenging than those with more text, but the themes within them are often just as challenging as books written in a more traditional novel format. There are also Graphic Novel versions of many popular stories, e.g. The Graveyard Book (which Year 6 have just finished), Tom's Midnight Garden and Northern Lights.

We are working on developing our library of Graphic Novels in school, but here are some that have been the most requested so far this term, particularly in Years 4-6!



A Day in School..

How is school different during the current Covid situation?

Playtimes

Rather than moving around all areas of the yard/MUGA at playtime, children are in one designated area and only mix with other children in their Bubble. They are also supervised by staff from their Bubble, rather than staff from across the school being on a duty rota as would normally be the case in school.

We are also encouraging 'Active Playtimes' where staff are actively involved in playing with the children, giving them an opportunity to apply the skills they've been learning in PE.



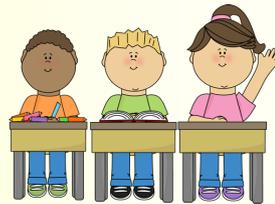
Lunchtimes

Like at playtime, children only mix with children from their own Bubble at lunchtime. They sit in the hall as usual, but they sit in rows (like in the classroom) in order to avoid face to face contact across the dinner tables. Dinners are also delivered to the tables by dinner staff rather than children queueing at the hatch.

We now have 4 sittings at lunchtime, rather than the usual 2, but all children still have half an hour allocated time for eating their lunch in the hall.

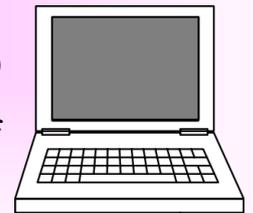
Classrooms

Normally we would have much more flexibility in how we sit the children in class and children would move seats for Maths/Writing/Reading depending on the groups they are working in. Because of the situation with Covid-19, we need to limit the children's movement around the classroom as much as possible. This means that children sit in the same seats for all lessons as much as possible.



Assemblies

We are unable to hold assemblies in the usual way currently as we need to avoid children from different Bubbles mixing in the hall. Instead, we are holding more class assemblies where children discuss topics within their Bubble and we are also using Microsoft Teams for classes to communicate with each other - our Reception children have now been introduced to all of our other classes through Teams! Miss Boustead and Arthur also do a weekly assembly online.



Twitter Page @TudhoeColliery

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

New School Website

Don't forget to check out our new Website at:
www.tudhoecollieryprimaryschool.co.uk

This is a space for us to comment on any feedback we receive via the half termly newsletter. As always, we encourage parents to contact us in school at anytime if you have an issue or concern; Jim (Headteacher) and Allison (Deputy Headteacher) are always available. That way we can deal with any issues you may have because if we don't know about it, we can't fix it.

Parent Voice

In our last newsletter, we had one response - a thank you from a parent for making school such a safe and happy place after lockdown. Thank you!

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!)