



COVID REMINDERS

The most important symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are the following:

- a **high temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a **new, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a **loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

If your child is displaying **ANY** of the above symptoms, they should not attend school until they have been for a PCR test. A LATERAL FLOW test is not sufficient. If your child attends school with any of these symptoms, they will be isolated from class and you will be contacted to take them home.

LATERAL FLOW TESTING

Reminder of key information:

- Only those secondary age and older should use regular lateral flow testing
- Lateral flow testing is for **ASYMPTOMATIC testing** - if children are displaying symptoms, they need to go for a PCR test; a lateral flow test is not sufficient.

Time to Shine Changes

We are currently working with the children to make some changes to our rewards systems in school. We will no longer be having a weekly 'Time to Shine' session and instead children will be working towards a bigger end of half-term reward which they will decide on with their classmates.

The general idea is that children will earn a 'credit' for each week they stay off red on the behaviour tracker. They then build up their tokens to spend on additional treats for their 'Treat afternoon.' For example, it could be a movie afternoon where they have an opportunity to spend their credits on popcorn, an ice cream, a party bag, or wearing dress down clothes.

We're working on the logistics, but the children are excited to be getting involved in choosing their prizes and we hope it will have a really positive impact in school.



Systems in School

As we're all aware, national restrictions were eased on Monday 17th May and hopefully again on Monday 21st June.

School guidance from the DfE has not yet been updated to reflect national changes, and as a result, we currently have no plans to change any of the current Covid systems, including separate Bubbles, staggered starts etc, before the end of the summer term.

A NEW TUDHOE baby!

We are delighted to announce that Miss Gray is having another baby! This obviously has implications for staffing in school and as a result, Miss Gray will not have a class teaching responsibility in September. Full details of the staffing structure for next year will be sent out shortly.

Polite Reminders

We've had it brought to our attention that several parents are gathering outside of school, smoking and using inappropriate language within earshot of the children, which is obviously not pleasant for children and parents to walk through on their way to and from school.

Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success.

Henry Ford

Whilst this is outside of school, we would ask for your support in ensuring that the children's journeys to and from school are as happy and as safe as possible. The local PSCOs have also been informed and will be monitoring the situation over the next few weeks.

SUPPORTING @ HOME

Votes for Schools

We are very excited to have restarted a whole school focus on Votes for Schools this term.

For those of you who are unaware of Votes for Schools, every week (rather than every two weeks as previously), children will be introduced to a topic. Each class will take part in a lesson where they discuss the topic in depth and decide where they stand. The discussions will cover a wide range of topics, for example, last week, children were discussing the local elections and the week before, KS2 were discussing the introduction of Instagram for under 13s.

We are going to start to inform parents of the topic each week too so that you are aware of what your child will be discussing in school and can join in with the discussion at home.

We've seen brilliant results from using Votes for Schools and have been amazed at the children's responses and how sensibly they approach difficult issues. It also fits in brilliantly with our current whole school focus on developing children's speaking and listening skills.

PRIMARY
VOTES FOR SCHOOLS

What is your vote on today's topic? Put a cross in the box.

Girl Boy

Yes No

We'll also be re setting up our parent vote, where each week we'll send you the topic the children will be working on and you can vote anonymously alongside the children. We'll be sending a ParentMail to ask for volunteers, so please sign up!



Seesaw

Just a reminder that children should now complete their spelling homework on Seesaw rather than in their spelling homework books. Tasks will be set on a Monday and should be completed by the following Friday.

The way children record their homework is up to them - they can type in sentences, take a photograph of their work on paper and upload, or you could test them on tricky words verbally and upload a video of that.

Going forward, children will be continuing to earn Bouncy Castle minutes from completing their spelling homework on a weekly basis.

This is currently on hold due to Covid restrictions, but will be back as soon as possible!

Read Write Inc Online Library

Miss Freeman will shortly be sending out further information to parents of children across Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 to set up access to the new Read Write Inc E-Library.

During lockdown, we were uploading the Read Write Inc books children would be working on in class onto Seesaw, but the E-Library gives simple and straightforward access through the Oxford Owl site.

Teachers will assign a book to the children each week - the book they will have been working on in class. They will then be able to read this book at home (and show off their reading skills) as well as getting extra practice with their Read Write Inc Book Bag books which they will continue to bring home weekly.

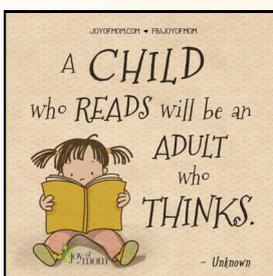
Read Write Inc.
Phonics

READING PARENTMAIL

Our most recent Reading ParentMail was sent on Friday 21st May; please make sure you respond by 12:00 on Wednesday 26th May.

Thank you so much for your responses; we really find them useful and it's great for us to be able to track children's changing attitudes to books and reading.

We would ask that wherever possible, you complete the ParentMail form with your child.



Empathy Day Thursday 10th June

We're super excited to be taking part in Empathy Day on Thursday June 10th. Every class will be taking part in activities designed to help children explore and understand the feelings of others.

Each class will be exploring a different picture book from the 2021 Reading for Empathy collection (examples are shown below) and we'll also be taking part in virtual workshops with children's authors and illustrators.

Empathy Lab have also produced a Family Empathy Activities Pack for children to try at home in countdown for the 10th June and it can be found at the link below:

<https://www.empathylab.uk/family-activities-pack>



Relationships and Sex Education

Thank you for reading through our draft Relationships and Sex Education Policy and PSCHE Curriculum. The consultation period is now closed and the Policy and planning documents are now available on the school website.

Our Year 5 and 6 children have been working on puberty and sex education lessons this half term and we've been amazed by their sensible and honest responses.

E-Safety Update

Below we have listed five useful websites to help support your child staying safe. Please take some time to talk to your children and find out more on the websites below. Parents and carers are also welcome to discuss issues and get support from the school – we will help.

Website	Further Information
www.internetmatters.org	Really useful website covering parental controls, apps and all aspects of supporting parents with technology.
www.net-aware.org.uk	Great website for parents, written by the NSPCC that explains about individual apps and the safety measures they have in place for children
https://www.childline.org.uk	The website for children to get support themselves
https://www.itai.info	Support with radicalisation
https://www.getsafeonline.org	More for parents – this site explains how to protect yourself against online fraud – which is an increasing problem.



Have you seen the Online Safety Page on our School Website? It has many useful parent leaflets on different apps/sites children use at home, including age guidance and potential risks.

Bikeability Years 4, 5 and 6

We are delighted to have secured dates for our Year 4, 5 and 6 children to take part in Bikeability Training, run by Durham County Council, this summer term. Due to Covid, no cycle training was able to run in school last year, but we have been able to secure training so that all Year 4-6 children can take part this year.

To take part, children will need a roadworthy bike and a suitable bike helmet. Bikes will be checked by instructors prior to children taking part in the sessions. Additional information and consent forms will be sent out in the next few weeks with dates for the training given below. We would strongly encourage all children to take part in the sessions wherever possible as the course is so important for teaching children how to ride their bikes safely and be aware of traffic and the Highway Code.

Year 4 children will be taking part in Level 1 training; Year 5 and 6 children will be taking part in Level 1 training and then completing Level 2. All children will need to have successfully completed Level 1 to be able to progress to Level 2. Children must complete all sessions to pass the course.

Year group	Level 1 dates	Level 2 dates
Year 4	Friday 18th June	To be completed in Year 5
Year 5	Friday 9th July	Friday 16th, Monday 19th and Tuesday 20th July
Year 6	Monday 10th May	Tuesday 11th, Wednesday 12th, Thursday 13th and Friday 14th May



WORRY MONSTER

We're working with several of the children around anxiety at the moment and several families have had success with using the Worry Monster book and toy. The idea behind it is that children write their worries on a piece of paper and 'feed them' to the Worry Monster who eats them and takes them away.

School Photographs

Due to Covid restrictions, there will be no school photographs again this year.



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 two responses - both thank yous from parents for keeping school safe and for support with remote learning- 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!)