



Tudhoe Colliery Primary School School Newsletter November 2025



ATTENDANCE

We have already received several requests for term time holidays this year. Please be aware that absence can only be granted by the Headteacher in **exceptional circumstances**. The guidance from the DfE is very clear that...

'Generally, the DfE does not consider a need or desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation to be an exceptional circumstance.'

This means that regardless of additional information being provided by parents, such as protected/restricted holidays, we are unable to authorise these requests. This isn't personal and doesn't mean we don't believe the reasons provided, but we need to make sure that we respond fairly for all parents.

If the number of days absence is 5 or more, then we have a duty to pass this information to the Local Authority for a fixed penalty notice to be issued. More information about this can be found in the information sent out earlier this term which is also available on the website. Please also be aware that school do not receive the money from the fines! This money goes to the local authority.

We will also pass information to the local authority if we suspect a holiday has taken place, for example if parents call in sick for a child and then the child comes back to school talking about their holiday. We always ask that you complete a holiday form, even if you know that it won't be authorised.



Find more information on our school website via the QR code.

Football Champions!

We were delighted to be able to take two teams to the 4 week football league at Whitworth Park School last half term. After a very tense final week, our A team were announced as winners of the league which is an amazing achievement. They were also undefeated for the entire competition!



A couple of weeks later, our A Team then took part in the Cup and Shield Competition against teams from across the area andwon the Cup! The children's attitudes were fantastic and they thoroughly deserved to win. They remain undefeated so far this season and are now in the County Finals in the summer term. A fantastic result. A huge thank you to Mr Dixon for taking them every week, giving up his breaktimes to train both teams and for his inspirational team talks!

Cross Country SuperStars!

On Friday 3rd October, we took a group of 24 children from across KS2 to the Cross Country competition at Ferryhill School. In the team competition, our Year 5/6 boys came third and in terms of individual positions, two of our children, Elliot (Y4) and Ellis (Y6), qualified for the County finals, with Ellis coming 4th in his race and Elliot winning his!



We were so impressed with the attitude and effort of all children who attended and wish Ellis and Elliot the best of luck in the county finals next week.



Christmas Fair

Another date for your diary...The Friends are organising a Christmas Fair for Wednesday 3rd December. More details will be sent out shortly!

GOVERNOR VACANCY

We currently have two vacancies for a Parent Governor on our Local Governing Body.

We're looking for passionate, dedicated people in our community to join us as school governors. This is your chance to shape the future of our school, support young people, and bring your experience to a role that truly matters.

Our Local Governing Body, which has a membership of 10, including representatives from the staff, local community and parents, reports to the Tudhoe Learning Trust Board.

The Governing Body does not get involved in the day to day running of the school; they have a strategic role with responsibility for overseeing leadership & management as well as focusing on raising standards and promoting the personal development and wellbeing of all pupils.

The Governing Body must meet at least three times per academic year. There is an expectation that governors will also undertake monitoring visits into school to find out more about the school throughout the year. Individual governors do not have any powers, instead the Governing Body works closely with the Headteacher and Trust Board to make decisions collectively as a team.

Any parent, or carer, of a registered pupil at the school at the time of election is eligible to stand for election as a Parent Governor (subject to certain exceptions, e.g. anyone employed at the school for more than 500 hours per annum is not eligible). Parent Governors are elected by other parents at the school - if there are more applications than spaces available, an election will be arranged so please be aware you may have to produce a personal statement for ballot papers.

Appointment is also subject to eligibility criteria and satisfactory completion of a Disclosure & Barring Service and Section 128 check.

All governors must abide by our agreed Code of Conduct covering issues such as confidentiality, conflicts of interest, training requirements and standards of behaviour.

Prospective candidates are requested to speak with the Headteacher prior to submitting an application, so they are fully aware of the roles and responsibilities involved - please contact the school office to make an appointment via phone or email.

Closing date for applications
Friday 14th November 2025.



We're adopting a Bus Stop!

We are very excited to be part of a project which has been organised by Spennymoor Town Council in Partnership with Durham County Council's Community Engagement Officer for Integrated Passenger Transport.

As part of the project, we will work with a local artist to create a vibrant installation which celebrates the history, heritage and community of our local area. Our assigned artist, Sarah Chariton, will be in school on 12th November to work with groups of children. There will also be a film crew visiting as a documentary is being made as part of the project. We will share more information after the workshop has been completed - we can't wait to get started!

Spelling Homework

We've had a small number of queries from parents around how spelling homework is marked and what is required for the children to earn one or two minutes on the bouncy castle on Reward Morning. We're also aware there may be wider discussions between parents who haven't contacted us directly.

In answer, there is no specific marking system and all marking in terms of time earned is a judgement call by the member of staff marking the books. Staff marking will take into account:

The amount of work completed.
Presentation of the work.

The effort put into the work.

Whether the work matches the level of work completed in school.

Additional Sporting Dates

We sent out our diary dates as early in the term as we could, however this was before Go Well (our Sports Partnership) had published their sporting calendar. Below are some additional dates for this term:

6th November: Key Stage 2 Sportability at Spennymoor Leisure Centre (10-12 children from across KS2)

20th November: Sports Hall Athletics Competition at Spennymoor Leisure Centre (selected children in Year 5 and 6)

20th November: Netball League after school (continues for 3 weeks - selected children in Year 5 and 6)

9th December: Year 1 Sports Festival

Focusing on Phonics...

Read Write Inc.

From when children reach red onwards in Read Write Inc they bring home a minimum of two reading books per week:

- A black and white version of the book they have been reading that week in class.
- A 'Book Bag book' which follows the same theme as the book the children have been reading in class.
- As children get further through the programme, they may also bring home a 'Non-Fiction Book Bag book' for extra practice.

The more children can read the above books at home, the better their fluency will become and the quicker they will move through the programme. Don't worry if the books seem easy - the aim is for them to read them fluently.

The table below shows the expected levels for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 for this point in the year. Children are assessed and regrouped each half term. There is no need to panic if your child doesn't move onto a new colour at each assessment period—sometimes they just need a bit more consolidation before moving on.

Set 1A	Set 1B	Set 1C	Ditty	Red	Green	Purple	Pink	Orange	Yellow	Blue	Grey	Off
	Rec Autumn 2					Year 1 Autumn 2				Year 2 Autumn 2		

Road Reminder

We know driving and parking along the back street is very difficult, but we also continue to ask parents to be mindful of our neighbours and not park in a way that blocks access. We also remind parents to take care with their speed along the back street as there are lots of children walking to and from school, many of whom are unaccompanied by adults.

Wherever possible, we would ask that parents park a further distance from school and walk, or try and keep drop offs as quick as possible to try and ease congestion along the back street and in front of the school. We're also aware that parking wardens have been out monitoring cars along the front of school on several occasions so far this year.

We are also continuing to use cones to block our carpark gate on a morning and an evening. This is for safety reasons as we often have children running across the entrance to the carpark when they enter/leave school, or parents standing waiting in the gap at collection times. We have also had parents using the carpark to turn around when traffic builds up outside. Our carpark is shared with Tudhoe Learning Trust and is therefore in use all through the day with staff coming and going, deliveries, visitors etc.

Please do not park in front of the cones as access may still be needed, e.g. for emergency vehicles.

We thank you for your cooperation.

CAUTION
PLEASE DRIVE
CAREFULLY

OUR SENDCO

Our SENDCO, Amy Addison, is on site every Wednesday and supports staff to ensure that children's SEND needs are being met through provision within our school. She liaises closely with external professionals and can refer children to a variety of different teams (if needed) for further support and advice.

Although Amy is only on site every Wednesday, she is contactable throughout the week via email:

amy.addison@tudhoelearningtrust.co.uk

Please don't hesitate to contact her to discuss any concerns or queries you might have. She also holds optional SEND Consultation meetings each half term, which is an opportunity to meet and discuss your child's SEND needs, provision and seek further advice/signposting. The date for the next SEND consultation day is on **Wednesday 10th December** and meetings will be bookable via Arbor closer to the time.

MACMILLAN COFFEE AFTERNOON

Thank you so much to everyone who brought in £1s for our Green Dress Down Day, donated cakes, or attended our Coffee Afternoon last Friday for Macmillan Cancer support. We are delighted to have raised £695.10 for this amazing charity!



CHRISTMAS PRODUCTION!

Our Christmas production is fast approaching and we will be starting casting and rehearsals next week! Emails will be sent as soon as possible with details of costumes.

As always, we will try and keep them as simple as possible, and we really appreciate your help with providing them. Please let us know as soon as possible if you are unable to source a costume for your child.



A polite request...

If something has happened with your child in school which involves another child e.g. a falling out, unkind comment etc, we ask that wherever possible, parents speak to school first rather than speaking to other parents or children in the first instance. When issues occur on school property, school are in a better position to be able to investigate them and may have additional context which parents wouldn't necessarily be aware of.

Leading Safeguarding in School

A reminder of our School Safeguarding Team:

Miss Boustead is Designated Safeguarding Lead

Miss Gray and **Mr Dixon** are Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads

Miss Hall is the Designated Teacher for Children in Care.

If you have any concerns about the safety of a child, please don't hesitate to contact one of the people named above.

THE FRIENDS

Would you be interested in joining the Friends of the school? We are very lucky to have an active Friends group who organise several events throughout the year. Money raised makes a huge difference to school: every year, money raised from Friends events is put towards school trips, meaning we don't need to pass the cost onto parents.

If you are interested in joining the Friends, you can contact Miss Gray via the school office. There will be forms to complete before you can be signed up as a full member and also all helpers need to have a full DBS carried out by school, but as soon as you express an interest, we can get the ball rolling!



Outdoor Clothing

Please can we ask that children have suitable waterproof coats and footwear to wear at playtimes and lunchtimes outside. Throughout the autumn and winter months, we will be continuing to try and get the children outside for breaktimes as much as possible and saving indoor playtimes for really bad weather!

Facebook Page

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

School Website

Don't forget to check out our 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; Allison (Headteacher) is 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

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!)
