



# January/February Newsletter



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Dear Parents/Carers,

*As we come to the end of the first half term of 2018, I would like to wish all of our children and families a safe and happy half term holiday and share some additional news and information.*

*Best Wishes,*

*Mrs Lavelle*

## CLASS ASSEMBLIES

We had two fabulous Class Assemblies today. Miss Pickworth's Year 5 class shared the work they had been doing linked to their Class Novel this half term 'Storm Breaker' by Anthony Horowitz and Mrs Exley's Year 2 class shared a variety of themes with us from this half term's work, including 'Our Bodies/Healthy Eating' and Chinese New Year. It was lovely to see lots of parents/carers and other family members at these and we were very proud of all children involved.

## IXL

Just a reminder that all children should have an IXL log in and are able to access this excellent Maths resource at home as well as in school. It provides a fun way of practising Maths skills and giving additional challenge as needed.



Each term we give out certificates to IXL champions in each class who are using the resource well and making excellent progress. Please contact your child's Class Teacher via Class Dojo or the School Office if you need a reminder of your child's log in details.

## DIARY DATES

- 19<sup>th</sup> February - Back to school
- 26<sup>th</sup> February - One Britain Week
- 1<sup>st</sup> March - World Book Day - Children can come dressed as a book character.
- 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> March - KS1 & Reception Parents Evenings
- 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> March - KS2 Parents Evenings

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## VISITS & VISITORS

Even though it's been a short half term, we have had lots of visits and visitors! A group of Year 1 pupils, along with a number of talented KS2 artists, visited Hatton Gallery within Newcastle University. They looked around a 'Pop Art' exhibition and then created their own brilliant Pop Art images. Watch out for our display of their work in the hall after half term!

Our Reception children have been taking part in the 'Little Fingers' programme, provided by Durham Music Service, which is an introduction to musical instruments and appreciation. As you can imagine, this is quite a noisy session (!) with the children enjoying being creative and practising their music skills.

Year 5 have taken part in the Bikeability programme which teaches them safe cycling skills/road safety. Despite the snow they managed to fully complete the activities and demonstrated excellent listening skills and responsible behaviour during the sessions.

Year 4 enjoyed an excellent Gymnastics Festival at the Louisa Centre, Stanley this week organised by the Durham Sports Partnership. They tried out a number of new skills and activities and their behaviour was excellent throughout.

## SAFER INTERNET DAY

Keeping safe online is part of our ICT curriculum with activities throughout the year to teach pupils about appropriate Internet use. However, we have had a focus on this area this week as part of Safer Internet Day. All classes have completed an activity linked to this theme and our PCSO has now carried out Internet Safety talks with all of our KS2 classes.



Parents and carers play a crucial role in empowering and supporting their children to use technology responsibly, respectfully, critically and creatively through monitoring their use closely, encouraging an open dialogue with their children and educating them to use technology safely and positively.

## HEALTHY EATING

Our School Council met this half term to discuss school dinners and packed lunches and how these could be improved. They had lots of good ideas and at the next meeting will be sampling some items from the new menus. A couple of reminders about packed lunches please; Nutella type chocolate spreads cannot be included in packed lunch sandwiches as contain nuts and our dining hall needs to be nut free to protect our children with allergies. Could we also remind parents/carers to be careful about the inclusion of whole grapes or olives in packed lunches and cutting these in half if necessary, particularly with younger children. Many Thanks

## VILLAGE HEARTS

The children have been busy decorating hearts with pictures and kind messages this week. These will be hung around the village for people to take as Valentine's Day gifts. The Friends of Ouston Primary organised this last year and it was very well received. We are sure that their beautiful hearts will again spread a little happiness and positivity around the community.



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