



March Newsletter



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Dear Parents/Carers,

A very busy and eventful half term, particularly with the unexpected arrival of the 'Beast from the East'! As the Easter holidays approach, children are working hard on end of term assessment tests and enjoying a range of Easter activities. I would like to wish you all a very happy Easter and holiday period and look forward to catching up with some parents/carers at our Coffee Afternoon next week.

Best Wishes,
Mrs Lavelle

DIARY DATES

28th March - Easter Coffee Afternoon from 3:20pm
If you are able to send in cakes/biscuits for refreshments or Easter eggs for the raffle this would be much appreciated!

29th March

9:10am - Mrs Wise's Class Assembly

2:30pm - Miss Stebbings' Class Assembly

29th March - End of Term

16th April - Return to school

EGG DECORATING

If your child would like to take part in our Egg Decorating Competition, please send in a hard-boiled egg with them on Monday and they will have Monday and/or Tuesday to decorate their eggs.

After discussing/planning a design with your child at home, you may also wish to send in additional resources/materials for them to create this e.g. cut out pieces for arms, faces, clothes etc. You may also wish to paint/dye your egg a particular colour before sending in. We will also have lots of resources in school for pupils to use when decorating their egg - paint, glue, paper, material, glitter etc.



Their creations will be displayed at our Easter Coffee afternoon on Wednesday. A winning design will be chosen from each class and prizes, which have kindly been donated by the Friends of Ouston Primary, will be given out. We look forward to seeing lots of fantastic eggs next week!

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EASTER COFFEE AFTERNOON

Wednesday 28 March
3:20-5pm
in the School Hall

FREE ENTRY
RAFFLE (donations needed!)
REFRESHMENTS
CAKES (donations needed!)

Come and see the children's decorated eggs on display!

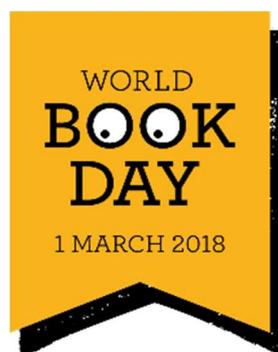
Please come along to our Easter Coffee Afternoon if you can. Any donations of cakes/biscuits (bought or homemade) for refreshments would be greatly appreciated. We also need donations of Easter Eggs, bottles and crafts to make up hampers for the raffle. Please leave any donations at the school reception. Thank you!

VISITS & VISITORS

We have had a lovely range of visits and visitors this half term including: a Year 3 and 4 Trip to Arbeia as part of their Romans topic; Year 5 visits to Park View Academy and Lord Lawson Academy to take part in Drama and Dance activities and Bollywood Dance classes

for all year groups. We also had a fantastic visit from an Olympian athlete, Peter Bakare, during which he led a very inspirational assembly about his sporting career and ran a very energetic sport workout for each class during the day! Our fundraising linked to this event raised just over £1000 for the school! Thanks to all parents/carers who supported this.

WORLD BOOK DAY



We had some amazing outfits on World Book day including The Highway Rat, the Cat in the Hat, Willy Wonka and most of the Hogwarts school from Harry Potter. The children enjoyed a really fun day and a range of story related lessons and activities.

MOTHER'S DAY BREAKFAST



We had a fantastic response to our Mother's Day breakfast! It was great to see so many of you there having breakfast with your children and I enjoyed

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serving toasted tea-cakes at the hatch with other FOOP members! As ever, many thanks to FOOP who put so much into organising this event and to all of the helpers who stayed behind afterwards to tidy up.

MOBILE PHONES



Wherever possible, we would discourage pupils from bringing mobile phones into school, however we understand that where children walk to and from school, parents would prefer that their child has this with them for safety reasons. In these cases, pupils are not able to have their phones in lessons or on the yard and are asked to hand in to staff at the beginning of the school day.

We will be sending out our mobile phone policy before the Easter holidays and attached to this is a 'permission to have a mobile phone in school' form. From the 16th April (after the Easter holidays), pupils will only be able to have their phone in school if this slip has been signed by a parent.

PARENTS EVENINGS

Thank you to all parents and carers who attended our Parent/Teacher meetings this month; we hope you found them useful. Having trialled different start times we have decided that next year we will have one afternoon session and one early evening session to accommodate all parent and carers.

TERM TIME ABSENCES

Unfortunately, our attendance figure for the year so far has dropped below 96%, taking us below the national

average for the first time in many years. This is due to the increasing amount of holidays that are being taken during term-time.

We have always tried to work with parents/carers on this issue and be as understanding as we can but as of 16th April 2018, governors have agreed that we will not be able to authorise ANY holidays that are taken during term time, which is something many schools already have in place. We will continue to authorise some absences in exceptional circumstances and these will be outlined in our updated attendance policy which will be sent out to parents/carers soon.

FOOP

As you are aware we have a fantastic group of parent volunteers who form the Friends of Ouston Primary (FOOP) group and organise a range of events across the year, including our amazing Summer Fair in 2017.



Together we are better

From Easter 2018, two staff members (Mrs Dadswell and I) will 'officially' become part of the group and will be the key contacts for any future FOOP events.

Our core FOOP team will continue to come up with their many brilliant fundraising ideas and co-ordinate events but we would love to have more helpers at these and further strengthen links with parents/carers and our community.

Please see the volunteers letter attached - even if you are only able to help out occasionally this would be greatly appreciated!

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