



# October Newsletter



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Dear Parents/Carers,

After a busy (and longer than usual!) first half term, I would like to share some news and information from the Autumn Term so far. We're very proud of our new Nursery and Reception children who have already settled really well into the routines and expectations of school life. All of our other children have also made a great start in their new year groups and Class Teachers are very pleased with them.

Wishing you all a lovely half term.

Best wishes,

Mrs Lavelle



## BOOK FAIR RAISED £1460

Another very successful book fair this year. It was lovely to see so many children choosing and enjoying the wide range of books on offer. A very big thank you to volunteers from the Friends of Ouston Primary who managed the book fair for us again this year. The Book Fair raised £1460 which is amazing and will be used to purchase books and reading resources for school.

## DIARY DATES

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>4<sup>th</sup> November</b>                        | - Return to school   |
| <b>8<sup>th</sup> November</b>                        | - FOOP Meeting (details overleaf)  |
| <b>11<sup>th</sup> November</b>                       | - Children to wear blue to mark the start of Anti-Bullying Week 'Change Starts with us.'                                 |
| <b>11<sup>th</sup> &amp; 12<sup>th</sup> November</b> | - Nursery, Reception & KS1 Parents Evenings.   |
| <b>14<sup>th</sup> November</b>                       | - 9:15am - Parent/carer workshop on Behaviour Policy & Anti-Bullying. Come along to find out more and ask any questions. |
| <b>15<sup>th</sup> November</b>                       | - Children in Need Day. Children may wear C.I.N merchandise and/or spots/stripes/bright colours and bring in £1.         |
| <b>18<sup>th</sup> &amp; 19<sup>th</sup> November</b> | - KS2 Parents Evenings   |
| <b>20<sup>th</sup> November</b>                       | - Nursery/Reception Admissions Open Evening (details overleaf)   |
| <b>28<sup>th</sup> November</b>                       | - 3:30-5:30pm - Christmas Fair   |
| <b>Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November</b>                | - Teacher Training Day (School closed to pupils)   |

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# VISITS & VISITORS



As part of their RE topics this term, children across the school have enjoyed a range of experience. Years 1 and 2 had a very interesting visit to

Durham Cathedral; in addition to a tour of the Cathedral they also re-enacted a Christening ceremony.

Year 5 had a very interesting visit from a local Sikh who talked to the children about his culture and beliefs; the children had a wide range of very thoughtful questions and contributions and our visitor was very impressed by the standard of their questions and their respectful attitude. In November, Years 3 and 4 are due to visit a local synagogue.



During the last two weeks, classes across the school have taken part in a range of theatre experiences. Year 5 visited Lord Lawson of Beamish school to see a fantastic performance of 'Joseph', Year 6 went to see 'My Friend Selma' at Greenfield Community College, Year 4 enjoyed a 'Tiger Tale' at Durham Town Hall and this Friday Year 2 are looking forward to 'Jabberbabble', also at Durham Town Hall.



In addition to taking part in Class Assemblies and Christmas Shows, visits such as these enhance our English and Arts curriculum, giving our children access to a wide range of themes, stories and culture and helping to develop their imagination, curiosity and creativity.

We have had a number of sporting visits this half term organised by the School Sports Partnership. These have included Tri-Golf for Year 3, Multi-Skills for Years 1, 2, 5 and 6 and a number of Year 5/6 pupils attended a Rugby event. Various classes throughout the school enjoyed a Street Games session earlier this term. Fun was had by all who took part. Pupil behaviour, attitude and sporting skills were excellent at all of these events.

## SPORTS TEAMS NEWS

Our Year 5/6 girls football team have made an excellent start and demonstrated a lovely team spirit, despite playing very few matches due to the weather! A number of the team have never played competitive football before and are developing really well so far.

After 16 matches in the league, the boys Year 5/6 football team have won four, drawn five and lost 7. Performances have improved significantly and culminated with the team qualifying for the final of the CB Watson Cup to be played this Thursday. Well done to both of our teams!

Well done to the Y6 Netball team who have played well throughout the league. A group of children from Key Stage 2 represented the school at the Sports Partnership Cross Country Competition earlier in the term and all tried their best. Special mention must go to the Year 5/6 Boys team who battled hard and just missed out on reaching the county finals.

Congratulations to LG and RM who finished 4th and 6th respectively, qualifying for the county final next year.

The Y6 Tag Rugby team have performed well so far in the league this year. They are currently joint top of the league but there are some tough matches left to play.

**Follow Ouston Primary School on Twitter for the latest results.**

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# FOOP



We have a Friends of Ouston Primary (FOOP) meeting planned for Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November at 3pm here at school. This will be to plan the Christmas Fair, discuss future events and to discuss what the funds raised will be used for this year.

Together we are better

We would love to have a Class Rep for each class across the school to help share information, ideas and get children and parents/carers involved in our events and fundraising. You should receive a Class Dojo message from your child's teacher soon asking for at least one volunteer per class. For every event, parents/carers help out at, a House Team point for their child's House will be given. Do please come along to our first meeting of the year on the 8<sup>th</sup> November to find out more (Coffee/Tea and biscuits always provided!)

*Please follow Friends of Ouston Primary on Facebook.*

## HARVEST FESTIVAL



Another fantastic response to our annual Harvest collection! Thank you to all families who contributed to this, it will be very gratefully received by The People's Kitchen who aim to provide a hot meal daily to homeless people in and around Newcastle and Gateshead. Year 3,

Key Stage 1, Reception and Nursery parents/carers enjoyed the lovely Harvest songs and information shared by children in our two Harvest Assemblies. Many thanks to Reverend Lintern and Grace who joined us from Holy Trinity Church in Pelton (and for the usual very entertaining magic tricks, particularly in the KS2 Assembly!)

## ADMISSIONS

We are holding an Open Evening on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2019 at 4:30pm for all parents/carers who are thinking about Nursery provision from January 2020 onward and admission to our Reception class from September 2020 onward. Please pass this on to any family members or friends who may be interested.

Also - next half term we will be consulting with regard to proposed changes to our admissions policy for admission to Ouston Primary School from September 2021 to include 'Feeder Nursery Class' within the admissions over subscription criteria. The consultation period will begin on 4<sup>th</sup> November and conclude at 12 noon on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2019. Letters giving further information about the consultation process, including how to make a response, will be emailed to parents/carers on 4<sup>th</sup> November, 2019.

Please contact us if you have any questions about this.

## NEW ROOF & CLADDING

We are delighted with the final results of our roof and ceiling works - the school has certainly had a make-over! You may also have noticed that Mr Green, our caretaker, has added new white cladding to the front of the building which brightens up the main entrance areas.

Thank you for your patience and support during these building works.

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