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### EASTER NEWSLETTER FOR PARENTS & CARERS, APRIL 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you are all keeping well. As we approach the Easter holidays, we can reflect on a Spring Term where things have started to feel a bit more normal for children and we have been able to reintroduce a number of events and activities that have not been possible during the last two years. With some lovely sunny days also (in between snow and hail storms!), we are definitely feeling that Spring is here and things are moving forward positively.

Our annual egg decorating competition has also brought a smile to our faces as usual with some extremely creative and innovative designs and themes. Winners from each class were presented with a chocolate egg and a few of these are displayed below.

Other events have included: Year 5 and 4 Bike-ability with the best weather we have had for this in a very long time(!); a Year 5 visit to Park View for an English/Drama workshop; a Tag Rugby Team event and Quidditch workshops for some KS2 classes! A number of trips are planned for the Summer Term and these will include a farm or beach visit for EYFS, a trip to Beamish for Years 1 and 2, Orienteering for Years 3 and 4, Science lessons at Lord Lawson for Year 5 and Orienteering/Geography field trips for Years 5 and 6. We also have an artist working with Years 2 and 6 on a Platinum Jubilee art piece and our Year 5 and 6 Residential Visits to Robin Wood and Weardale – a busy term ahead!

You will find below information about some of our other events and activities this half term plus further information and dates/reminders for next half term.

Wishing you all a very happy Easter!

Best Wishes,

Mrs Lavelle



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## Mothers/Special Ladies' Day Breakfast



We had a lovely breakfast on the 25<sup>th</sup> March for lots of special Ouston ladies! We were so pleased to be able to hold this event again after three years and the weather was also kind to us meaning that some of our guests enjoyed their breakfast alfresco!

Many thanks to all of you that came to this event and to our amazing team of staff and volunteers who helped to plan for and set up the event, support during the breakfast and clear up afterwards. A special thank you to Mrs Pattinson for her daffodil jars which were also used again for the Easter Coffee Afternoon!

In addition to having a lovely morning, we raised £85 towards purchasing more reading books in school.

## Easter Coffee Afternoon



Another event we have been able to bring back! As it was our first in three years, we thought we would start smaller and hold this just for Reception and Nursery parents/carers plus family members of pupils in the school choir. We have a Platinum Jubilee event planned for the last half term to which parents/carers of all year groups will be invited. More details about this to follow...

This was a fantastic afternoon with Easter song performances by Nursery/Reception children plus the School Choir, an Easter Raffle and a range of refreshments on offer. This event raised £184 for our School Funds which will be used to add to our Reading Libraries and buy more playground equipment. A group of Year 6 pupils also held a fundraiser at this event for the Dogs Trust and the Great North Children's Hospital charities. Their Name the Teddy stall was really popular and raised £48 for these charities.



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## A New Arrival!

In keeping with our Spring theme, we are delighted to share the news that Miss Lowery had her baby boy last Friday. Mum and baby are doing well and I know you will join me in sending our congratulations. We are looking forward to them visiting us in the Summer term!

## Egg Competition!

Here are some of the entries. A big well done to all of our children who decorated an egg.



## Red Nose Day

A big thank you to everyone who supported our Red Nose Day appeal. This raised an amazing £170 for this excellent charity.



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## Ukraine Appeal

You were also extremely generous in your response to our appeal for a range of supplies for Ukrainian refugees. These were collected later that week and they had to make a return trip to Ouston as we had collected so much. These donations were then taken by vans to Poland to be distributed to Ukrainian

## Show Racism the Red Card Competition

As part of our One Britain Week activities, children across school designed anti-racism posters or T-shirt designs and these are now displayed around school. A winning entry was chosen to send to the national Show Racism the Red Card competition. This was created by Olivia in year Four. We will wait to hear if she is a winner but she will also receive a prize in school at our end of term assembly on Friday.



## Uniform Reminder

Please ensure that your child wears a white top for PE and black shorts/joggers/leggings as there are still a lot of pupils not wearing this uniform. If this continues, I will need to review our current policy of wearing PE kit to school on PE days.

## After School Clubs

We have a wide range of After School Clubs planned between now and July. Please see the letter about these attached.

## Saying Goodbye to Mrs Matthison

After working at Ouston Junior School and then the Primary School for 21 years, Mrs Matthison is finally hanging up her Lunchtime Supervisor apron and retiring! She will be very much missed by staff and pupils alike and we wish her all the very best for her retirement.

## Dates for the Diary

**8<sup>th</sup> April:** Year 4 Class Assembly at 9.10am/Year 1 Class Assembly at 2.30pm



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**8<sup>th</sup> April:** End of Term

**25<sup>th</sup> April:** Return to School

**25<sup>th</sup> April:** Year 6 Parents/Carers Meetings or Zoom meetings that week

**2<sup>nd</sup> May:** School Closed for Bank Holiday

**4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> May:** Year 5 at Robin Wood residential

**9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> May:** Year 6 SATs

**23<sup>rd</sup> May:** Weardale Residential Meeting for Year 6 parents/carers at 5pm

**27<sup>th</sup> May:** Year 3 Class Assembly at 9.10am/Reception Class Assembly at 2.30pm

**27<sup>th</sup> May:** End of half term

**Another reminder also that we have agreed to take our additional Bank Holiday for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> June.**



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