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JULY 2023 NEWSLETTER FOR PARENTS & CARERS

Dear Parents/Carers,



As we arrive at the last day of this academic year, I would like to share some news and information with you and also include a message for our wonderful Year 6 cohort who leave Ouston Primary School today.

As always, we end the school year feeling very proud of all of our children from Nursery to Year 6 – they have worked hard, behaved well and involved themselves fully in class activities and a wide



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range of additional experiences. They deserve a lovely Summer break and a chance to re-charge their batteries before they return full of enthusiasm in September, ready to enjoy another exciting school year in their new classes.

Thank you so much to all of our parents/carers for your fantastic support and working so well with us this year as always. Many thanks also for all the kind words of appreciation, cards and gifts for our staff team, they are very much appreciated by us all and I know you will join me in wishing our staff team a happy Summer (and hopefully a bit of a rest!) after their hard work and commitment to our school again this year.

As already mentioned in a previous newsletter, we say goodbye to Mrs Round, Miss Curle and Mrs Bowes today. They have enjoyed a lovely final week at Ouston Primary and we wish them all very best for the future.

For our parents/carers who are leaving us along with their Year 6 child, it has been lovely to work with you through the years; thank you for entrusting us with your child's education and care and we wish you and your family all the very best for the future.

I would like to wish all of you a happy and peaceful Summer and we look forward to seeing you all again in September, along with our new Reception and Nursery parents and those of new children joining classes across the school.

Best Wishes,

Mrs Lavelle

Celebration Afternoon and Goodbye to Year 6

We had a brilliant afternoon today during our Year 6 Leavers Assembly. We enjoyed a fantastic Rock and Pop performance and gave out a number of Year 6 awards: the Spirit of Ouston Award went to Oliver; Jacob and Mai received the Sporting Excellence Awards; Elisha received the Star Performer Award, Tammie and Hayden L received the most impressive SATs progress awards and Hannah and Ellie achieved the SATs highest attainment awards. There were a vast number of other awards and each Year 6 pupil was presented with a novel they have read during their time in Year 6, as a gift from us at Ouston Primary and to remind them of their time here with us. We are very proud of all of Year 6 and wish them all the very best as they move to secondary schools in September where we know they will continue to demonstrate the spirit of Ouston Primary.

Kevan Jones MP (and Biff the dog) Visit!

As part of our Careers and Enterprise week, Kevan Jones MP spoke to children in our KS2 classes. The children were very interested in Kevan's role and career to date and had a wide range of questions



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for him. Our School Council and Rights Respecting Team in particular had lots of questions for him and they had a photo together following the discussions.



Brass Band



As part of the Durham Brass Festival, the whole school enjoyed a Brass performance from the band Mr Wilson's Second Liners in the hall. The children and staff thoroughly enjoyed this and there were great dance moves seen and particularly enthusiastic dancing (jumping up and down) from Years 5 and 6!!

Art and Design Events

We have had a number of exiting Art and Design events this term. Year 2 and Year 6 worked with a local artist to create crowns and book sculptures to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III. A selection of their work is below.



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We also had our first 'Ouston Art Gallery' where this work was on display for parents/carers and other family members. We even had our own gift shop and café to offer a full Gallery experience! This will now be an annual event so look out for this next Summer.



Continuing our Art and Design activities, Year 3 enjoyed a visit to the Angel of the North and the Laing Gallery this week as part of a Sculpture visit and work shop.



Team Winners

Our overall Team Winners for the year are Yellow Team with a total 195 star awards! They enjoyed a special visit from the ice cream van yesterday afternoon.



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Sports Days

Two fabulous days where the weather was kind to us and our children impressed us with their enthusiasm, determination, sporting effort and support for each other. Many thanks to all parents/carers and family members who joined us for this special event.



Congratulations to the Yellow team who had great success and were overall winners!



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Year 5 and Year 6 Residential Visits 2024 – update information

Due to the current financial climate and the rising costs associated with coach travel/current residential providers, we have managed to source two new Educational Residential Centres offering quality accommodation and high standards of Health & Safety.

- Year 5 – PGL Newbe Wiske Hall. 1 – 3 May 2024 – (3 days, 2 nights) £235.00
- Year 6 – PGL Ford Castle – 3 – 5 June 2024 – (3 days, 2 nights) £265.00

The price includes coach travel, full board accommodation, programme of activities with all equipment and highly qualified instructors and varied evening entertainment.

Please take a look at the PGL website and select your site for further information

Holiday Activities and Information

Please see this link for some of the Fun and Food activities in our area. We have previously emailed out details of a Holiday club at Park View this Summer and in a separate email, we will send details of activities being delivered by Ouston Community Centre. Hopefully these will all support families in keeping children entertained this Summer!

www.durham.gov.uk/funandfood

If any of our families need support over the Summer when school is closed, the following services will be able to offer help and advice.

First Contact 03000 267 979

If you have a concern about a child or young person's welfare who lives in County Durham, call First Contact on 03000 267 979.

Early Help

Telephone the Early Help Triage Workers on 03000 267979 (Option 4)

Organisation for September

From September, we will continue with our usual times for start and end of school day. Drop off and collection areas will be as follows:

Nursery – Morning drop off is 8.45am at Nursery gate/Afternoon collection is 3.15pm from Nursery gate

Reception – Drop off from 8.45-8.55am at the Nursery gate/Collection at 3.20pm from the Nursery gate.

Year 1 – Drop off from 8.45 – 8.55am at the KS1/KS2 yard steps/Collect at 3.20pm from the KS1 yard (wait on other side of the fence)



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Year 2 - Drop off from 8.45 – 8.55am at the courtyard doors (where Year 5 currently go out/come in)
/Collect at 3.20pm from the courtyard doors

Year 3 - Drop off from 8.45 – 8.55am at the KS1/KS2 yard steps/Collect at 3.30pm from the KS1 yard
(Wait on other side of the fence)

Year 4 - Drop off from 8.45 – 8.55am at the KS1/KS2 yard steps/Collect at 3.30pm from the KS2 yard

Year 5 - Drop off/Enter from 8.45 – 8.55am at the outside classroom door/Collect at 3.30pm from
outside classroom door (if child is not walking home)

Year 6 - Drop off/Enter from 8.45 – 8.55am at the KS2 yard steps/Collect at 3.30pm from the KS2 yard
(if child is not walking home)

Please note that a separate letter has been emailed to Reception and Nursery parents/carers with further information about organisation for September.

School Uniform

From September, we will be using a new school uniform provider 'Logos Unlimited'. Parents/carers can buy items directly from their shop in Chester le Street or order online (see flyer attached)

Just a reminder about school uniform as we prepare for a new school year:

- No leggings or cycling/gym shorts please. Children must wear black school trousers or skirts
- Sensible, black school shoes
- No earrings to be worn in school. **Have any ear piercing done at the beginning of holidays so these can be removed in time for the start of term.**
- PE kits to be worn on PE days. As it has worked well again this year, we will continue to ask children to come into school in PE kit on their allocated day. This must now be a white t-shirt and black shorts or leggings/jogging bottoms. We will let parents/carers know about PE days in the first week back. **Please note that we will now be contacting parents/carers on the day and asking you to bring in their correct uniform if children do not come to school in their school PE kit.**

Welcome to New School Year Meetings

These will take place on **Monday 18thth September from 5pm**. This will start with a brief meeting with me in the hall then parents/carers will move to their child's classroom to meet their teacher, see the classroom and find out about organisation and information for the year ahead.

Other Dates:



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4th September: Teacher Training Day

5th September: Children return to school

Please note that organisation for the first week will be sent separately to parents/carers of our pupils in our new Reception classes.



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