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NEWSLETTER FOR PARENTS & CARERS: 9th JANUARY 2024



Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year and welcome back to a new term. I hope you all had a lovely Christmas break.

Some information and dates for you as we start 2024. As always, please get in touch if you have any questions, concerns or require further information.

Best Wishes,

Mrs Lavelle, Headteacher

House Team Winner for the Autumn Term

Well done to the Red Team who had the most star awards last term! Their prize is a non-uniform day this Friday, the 12th January. Pupils in the Red Team can come to school in non-uniform on this day. Please ensure that footwear is still sensible though and earrings/other jewellery are not worn.

School Uniform Shop

As you may remember from a previous newsletter, we are going to hold a pre-loved uniform stall at a Summer Fair in early June at Ouston Community Centre. This is part of our work towards becoming a Climate Friendly School; encouraging the re-use of items that are in good condition rather than throwing away. From this week, parents/carers may start to donate items of school uniform to us



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that you no longer need and are in good condition. This will all be stored until nearer the time when it will be organised into sizes and then sold at 50p or £1 per item at the Summer Fair. We are hoping that parents/carers will be able to pick up a few items for their children before purchasing the remaining items they need from various retailers.

Creative Writing Competition



In December, children in Years 1 to 6 took part in a creative writing competition. They were given this photograph and the title 'A Winter Walk' and were then asked to write either a story, poem, diary entry or descriptive piece using this theme. We were very impressed by the wide range of writing pupils produced and winners were chosen from each class based upon the effort put into their writing and use of imagination and creativity. These were announced in Assembly last Friday. Each child was given a special writing pen as a prize and their work is displayed in school. Winners from each year group were:

Year 1: Isaac and Matilda

Year 2: Layla D and Hallie

Year 3: Callie and Leah

Year 4: Ellie B and Thomas D

Year 5: Abigail

Year 6: Emmy and Danika

KS1 End of Day Timings Consultation

We are proposing to change the end of school day timing for Years 1 and 2 to 3.25pm (currently 3.20pm). This will extend the school day slightly for these pupils and also shorten the wait for parents/carers who are collecting children from KS2.



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Reception end of school day will continue to be 3.20pm, meaning parents/carers have time to pick up at all collection points if needed. Please let us know if you have any comments, concerns or questions about this by Friday 26th January. These can be emailed to info@oustonprimary.org.uk.

If the proposal goes ahead, we will start the new timing on Monday 5th February 2024. We will confirm this nearer the time.

Class Dojo Communication

We are making a slight change to our communication through Class Dojo. Teachers will continue to send information about homework, photos of work in class, school visits, experiences etc plus messages and reminders through Class Dojo. We know that parents/carers find this really useful and that you enjoy seeing photos of activities in school.

In terms of parents/carers contacting teachers however, we would now like you to use the following instead of Class Dojo:

- Email the teacher using info@oustonprimary.org.uk. Please add into the subject box 'FAO Mr/Mrs/Miss...' so the office can direct this to the relevant teacher. The teacher can then either send an email reply or will contact you by telephone.
- Phone the school office or pop in to ask for a message to be passed on to the Class Teacher or to request a meeting or phone call.
- For more urgent issues, contact the school office and ask to speak to me or Mrs Wise
- Continue to inform us about absences, appointments etc through telephoning the school office.

The reason for this is that we are finding teachers are reading and answering more and more messages (often quite lengthy) out of school hours; this can encroach on their planning and marking time in addition to time with their own families and does not allow them to switch off from work. They also do not always see important messages sent later in the evening (about the next day) which can cause issues and confusion.

Teachers will from time to time send messages directly to individual parents/carers – for example if organising after school activities/sports events etc and you can of course reply to these as needed.

This will start from tomorrow and we appreciate your support with this.

Party Invitations

Could we please ask that unless the whole class are invited, party invitations are not sent into school to be given out by the class teacher: messaging parents/carers direct about party invites or giving these out on the yard before or after school would be much appreciated.



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Grapes at Lunchtime

Another reminder that whole grapes must not be sent into school in packed lunches for pupils. They must be at least cut in half. Whole grapes are a choking hazard for primary school age children, particularly in a busy lunch hall when they are chatting and laughing with friends whilst eating. Thank you for your support with this.

Dates for the Diary

12th January: Non-Uniform Day for the Red Team

16th February: Miss Allen's Class Assembly at 9.10am and Mrs Baum's Class Assembly at 2.30pm

16th February: End of Half Term

26th February: Back to school



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