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NEWSLETTER FOR PARENTS & CARERS: OCTOBER 2024



Dear Parents/Carers,

A very busy October and end to our first half term! We have had a range of visits for some classes in addition to their usual lessons; these have included gymnastics festivals, a Geography river study, a Halloween Sports festival and a theatre visit.

We have ended the half term with a fantastic Year 6 Class Assembly where pupils impressed us with the high standard and wide range of learning tasks they had completed this half term. We also celebrated lots of other achievements across the school with our star awards, handwriting awards and Achievement Awards for each class.

Wishing everyone a very happy half term!

Best Wishes, Mrs Lavelle

Class Attendance



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For October the overall attendance figure for the school is **95%**. This is lower than September so we are hoping this will increase next half term.

Attendance in each class for September was as follows:

Reception: 95.7%

Mrs Dadswell's Class: 96.5%

Mrs Wise's Class: 95.2%

Mrs Baum's Class: 95.1%

Miss Stebbings Class: 96.2%

Mr Walsh's Class: 94.6%

Miss Allen's Class: 97.2%

Mr Storrar's Class: 89.4%

Miss Allen's class are the Ouston Attendance Bear Winners again this month and are delighted that the Attendance Bear will stay in their class during November. Well done Year 5!

Harvest Festival



As mentioned on Class Dojo, we were delighted with the response to our Harvest appeal. Your generous donations have now been collected by The People's Kitchen and Durham Foodbank and are helping those in need across our local area.

EYFS Maths and Reading Workshop



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A number of EYFS parents/carers joined us for a Maths and Reading workshop with Miss Lowery this week. This was a lovely event which shared information and gave parents/carers the opportunity to enjoy a range of activities with their child. Plus sample a Halloween biscuit or two!

We appreciate that parents/carers can not always attend events at school during the day so Miss Lowery has posted the information shared on Class Dojo. Please let us know if you would like this emailed out to you.

Class Dojo

As you are aware, we use a free app called Class Dojo as an additional way to communicate with parents/carers/families and to share some of the wonderful things that go on in our classrooms each week.

We would love it if all parents/carers sign up to Class Dojo and your child's class teacher will give you instructions about how to do this if you are not already signed up. Please ask us for help if you have any difficulties. Once you are signed up, your child's Class Teacher will use Class Dojo to communicate with you in the following ways:

- Send photos and/or messages related to whole class activities/learning (usually at least once a week)
- Send individual messages occasionally about something special your child has achieved
- Send messages/reminders to parents/carers.
- It is also a useful way for the teachers to set some homework tasks for children.

Class Dojo should not be used as a way for parents/carers to contact teachers however. The following forms of communication are available to you for this:

- 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
- Please inform us about absences, appointments etc through telephoning the school office.

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The reason we don't use Class Dojo for parent/carer communication is that this can lead to teachers reading and answering lots of 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.

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.

Many thanks for your support with this and do let us know if you experience any difficulty when using the methods of communication described above.

Dates for the Diary

4th November: Back to School

11th November: Anti-Bullying Week

11th and 12th November: EYFS and KS1 Parents/Carers Evenings. *You will be able to book your time slot on our website from the 4th November. Your child will bring a code and instructions home.*

15th November: Friendship Friday and Children in Need Day (children can wear bright colours instead of school uniform and/or Children in Need merchandise)

18th and 19th November: KS2 Parents/Carers Evenings *You will be able to book your time slot on our website from the 11th November. Your child will bring a code and instructions home.*

10th December: Christmas Performance for Year 3/4 parents/carers 2.15pm

11th December: Christmas Performance for Year 5/6 parents/carers 2.15pm

12th December: Christmas Performance for Reception parents/carers 9.15am

13th December: Christmas Performance for Year 1/2 parents/carers 9.15am

16th December: Nursery Christmas Performance for parents/carers, 2pm

20th December: End of Term



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