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NEWSLETTER FOR PARENTS & CARERS: 17th JANUARY 2025



Dear Parents/Carers,

We have had a great start to the new year with pupils settling back in well to school routines and expectations. A big welcome to our new Nursery children and their parents/carers too!

Please find some updates and further information. As always please get in touch if you have any questions or would like further information.

Best wishes,

Mrs Lavelle, Headteacher

Smart Watches

Please be aware that smart watches should not be brought into school. These are lovely pieces of technology but apart from being a little expensive and possibly easily damaged, they can be used in a similar way to mobile phones so cannot be used in school. We appreciate your support with this and have talked to children about this in Assembly today also.

Merit Awards

In our most recent survey, some parents/carers have asked about merit awards and when/why these are awarded to children. Please see an overview of this below:

Ouston Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children/young people and vulnerable adults. We expect all school staff and volunteers to share this commitment, along with our parents/carers and wider school community.



The contents of this letter are confidential and are intended solely for the addressee.

Ouston Primary School is part of Jigsaw Learning Trust

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These are awarded to pupils from Year 1 upwards but build up more as they move through the school. They are awarded for particular good effort, achievement and improvement with independent work tasks, at the end of a block of work. This is usually for English and Maths work but can be awarded for work in other subjects too.

Pupils tend to add these stickers to the front of their Maths/English books and their class teacher keeps a record of how many each child has. When a child has built up to 10 merit awards, they receive a Bronze Certificate in Assembly. A Silver award is given for 20, a Gold award for 30 and a Platinum award for 40.

This is only one aspect of our reward strategies. Others include:

- Star awards awarded weekly in Assembly to selected pupils in each class. These are awarded for a wide range of reasons by the Class Teacher
- Lunchtime Awards (one per class), chosen by our lunch staff and given out in Assembly.
- Table Points and other reward strategies used in individual classes
- Stickers used often by classroom and lunchtime staff
- Achievement Awards given out to one child in each class each half term.
- Handwriting Excellence/Improvement awards given out to two children in each class each half term.
- Times-Tables Rockstars and Doodle Maths Awards.

After School Clubs.

This term we have the following clubs running after school for children. Apart from Irish Dancing, these are all free of charge:

This half-term

Wednesday: Fun and Fitness (Year 3)

Wednesday: Irish Dancing (Years 1 -6)

Next half-term

Tuesday: Dance (Years 2 and 3)

Wednesday: Fun and Fitness (Year 5)

Wednesday: Irish Dancing (Years 1 -6)

Wednesday: Arts and Craft (Year 1)

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These clubs all run from 3.25pm/30pm until 4.30pm.

More details to follow about clubs that will start next half term.

To offer a wider range of clubs, we would like to introduce some additional clubs delivered by external providers that will have a small weekly charge (£2 - £3). Please complete our short survey which will be added to Class Dojo to let us know the type of clubs you would like to see on offer and if you would be willing to pay a small weekly charge.

 *The Rights of the Child, Article 31: Every child has the right to rest, relax, play and to take part in cultural and creative activities.*

Miss Lowery

Our Reception teacher Miss Lowery will be starting Maternity Leave before the Easter holidays. Mrs Downs who shares Reception class with Miss Lowery will become their overall class teacher for Reception pupils until the summer holidays.

Year 5

We have a student teacher carrying out their final placement with us in Year 5 this term. Miss Revell already knows many of our children well as she completed her second year placement with us last year. She will work closely with Miss Allen and Year 5 parents/carers will have the opportunity to meet her at our Parent/Carer Evenings this term.

Dogs on School Premises

Just a reminder that dogs are not permitted on our school yards, even if just walking across the yard at drop off/collection times.

We have also had a few concerns raised by parents/carers about the number of dogs being tied to the school fences while parents/carers bring their children into school or collect from the yard. This seems to be at the top gate particularly. This can be intimidating for children, particularly younger ones or children who are wary, if they are walking past a number of barking dogs.

If parents/carers could avoid doing this where possible it will be much appreciated.

Dates for the Diary

21st February: Mrs Baum's Class Assembly at 9.10am

21st February: Mr Walsh's Class Assembly at 2.30pm

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21st February: End of half term

3rd March: Children return to school

10th and 11th March: Nursery, Reception and KS1 Parents/Carers Evenings

17th and 18th March: KS2 Parents/Carers Evenings

28th March: Mothers' Day breakfast

9th April: Easter Coffee Afternoon for Reception parents/carers

11th April: Miss Allen's Class Assembly at 9.10am

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