



Head Teachers
Mrs Louise Lavelle & Mrs Joanne Wise

Arisaig, Ouston, Chester-le-Street, Co Durham, DH2 1RQ
Telephone: 0191 410 2599
Email: info@oustonprimary.org.uk
Web Site: <https://oustonprimary.org.uk>



20th February 2026



Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy Half Term. What a cold and wet half term it has been! However, the weather has not stopped us from having another busy half term in school and enjoying a range of activities.

On Wednesday, Years 1-6 thoroughly enjoyed our visiting theatre production of The Wizard of Oz. Year 6 also attended a back stage workshop afterwards, learning about the props, sound production and roles needed to create a production.



To end our half term, we had two excellent Class Assemblies (Year 2, Mrs Baum's class, and Year 5) where children shared the high quality work they have produced this half term and the wide range of activities they have enjoyed. Well done to all children involved and their teachers.

Achievement Awards were also given out for a range of reasons, including academic progress, improved independence, rising to challenges beyond personal comfort zones, embracing school life with positive attitudes and being kind, caring and helpful characters. Congratulations to Faye, Max, Arlo, Summer, Amara, Ammon, Emma, Penny and Lily.

Best wishes,

Mrs Lavelle and Mrs Wise, Head Teachers (Mrs Wise Mon – Tues/Mrs Lavelle Wed – Fri)

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Friday Fundraisers

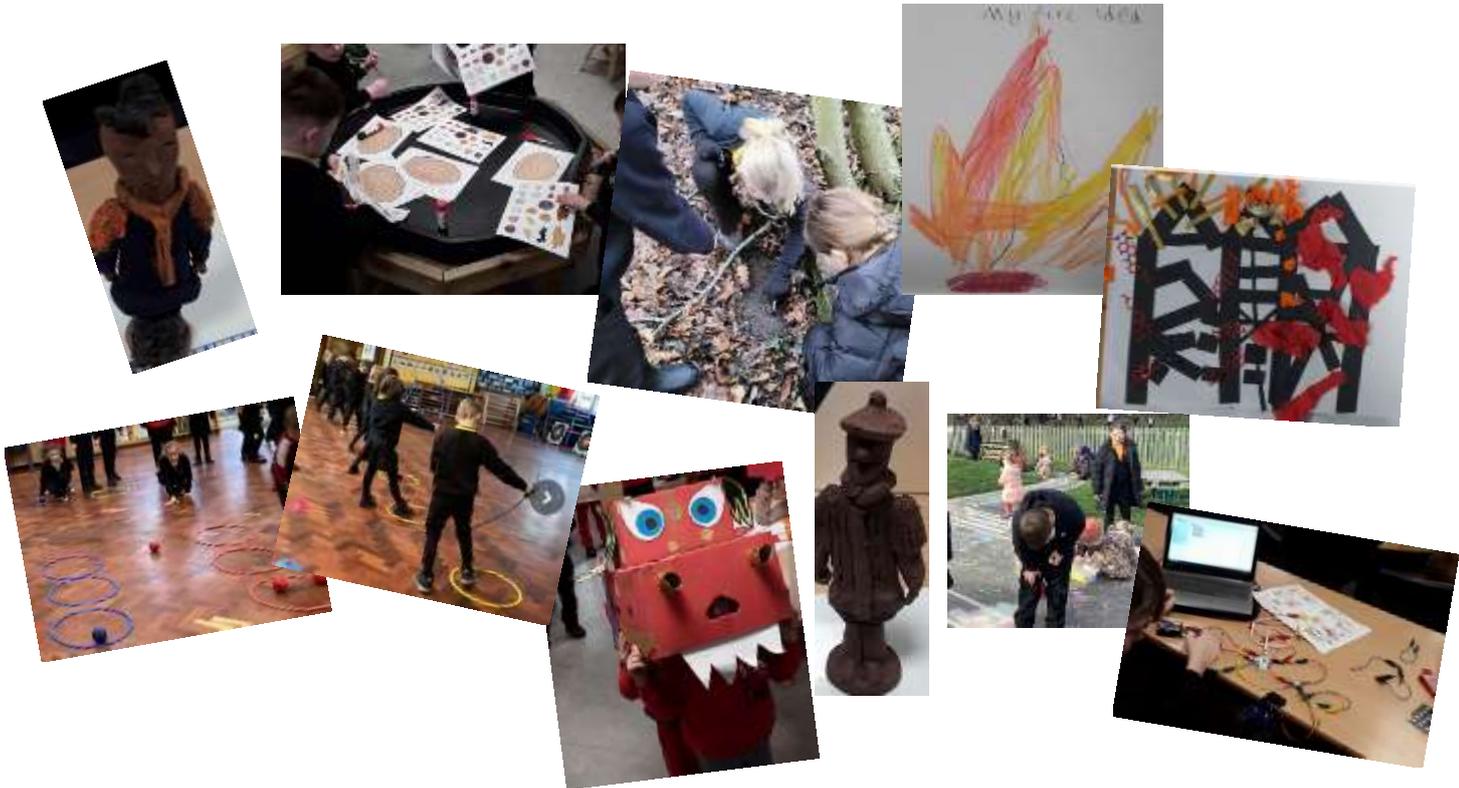


(A selection of our Friday Fundraiser Organisers)

We have had a half term full of fundraisers, supporting The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF); The Salvation Army; NSPCC; Inquest and Newcastle's RVI.

Thank you to everyone who has organised a fundraiser. Your commitment to your cause and your independence and enthusiasm in raising money to help others is always outstanding.

School Fun in photos



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Gold Award
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Class Attendance

For February, the overall attendance figure for the school was 95.42% which continues to be above national. Again, thank you to parents/carers for continuing to ensure that our attendance levels are a real strength of our school.

Attendance in each class for February was as follows:

Reception - Sunflowers: 96.52%

Reception - Daffodils: 94.56%

Mrs Dadswell's Class: **96.88%**

Mrs Baum's Class: 95.98%

Mrs Turner's Class: 95.63%

Miss Stebbings Class: 96.63%

Mr Walsh's Class: 96.68%

Miss Allen's Class: 95.35%

Mr Storrar's Class: 94.6%



Mrs Dadswell's class are the Ouston Attendance Bear Winners this month, achieving 96.88%. They will get the Attendance Bear for their classroom after half term. Well done Year 1! Also well done to Year 4 (again) with 96.68%, Year 3 with 96.63% and Reception Sunflowers with 96.52%. A VERY close competition this half term!

Parking Around School

We are aware that parking around school is particularly difficult at the moment since the resurfacing of the road. We have been in touch with the council a number of times to urge them to repaint the lines to increase road safety around school. Unfortunately, this has still not happened. Could we please remind parents to park safely around school and refrain from pulling up to the school gates so children can jump out unsupervised. Also, please be considerate of our neighbours and their driveways when parking.

To support us with improving road safety, we will be working closely with the community police in a project to keep our school roads safe. PC Greener will be visiting school to raise awareness of safe parking, meeting with some of our pupils to gather pupil views on their safety and implementing a number of actions, along with our pupils, to help us keep our children safe.

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Temporary Suspension of School Swimming

Year 4 swimming will be suspended on our return on 2nd March until after the Easter Holidays. This is so improvement work can be completed to improve the pool and swimming facilities at Bullion Lane.

Class Dojo

A gentle reminder please that parents/carers should not be using Class Dojo as a way to contact Class Teachers. Class Dojo is used for the Class Teacher to share messages, information, reminders and photos etc with parents/carers.

If you need to contact the Class Teacher to discuss an issue or have a question, please either send by email to info@oustonprimary.org.uk or contact the school office on 0191 410 2599. Office staff members will ensure your message is passed on to the Class Teacher.

Mobile Phones

As you may have heard in the news, mobile phone use in schools is being discussed widely at the moment and updated guidance has been issued by the DfE. Our policy does not need a great deal of change as we currently do not allow mobile phone/devices use for pupils in school anyway. We have updated our policy a little though to further strengthen it and will share this on our website in the coming days.

Pupils in Year 5/6 are still permitted to bring phones into school for safety reasons if they walk/cycle to and from school without an adult. They must hand phones/devices, including smart watches, in every morning into the class mobile phone box which is kept securely in the school office or classroom. These are returned at the end of the school day.

Where we believe a child has their phone with them in school and has not handed this in, the guidance gives schools the authority to search a pupil or their possessions where they have reasonable grounds to suspect that they have a phone in their possession.

One aspect we have had to change is the use of mobile phones in school by parents/carers at events. This is something we have allowed parents/carers to do in the past but as we do not have permissions for all pupils to appear on photos/videos and due to the risk of images of children (and staff) to be included in social media posts, we have made the decision (as many schools have) to remove this aspect from schools events.

Moving forward therefore, parents/carers will not be able to use mobile phones in school events such as Class assemblies, Christmas shows, Sports Days etc. We will of course share photos, videos etc with you on Class Dojo where children have the appropriate permissions.

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We feel this may make these events more enjoyable for you also as you can relax and enjoy the event without having to worry about getting a good photo/video.

Thank you to you all for your support in this area and to those parents who supported these changes during our assemblies on Friday.

Uniform Reminders

I'm sure our pupils will continue to look as smart as ever in 2026! Please see some reminders about uniform below to support with this.

- Children should come to school on their PE day in their PE kits. Please note that we expect all children to wear the school PE uniform which is a white t-shirt and black shorts (appropriate length – not gym shorts) or black jogging bottoms/leggings. Class Teachers will let you know your child's PE day. Where children come to school in PE clothing that is not our PE uniform, we will contact you and ask you to bring their correct uniform to school.

It is really important that children continue to look smart and part of our school community on PE days also and do not stand out because they are wearing different items of clothing. It also removes the pressure to keep up with current trends/wear more expensive items.

- Earrings should not be worn in school. Where ears have only just been pierced and parents/carers feel they cannot be removed at this time, children will need to wear a plaster to cover these. These need to be provided by parents/carers.
- Leggings are not part of our school uniform and should only be worn on PE days.
- Please ensure that school skirts are an appropriate length.
- False nails/nail varnish should not be worn in school. Please ensure these are removed following holiday periods.

Dates for the Diary

2nd March: **Children return to school**

2nd March – 6th March **One Britain Week**

5th March: **World Book Day**

Pupils are invited to dress as a book character or may come in non-uniform if they prefer.

6th March: **Our Neurodiversity Day – A celebration to end or One Britain Week.**

Children will learn what neurodiversity is and about different types of neurodiversity such as ADHD and Autism. On this day, children can come into school in a range of colours, including odd socks, rather than school uniform to help us celebrate and raise awareness about the different ways people think and communicate.

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9th and 10th March: **Nursery, Reception and KS1 Parents/Carers Evenings.** *Letter to follow after half term and booking online as usual.*

13th March: **Mothers' Day breakfast**

16th and 17th March: **KS2 Parents/Carers Evenings**

1st April: **Easter Coffee Afternoon for Reception parents/carers**

2nd April: **Mr Walsh's Class Assembly at 9.10am/Year 1 Class Assembly at 2.30pm.**

2nd April: **End of term.**

17th April: **Teacher INSET day**

20th April: **Children return to school**



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