



Head Teachers  
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22<sup>nd</sup> May 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Another action packed half-term has flown by.

Today we have enjoyed two class assemblies, Year 3 this morning and Yr2 this afternoon. We learnt about what they have been learning and all the fun they have had. Class assemblies also give our children the chance for public speaking and to be encouraged out of their comfort zone. I'm sure you'll agree they all did a great job today. As always, a big thank you to the staff involved in writing the assemblies and ensuring the children are ready for their big moment.

We would like to wish you all a happy half term break with your families. Let's hope the weather forecast is correct and we will have lovely weather to enjoy the outdoors.

We return to school on 1<sup>st</sup> June and we look forward to hearing what the children have been up to.

Best wishes,

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

### Year 6 Residential Visit

Year 6 pupils have been at a Thrills and Skills for Life residential at a centre near Hadrian's Wall this week. Their adventures have included a walk to Sycamore Gap, den building, paddle-boarding and a wide range of team building activities. They have had a brilliant time and have been an absolute credit to our school, impressing us with their enthusiasm, sense of fun, willingness to try new things and resilience. They will certainly be ready for a break over half term!

***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.*

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*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*

### Class Attendance



For May the overall attendance figure for the school was **94.70%** which is excellent and above the national average. Thank you so much for your support with school attendance.

Attendance in each class for May was as follows:

Mrs Spencer's Class: 90.78%

Mrs Downs' Class: 93.53%

Mrs Dadswell's Class: 97.74%

Mrs Turner's Class: 96.35%

Mrs Baum's Class: 94.25%

Miss Stebbings Class: 98.52%

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Mr Walsh's Class: 95.93%

Miss Allen's Class: 92.42%

Mr Storrar's Class: 95.44%

Miss Stebbing's class are the Ouston Attendance Bear Winners this month. Well done!



*The Rights of the Child, Article 28: Every child has the right to an education.*

### **Gold Star Role Models**

You may have noticed your child and/or others coming out of school on Fridays with a gold star on their school jumper. These are given out in Assembly on Friday to pupils who are selected by their teachers for consistently being role models to others in the Gold Star Values we celebrate and focus on each week. These include behaviours such as sensible movement around school, respectful communication, listening skills and positive manners,

### **Inclusion Quality Mark (IQM) Centre for Excellence Award**



As you know our school holds the IQM Centre of Excellence Award. As a Centre for Excellence school, we have an annual assessment visit to ensure we continue to meet the required standards.

Our visit last week was very positive and the assessor was firmly of the opinion that our school fully meets the standard required by the Inclusion Quality Mark to maintain its status as a Centre of Excellence.

The following comments are included in our report-

*'From the moment you walk through the doors of Ouston Primary School, you are greeted with a warm, welcoming, and inclusive atmosphere where every child is clearly valued and supported. Positive relationships between staff and pupils are evident throughout the school, creating a calm and nurturing environment in which children feel safe, happy, and confident. Pupils are polite, enthusiastic, and engaged in their learning, and their happiness is reflected in the way they interact with both adults and one another. The school promotes a strong sense of belonging and celebrates diversity effectively, ensuring that all children, regardless of their background or ability, are encouraged to participate fully and achieve their potential. The school has a genuinely caring and positive ethos that leaves a lasting impression on visitors'*

Many thanks to parents/carers, staff, governors and pupils who participated in this assessment visit.

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## School Council and Rights Respecting Schools Teams

Our School Council have been busy this half-term. They were involved in our IQM Review and really impressed our visitor with their thoughts and views about our school, inclusion and enjoyment of school. A big positive was our newly introduced Gold Star Values which the children feel is making a difference to behaviour in and around school.

School Council have also been planning action about parking around school. This will continue next half term with work with PC Greener about how to tackle unsafe parking. For now, they are sharing their concerns through facial expressions.



## No Pen Day

On Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May, we participated in National No Pens Day – a nationwide school initiative - organised by Speech and Language UK. The event required children and teachers to put away all writing tools to focus entirely on verbal communication, active listening, and expression. Our teachers planned and delivered a range of activities including drama, collaborative discussions and paired art. The day was definitely a hit with our children.

We thought of other ways of learning. We were more creative and learnt lots about turns and angles.

We did paired art and discussed our plans and adaptations

We acted scenes of building the MerriVale Temple

Speaktastic! We talked all day.

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## Dates for the Diary

### JUNE

- 1st: Pupils return to school
- 1st: Year 4 Multiplication Check within next two weeks
- 5th: Girls Cricket Competition
- 8th: STEM Week
- 8th: Year 1 Phonics Screening this week
- 12th: Mixed Cricket Competition
- 16th: UPKS2 Vex Competition at Nissan.
- 17th: Durham Dash
- 18th: KS2 Sports Day pm
- 19th: Fathers' Day Breakfast
- 25th: KS1/Reception/Nursery Sports Day pm
- 29th: Yr5 Residential to Newby Wiske
- 30th: New Nursery and Reception parents/pupils open evening, 4.30pm

### JULY

- 3rd: Reception Superheroes Sports Festival
- 6th: New class transition morning
- 6th: Careers and Enterprise Week
- 8th: Little Sticks Golf Day in School
- 9th: Ouston Art Gallery, 3.30-5pm
- 13th: Year 5/6 Disco 4.45pm-6pm
- 15th: Nursery and Reception 'Teddy Bears Picnic' at 2pm to share reports with parents/carers
- 15th: Reports to all Parents/Carers.
- 16th: Summer Fair and Family Picnic, 3.30-5pm
- 17th: Y6 Leavers Assembly (2pm) and end of term

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