



Mrs Louise Lavelle - Head Teacher (Wed - Fri)
Mrs Joanne Wise - Head Teacher (Mon & Tues)

Arisaig, Ouston, Chester-le-Street, Co Durham, DH2 1RQ

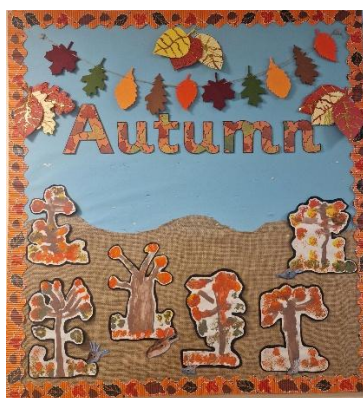
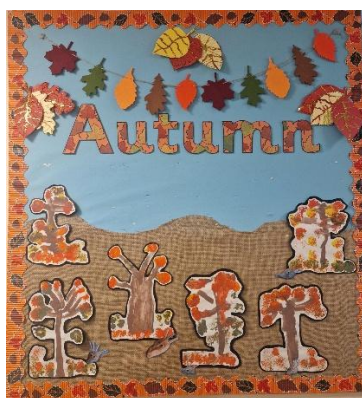
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NEWSLETTER FOR PARENTS & CARERS: OCTOBER 2026



Dear Parents/Carers,

We have had an action packed half term with pupils settling in well to classes, some fabulous work produced and lots of additional events and activities. These have included sports trips for Years 1 and Year 4, a Year 5 and 6 River Study Geography trip, Harvest Assemblies and our annual book Fair.

Wishing everyone a very happy half term holiday and let's hope that the rain doesn't continue all week!

Best Wishes,

Mrs Lavelle and Mrs Wise, Headteachers

Friday Fundraisers

We have had two fabulous Fundraisers in the last two weeks! Alice, Ava and Daniel in Year 5 organised a very creative 'What is the toy octopus's favourite store in the metro Centre?' They raised £25 for the NSPCC.

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Tilly and Alice in Year 5 organised a spooky Halloween fundraiser today which involved children putting their hands into a mystery box and guessing the item. They raised £20 for a hospital charity.

Both groups showed superb organisational skills and we are so proud of them for supporting local charities in this way. A big thank you too to all children who took part in these fundraisers.

Class Attendance



For the first half term of 26-27, the overall attendance figure for the school is **95.2%** which is fantastic considering the many illnesses that have been around in the last few weeks.

Attendance in each class was as follows:

Reception: 93%

Mrs Dadswell's Class: 91.7%

Miss Carroll's class: 95.2%

Mrs Baum's Class: 97.3%

Mrs Turner's Class: 96%

Mr Walsh's Class: 96.3%

Miss Allen's Class: 96.2%

Mr Storrar's Class: 95.6%

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Mrs Baum's class are the Ouston Attendance Bear Winners and are delighted that the Attendance Bear will stay in their class during November. Well done Year 2!

Harvest Festival



As always we were delighted with your response to our Harvest appeal. Your generous donations have now been collected by Durham Foodbank and are helping those in need across our local area.

We were treated to two wonderful assemblies last Friday and it was lovely to see the large number of parents/carers and family members who were able to join us.

Reception and KS1 performed to a very large audience and were fabulous. Their lines and singing entertained the audience so well and certainly taught us to say thanks to all the hard working farmers bringing food to our tables. A special mention to our Reception children as it was the first time they had joined us for a large assembly and their performance and behaviour was wonderful.

Year 3 were equally fabulous and impressed us all with their clear reading and beautiful singing, including a new Harvest song that we all really enjoyed!

Well to all pupils and staff involved.

Football and Netball teams.

Our football and netball teams have been very busy this half term and Mr Walsh and Mrs Dadswell have been so impressed by their team work, skills, progress and resilience.

The Year 5/6 boys football team were runners up in the Cestria Cup and did so well to get to the final stage of this competition. And the Year 5/6 girls team were unbeaten in their final matches. Well done to all of our footballers!

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Our netball teams have had a number of successes in their matches too and have been a credit to our school. We are very proud of them!

And a big thank you to Mr Walsh and Mrs Dadswell for giving their time to deliver these clubs and matches.

We have also received positive feedback about the behaviour and attitude of both our players and any pupil supporters. A parent from a visiting football team last night said the behaviour from the children of our school was absolutely fantastic. She said Ouston children were polite, friendly and seemed to genuinely mean it when they cheered others on. She said you can really tell a lot about a school when you are at events like this, and Ouston seems to be a really lovely and brilliant school.

We are so proud to hear feedback like this about our children and school and have talked about this in Assembly with pupils this afternoon.

Poppy Appeal

When children return in November we will launch our annual poppy appeal. There is a wide range of items to choose from including traditional poppies, key rings, bracelets and snap bands. The Royal British Legion do not suggest amounts for these items, simply requesting a donation to be made.

Uniform Reminders

On PE days we expect all children to wear the school PE uniform which is a white t-shirt and black shorts or jogging bottoms. 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 and/or designer items.

Earrings should not be worn in school. Any ears pierced during the Summer holidays should now be fully healed and children able to remove these for school. Can parents/carers please remind children to remove these before school. Many thanks for your support with this.

A continued plea from us to ADD NAMES TO SCHOOL UNIFORM! A first name and year group written in pen on a label will help us to identify the owners of lost property.

School Council and Rights Respecting Teams

These have now been chosen by their classes and received their badges in Assembly today. Our teams are:

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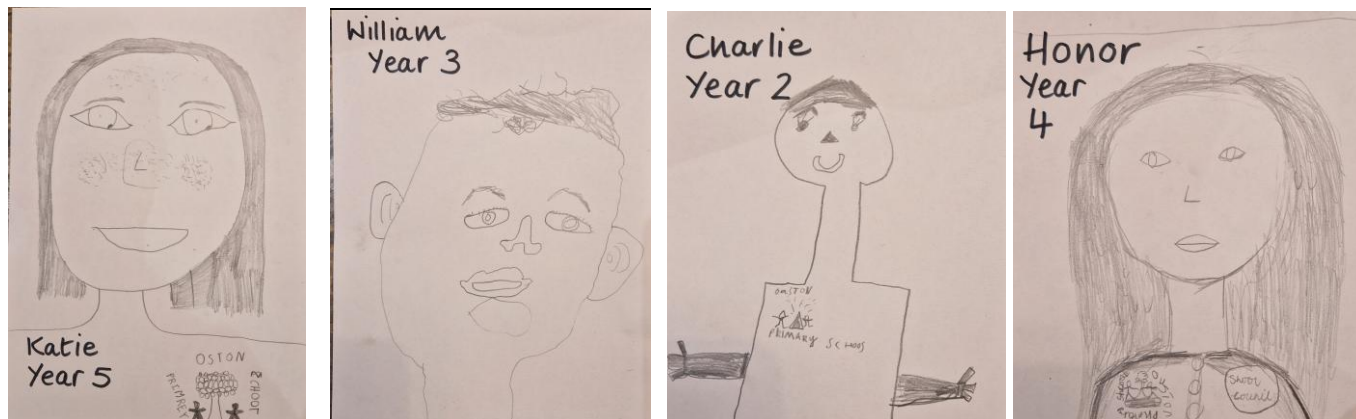
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School Council: Miylah (Y1), Jolene (Y1), Charlie (Y2), Eli (Y3), Kaidence (Y4), Honor (Y4), Jamie (Y5), Jude (Y6)

Rights Respecting Team: Max (Y1), Tommy (Y1), Ivy (Y2), William (Y3), Mason (Y4), Sky (Y4), Katie (Y5), Leah (Y6)

They have all created self-portraits for our main entrance and the school website. A few of these are shared below. Our teams will be working with us during the year to suggest ideas to further improve our school and carry out actions to support with these.



School Kitchen News!

Our fabulous kitchen team Ms Quinn and Mrs Dodds had a full Health and Safety inspection this week and were told their practice is outstanding and were commended for the high standards they apply to this area. A big thank you to both of them for their excellent work all year round and their delicious meals!

After School Clubs

We will be running the following after school clubs next half term:

Wednesdays – Year 5/6 Art Club, starts Wednesday 4th November

Wednesdays – Irish Dancing Club (Reception to Year 6), all year round

Thursdays – KS2 Choir, starts Thursday 12th November

Fridays – Year 1/2 Football Coaching/Fitness Club, starts Friday 6th November

Letters for Art Club and Football/Fitness Club have been given out to day and we will add to Class Dojo too.

A letter about Choir Club will be sent out after half term.

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Headlice

Head lice are very common in primary school-aged children and are nothing to be embarrassed about. They are tiny insects that live in the hair and spread through close head-to-head contact, not through lack of cleanliness. We kindly ask parents and carers to check their child's hair regularly and let school know if you find live lice so we can issue reminders to our school community about checking and treatment. Early detection and treatment help stop lice spreading and keep everyone comfortable and ready to learn.

This link gives information about checking and treatment:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/>

Parking and Driving Near the School Entrance

Unfortunately, we are continuing to see lots of issues with unsafe driving and parking at the beginning and end of the school day. We have a number of concerns from parents/carers who walk into school and also from local residents. A recent concern from a resident is shared below:

I am a resident in the street Ardrosson, I know the school has no control over where parents park but it is becoming a bigger issue as on a daily basis it is taking me 5/10 minutes just to get out of my street to pick my own child up from a different school due to parents from your school sitting in cars and refusing to move or leaving cars to collect children without room for others to get past.

A lot of work is done in our school to teach our pupils to be kind, considerate and respectful of others and it is sad to see that this is not always demonstrated by some drivers during school drop off and collection times. We do appreciate that this is a small minority of parents/carers and will speak to people individually where we see particular issues. A very big thank you to parents/carers who park a short distance away near the shops or on other less busy nearby roads as this greatly helps with congestion and helps to keep our children safer.

After half-term, Mrs Wise and I will be monitoring the main gates onto the KS2 yard whenever we can to ensure parents/carers aren't stopping to drop off or collect here. There are no stopping/waiting lines in place there and ignoring these affects the safety of pedestrians who are crossing the road, walking along the paths and coming in through the gates.

We have also been told by the County Council that the double yellow lines and other markings will be added back to the roads during half term. This should further support with safer parking and driving around the school.

We very much appreciate the support of parents/carers with this situation.

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Dates for the Diary

2nd : Pupils return to school

9th : KS1, Reception and Nursery Parents/Carers Evening (2.30-5pm)

10th: KS1, Reception and Nursery Parents/Carers Evening (3.30-6pm)

16th : Anti-Bullying Week. Theme- 'Break the Silence'.

20th: Friendship Friday to end of Anti-bullying week. Children may wear non-uniform/bright colours.

16th: KS2 Parents/Carers Evening (2.30-5pm)

17th : KS2 Parents/Carers Evening (3.30-6pm)

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