



# February Newsletter



## ONE BRITAIN WEEK

Children across the school demonstrated an excellent attitude when considering the different types of people and families that live within our community and country. Activities during the week included: learning about how people with a visual impairment use a range of resources and strategies to support them in everyday life during a workshop delivered by Vision Skills North East; watching a video about racism, learning why this is wrong and how we should treat everyone well whatever their background, religion, country of origin; designing anti-racism posters and producing creative writing pieces.



Reception learned about the customs and traditions of Chinese New Year, KS1 wrote poems inspired by Martin Luther King's 'I have a dream' speech, Years 3 and 4 found out all about the country of Slovakia during a talk by a member of our community who was born in this country and Years 5 and 6 explored the subject of refugees, reading and performing a very powerful poem about this subject titled 'The Day War Came'. A rich, thought-provoking week in which our children learned a great deal and demonstrated how well they are developing as caring, responsible and respectful future citizens. We are very proud of them all!

## DIARY DATES

- 24<sup>th</sup> February** Back to School
- 5<sup>th</sup> March** World Book Day- if they wish, children can come to school dressed as a book character
- 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> March** Nursery, Reception and KS1 Parents Evenings
- 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> March** KS2 Parents Evenings

Louise Lavelle - Head Teacher  
Joanne Wise - Deputy Head

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

Telephone/Fax: 0191 410 2599

Email: [oustonprimary@durhamlearning.net](mailto:oustonprimary@durhamlearning.net)

Website: [www.oustonprimary.durham.sch.uk](http://www.oustonprimary.durham.sch.uk)



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Dear Parents/Carers,

A great start to 2020 with children working really hard in classes and demonstrating a kind, caring and respectful attitude during our One Britain activities. I am sure they are all now ready for the first school holiday of the new year!

Wishing everyone an enjoyable half term and we look forward to seeing children return on the 24<sup>th</sup> February,

Mrs Lavelle

## EARLY YEARS

We are delighted to inform you that the extension of the Reception classroom is now ready, providing an additional learning environment complete with windows and bi-fold doors.



This is a wonderful addition to the learning space for our children and they are very excited about using it! The Friends of Ouston Primary provided a third of the funding needed for this project so many thanks to them and all parents/carers who have attended FOOP fundraising events.

## EXTRA-CURRICULAR CLUBS

Children have enjoyed a wide range of clubs this half term, including: Zumbini for Reception and KS1; Lego Club and a Games/Puzzles Club for KS1; Gymnastics for Years 3 and 4 and Fitness Workout for Years 5 and 6.

Next half term we will have an Arts and Craft Club for Years 3 and 4, Football for Years 5 and 6, Netball for Year 4 and 5 girls and Recorders Club for KS1. A letter has gone out this week- please return the reply slip as soon as possible if your

child wishes to take part in any of these clubs. Further clubs will take place in the Summer term.

## VISITS & VISITORS

In addition to our One Britain week visitors, Year 1 enjoyed a fantastic visit to Durham City Gymnastics this half term, to take part in a Gymnastics afternoon with five other local schools. They took part in a wide range of activities including floor work, balance beams, parallel bars and trampolines; we were tired just watching them! We finished the afternoon with a display by two members of the British Tumbling team which amazed everyone!

Year 4 have been involved in a 'Building a Waste Free Future' project delivered by OASES North East (Outdoor and Sustainability Education Specialists). The project aims to educate children about single use plastics and how we can go about reducing, reusing and recycling the single use plastic that we use.

Whilst the project works mainly with the Year 4 children, as part of the project, all of our children in school have been making an eco-brick to go towards creating a sculpture that will be used in our local community. Year 4 invited in a number of their grandparents to ask about how the use of plastic has changed over the years and are also carrying out a litter pick in our area after half term.

## CROSS COUNTRY

Some year 5 & 6 children took part in the Chester le Street Schools Cross County competition during this half term. All children who ran were fantastic and showed determination and resilience. A special mention to Lauren G for finishing in the top 10 at all three events.

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## SCHOOL COUNCIL

Our School Council have been discussing healthy eating with a particular focus on healthy snacks and school lunches, including packed lunches. They are busy preparing a leaflet about this subject to send out to pupils and parents/carers after half term. This links very well with the launch of a national initiative on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2020 'Eat Them to Defeat Them'. We will be joining schools across the country in teaching children about the benefits of eating lots of lovely vegetables and encouraging children and parents/carers to include more vegetables in their daily diet.

## SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Here are our class percentages for the year so far (3<sup>rd</sup> September 2019 to 10<sup>th</sup> February 2020):

Reception: 94.4%

Year 1: 95%

Year 2 (Miss Lowery): 95.5%

Year 2 (Mrs Exley): 97.3%

Year 3 (Mrs Dadswell): 96%

Year 3 (Miss Stebbings): 94.4%

Year 4: 96.3%

Year 5 (Ms Allen): 95.2%

Year 5 (Mrs Baum): 92.8%

Year 6: 96.7%

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