



December Newsletter



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Dear Parents/Carers,

The lead up to Christmas is always a lovely time to be in a Primary School and we have certainly had an action packed last few weeks with Christmas Lunch, Shows, Coffee Afternoon, Discos, Parties, Carols Around the Tree and a Cinema visit in addition to our usual school activities! We will be rounding off our term with Ms Allen's Class Assembly on Friday which I'm sure will provide a lovely ending to our last school week of 2019.

I would like to wish you all a Happy Christmas, a peaceful holiday period and all the very best for 2020.

Mrs Lavelle



FOOP

Our amazing Friends of Ouston Primary have been extremely busy this half term, organising the Christmas Coffee Afternoon, a 'Polar Express' cinema evening and the Christmas Discos. We are so grateful to all FOOP members who make these events so enjoyable for our children and community.

FOOP have also raised a significant amount of funds to be contributed to school projects and areas of need. This has included a recent contribution of £3000 towards our outdoor sheltered area in Reception and £2,500 to fund the installation of air conditioning in the outdoor classroom. Do let us know if you would like to join FOOP.

CHRISTMAS FAIR

As usual, this was a brilliant event with a range of delicious refreshments, teddy and bottle tombola, guess the name of the Reindeer, raffle, face painting, decoration making and perfume stalls. We had a great turnout and it was lovely to catch up with lots of families and past pupils. Thank you so much to parents/carers for your extremely generous donations to the Raffle and Bottle Tombola stalls - the best ever! A visitor to school on the non-uniform day commented on the amazing community spirit as our school as donations mounted up in the school office. The Coffee afternoon raised a fantastic £852.

DIARY DATES

- 6th January - Return to school
- 14th February - 9:10am: Mrs Baum's Class Assembly
- 2:30pm: Mrs Exley's Class Assembly
- Break up for February Half Term

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KS2 SCHOOL CHOIR

Our School Choir have also made a significant contribution to their community this half term. They sang beautifully at a Carol Concert at Holy Trinity Church, Pelton last week. We were joined by their families and local residents and church members and this was a really lovely start to the festive period. We also asked a member of the NSPCC to talk at the event and had a collection which raised £156 for the NSPCC which is fantastic- thank you so much to our very generous families who attended.



The choir also sang for the residents at Chester View Care Home this week. This is always a lovely event and we also stayed afterwards and made Christmas cards with the residents.

The behaviour and caring, respectful attitude demonstrated by the children was superb and we are very proud of them all.

CHRISTMAS SHOWS

We really enjoyed our two Christmas Shows 'Everybody Loves a Baby' and 'Gotta Shine'.



The singing was beautiful along with excellent acting, narrating and dancing. Our children are very talented and it is lovely to see their enthusiasm for and enjoyment of performing.



FUNDRAISING

In addition to funds raised by the school choir for the NSPCC and FOOP events, we have raised a significant amount for a range of other charities this half term. This has included:

- £215 for Children in Need
- £300 for the Poppy Appeal
- A range of donations to the Salvation Army Toy Appeal

Mr Walsh's Year 6 class also had a 'sponsored silence' to raise money for charities chosen by the children. A total of £385 was raised and £35 each went to SMA UK, Cancer Research, Heel and Toe, Epilepsy Action, The Dogs Trust, Diabetes UK, the National Autistic Society, Young Minds, Motor

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Neurone Disease Association, the Alzheimers Society and Operation Smile UK.

Well done to all children involved and, as always, parents/carers have been so supportive of all of our fundraising events. A big thank you to all of you; we feel privileged to work in such a caring and generous community.

VISITS & VISITORS

As part of their RE topic, Year 3 and 4 learned a lot during a visit to a local Jewish synagogue in Newcastle upon Tyne.

Year 6 took part in a Safety Carousel delivered by local emergency services.

Sporting visits have included a Year 4 Gymnastics event and a Year 3 Multi-Skills session.

Nursery, Reception and KS1 enjoyed a Christmas visit to Gibside.

PARKING

As always, please do take care to drive carefully and slowly when near our school entrance at the beginning and end of the school day as the safety of our children must be everyone's priority.

Could we also remind parents/carers to be respectful to our neighbours and not block roads or driveways when parking. Our PCSO makes regular visits to school to check on all of these aspects. Many Thanks.

MINDFULNESS SESSIONS

Year 5 and 6 children (along with their parent/carer) will have the opportunity to take part in 5 mindfulness sessions starting on Monday 13th January 3:45-4:45pm.

Mindfulness can help us to be calmer and less anxious. It can help with our well-being - both physical and mental - and helps build on our resilience.

Each session will be an hour long and include a shared craft activity as well as various fun mindfulness techniques.



The sessions will be run by Grace and Mary.

Grace is Pelton Church's children's worker and well known at Ouston School.

Mary is Nanna to 4 girls at Ouston School, a retired vicar and has practised mindfulness/meditation for several years and led courses for adults.

Grace and Mary are motivated by their Christian faith but Mindfulness and these sessions are for people of all backgrounds and beliefs.

Places will be limited to 10 children. A letter will be sent out about this in the New Year.

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