



Mrs L Lavelle - Head Teacher
Mrs J Wise - Deputy Headteacher

Arisaig, Ouston, Chester-le-Street, Co Durham, DH2 1RQ
Telephone/Fax: 0191 410 2599 Email: info@oustonprimary.org.uk
Web Site: www.oustonprimary.durham.sch.uk

26th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you are all keeping well. Please find below some additional information for this week.

Covid-19 Testing for School Staff: Information for Parents/Carers of Children Currently in School

The Department for Education will start a programme of asymptomatic Covid-19 testing for staff in primary schools, school-based nurseries and maintained nursery schools from this week. Up to one in three people who have Covid-19 have the virus without symptoms. Tackling the pandemic requires identifying asymptomatic, infectious individuals and testing school staff will support with this.

At our school, staff will carry out these tests at home on Sunday and Wednesday nights. Staff will inform me immediately of a positive result and it may then be necessary to inform a class group/bubble to self-isolate. I will always aim to send a text out about this the night before, depending on the time the result is received. I would advise all parents/carers of children currently in school to have a 'back up' plan should your child's class/bubble need to self-isolate at short notice. Please also ensure that we have your up to date mobile number. Hopefully this will not be needed but you should be prepared just in case.

Emergency Food Parcels

Durham Food Bank are able to provide emergency food parcels for families in need. Please get in touch with us if you are struggling to make ends meet at the moment and a food parcel would help. These include non-perishable items and should last a family of four for around three days. They can be provided weekly if needed. Please contact me, Mrs Wise or Mrs Tyrrell in confidence if you require this support for your family during this challenging time. Parcels will be delivered to our school for you to collect.

School Numbers Update

As you are aware, school is currently open to the children of key workers plus vulnerable and Nursery children. We currently have 108 pupils attending school, 40% of our usual school population. All staff are in school each day and we need to organise groups so that pupil numbers are as low as possible in these. Please be aware that if you contact us about a Key Worker place, you will need to complete a form and provide evidence of your employment, including days/hours of work.



The contents of this letter are confidential and are intended solely for the addressee.

Ouston Primary School is part of Jigsaw Learning



Home Learning

As we start the fourth week of the Spring Term in lockdown, we appreciate the challenges that Home Learning can bring, particularly if parents/carers are also working from home. I have spoken to a number of parents/carers this week and I know that teachers are supporting you as much as they can also.

I have attached a sheet which gives some strategies that might help you to motivate and reward your child when learning at home. Please also continue to contact us if you require further support.

The following strategies from school should also help. Please talk to your child about these and teachers will also remind your child of these via Class Dojo:

- Weekly Star Awards – these will be posted to children learning at home
- Achievement Awards at the end of each half term. We will award two per class this half term; one for a child working in school and one for a child working at home. These will also be posted to children working at home, along with their badge.
- Star Awards will be awarded in each Friday Golden Assembly – please watch these each week with your child (the link will be posted on Class Dojo). Achievement Awards will be awarded in the Golden Assembly on Friday 12th February.
- Merit awards/points are used with older children and Table/Group points/other incentive systems are organised by each class teacher for younger children. Your child's Class Teacher will inform you of these and remind your child how to earn these.
- Three prizes per class when we return to school for work completed at home. Children should bring their English/Maths/Other Subjects books back to school when they return and the teacher will choose three in their class to receive a prize. Their decision will be based on the amount of work completed, evidence of effort/trying their best and standards of handwriting and presentation. I

We also have some nice ideas for the last week of term which we will share nearer the time!

In the meantime, take care of yourselves, keep in touch and do not hesitate to ring if we can help or support in any way.

Best Wishes,

Mrs Lavelle



The contents of this letter are confidential and are intended solely for the addressee.

Ouston Primary School is part of Jigsaw Learning

