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NEWSLETTER FOR PARENTS & CARERS 27th MAY 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Some additional information from me as we head towards the half term break after our first full half term in school together this year. Our children (and staff!) have worked so hard and are very much ready for the holiday week.

A big thank you to everyone who has sent in a £2 contribution towards our Wonder Dome event; the children are very excited about this and it will be an excellent start to our Science week in which children will carry out a range of Science activities and investigations relating to a Space/Solar System theme.

I hope you all have a lovely bank holiday weekend and half term holiday; the weather looks like it will be kind to us so hopefully you can enjoy lots of family and social activities outdoors.

Best Wishes,

Mrs Lavelle

Fun & Food – Holiday Activities with Healthy Food

Durham County Council Fun and Food programme is providing activities with healthy snacks and meals for children and young people this half term.

All activities are offered through Voluntary and Community Sector partners and schools who will be operating in a Covid secure way, in line with current guidelines. Activities may be virtual, activity packs or face-to-face.

Find out what's on in your area at www.durham.gov.uk/FunAndFood



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Eat Them to Defeat Them



Article 24 *Every child has the right to nutritious food and to the best possible health*

This is a campaign to get children to eat more vegetables; your child will bring home an 'Eat Them to Defeat Them' pack to look at during half term and to get started on some of the activities, including a reward chart and puzzles. Watch out for the adverts on TV too! We will have an 'Eat Them to Defeat Them' Assembly in the first week back and will have a number of activities in school to encourage children to eat more vegetables. We will be decorating our serving area in the lunch hall and our school meals team will be encouraging children to try a range of vegetables and sharing vegetable facts.

After School Clubs



Article 31 *Every child has the right to relax, play and take part in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities*

During the pandemic, children and young people have missed out on a range of formal and informal extra-curricular activities. These play a vital role in enriching children's lives and support their personal development and mental well-being. With this in mind, we would like to offer at least one after school club to each year group next half term.

In the first week back after half term, teachers will be getting in touch with you to let you know about the after school clubs they have planned for each year group. These will run for 4 weeks and will include a wide range of activities. I will be running a Year 6 newspaper Club which was an idea suggested by our School Council and Rights Respecting Team. Watch out for our first edition which will come out in July!

Uniform

Now that we are fully settled back into school, can I ask that we continue to uphold our usual high standards of school uniform please – our children always look so smart and this is commented on by visitors to school. The main areas to tighten up on are:

Leggings – these are not part of school uniform. Girls should wear a black skirt, black trousers or a yellow school dress please

Earrings – the vast majority of pupils are not wearing these but a few are forgetting to remove these before coming to school



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Length of skirts – some of our older pupils are wearing skirts that are not an appropriate length. Can parents/carers please check these please as even with black tights, short skirts are not suitable for school

Wherever possible, can pupils also wear their white PE tops on their PE day please. We will continue the wearing of PE kits to school in September but will ask that children wear a white PE top and black joggers/leggings rather than a range of different sportswear. I'll remind everyone about this before the Summer holidays.

Parent Governor Vacancy (Please see the letter attached)

We have a vacancy for a Parent Governor at our school. This is an important position, which gives parents the opportunity to be involved in managing our school and planning for its future. Parent Governors would be expected to attend Governors meetings at least once a term and where possible complete some training courses for Governors.

If you are interested in becoming a Parent Governor, please see Mrs Tyrrell/Mrs Gill in the School Office for a nomination form and/or contact me if you would like further information.

Nominees must be proposed by a parent of a pupil registered at the school. A parent may nominate his/her partner. The completed and signed nomination form should be returned to the school by **Monday 14th June** Should a ballot be required the school will send each parent a voting form.

Travel to Tokyo Challenge



To celebrate the rescheduled Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic games, we are taking part as a school in the 'Get Set - Travel to Tokyo' challenge in which children and families are invited to get active and log their activities online. Every activity logged will be converted to a distance which helps our school reach each destination on the way to Tokyo. These activities are fun family activities that can take place either in the home or when you are out and about.

Details about this have been posted on class dojo by your child's class teacher and the link below will also take you to the get set page to find out more about the activities.

<https://www.getset.co.uk/travel-tokyo>

As a school we are still on our way to Brazil so if you could log some activities during half term we should be able to get there and beyond!



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Nursery Places

Please contact us if you are interested in a Nursery place for your child from September 2021 onwards. Parents/carers are now able to arrange a visit to come and look at our Nursery and to talk to staff.

Year 6

It's hard to believe but Year 6 are approaching their last half term at Ouston Primary! They have worked so hard this week during assessments in Maths and English and we are really pleased with the progress they are making, their positive attitude and growing maturity.

We are planning our usual end of term celebration events and treats for Year 6 and will be in touch with details about these after half term.

Dates for the Diary *Dates with * will be dependent on the restrictions/guidelines at this time*

7th June – Back to school

14th June – Year 6 Residential Visit to Weardale (Pupils staying in school will be taught by Mr Walsh or Mrs Wise and we have a range of fun activities planned for them)

21st June – School closed for a Teacher Training Day

22nd June – New Reception Starters Meeting (parents and children), 4.30pm*

23rd June – Years 3 and 4 Sports day pm*

24th June – Years 5 and 6 Sports day pm*

24th June – New Nursery Starters Meeting (parents and children), 4.30pm*

30th June – Years 1 and 2 Sports day pm*

2nd July – Nursery and Reception Sports day pm*

For our Sports Days, parents/carers and other family members are invited to join us. Our Friends of Ouston group will sell refreshments during these events and we will hold a raffle at each of these.

12th July - Reports to Parents/Carers

12th July – Reception Teddy Bears Picnic for parents/carers pm*

15th July – Year 6 Celebration Evening*

20th July – Break up for Summer holidays



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