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## NEWSLETTER FOR PARENTS & CARERS 27<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you are all keeping well. As we start our fourth week back at school I would like to share some school news, reminders and information with you.

Firstly, a big well done to all of our children for the amazing way they have settled back into school life after the Summer holidays. They are working hard, behaving well, enjoying interacting with friends and class mates, adapting quickly to any new routines and clearly enjoying their time in school. We are particularly impressed with our new Reception and Nursery children who are extremely settled and enjoying all of the new experiences and opportunities. A big thank you to all of our parents/carers for your support at the start of this new school year.

It has been lovely to re-introduce some aspects of school life that have not been possible over the last 18 months. One of the most important areas is having Golden Assemblies and Singing Practice again. We are still not running these as whole-school Assemblies and instead have three year groups at a time in together, meaning children can be well spaced out and the hall is well ventilated. Hearing children sing after so long was fabulous and I'm sure parents/carers enjoyed the little videos of this we posted on Class Dojo. We were a little rusty at first but I am sure we will soon get back to our pre-pandemic singing standards!



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Another very important aspect has been the re-introduction of after-school activities. As you know, we had a number of 'taster' clubs prior to the Summer Holidays but we are excited about getting our full programme of clubs up and running this year. So far, we have Year 5 and 6 Football, Year 2 Lingotots, Year 3 Dance and an Irish Dance Club for Years 1-6. After half term, you will receive a leaflet about clubs being offered from November to July.

School visits are now also possible again and teachers are currently planning a range of visits and visitors to enhance the curriculum. Before the pandemic, we had just introduced a programme of Autumn Term Theatre visits and we are very happy to be able to offer these again. Every year, children in Years 2, 4 and 6 will have the opportunity to enjoy a theatre show in a range of locations. This year we have arranged the following visits to The Sunderland Empire:

Year 2 – Gangsta Granny

Year 4 – The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe

Year 6 – School of Rock

Year 5 will also be visiting Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy to watch their production of Les Miserables.

*Separate letters about each of these events will be sent out to parents/carers nearer the visit date.*

During our Year 6 newspaper Club in the Summer Term, one of our pupils wrote this excellent piece below which I would like to share with parents/carers:

### **Resilience**

*During lockdown all Ouston Primary students and teachers have shown outstanding resilience and determination. Lockdown was hard for every one and has become our life for the past 17-18 months. Whether you were in school or at home everyone worked hard to complete their work and send it in. It shows how Ouston can fight through anything.*

*At some points it became extremely hard and we fought through it, but mainly we stuck together as a school. This proves we can do anything as a school, we aimed high and met our target. I am sure this will carry on through future generations. We still had fun doing P.E. with Joe Wicks and doing work, alongside some fun in the garden. Carry on trying your best and achieving successes by showing resilience and determination.*

Have a good week and as usual, please get in touch if you have any questions or concerns. Please see below for some important reminders, further information and future dates.

Best Wishes,  
Mrs Lavelle



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## Admissions to Reception 2022

Please note that the deadline for applications for admission to Reception in September 2022 is 15<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

For parents/carers who are new to our school or who are looking at different schools before making their decision, I am organising appointments for them to look around the school and have a chat. If you know of someone who is considering our school and would like to visit, please ask them to ring the School Office on 0191 410 2599 and we can arrange this for them.

## Water Bottles



**THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD Article 24:** *You have the right to safe water to drink, nutritious food, a clean and safe environment, and information to help you stay well*

Thank you for sending water bottles already filled into school each day- this helps ensure that your child drinks plenty of water during the day and avoids queues at the taps and water fountains. Just to remind parents/carers that as part of our Healthy Schools approach, bringing juice in water bottles is not permitted. If your child has a medical or other special need that means they may need an alternative to water, please discuss this with us and we will include this in their Health Care or Support Plan where required.

## Earrings

A reminder that earrings are not permitted in school. We are still seeing quite a number of children wearing these after the Summer holidays which is not in keeping with our uniform policy and can present a health and safety risk for PE lessons and break/lunchtimes. Many thanks for your support with this.

## School Meals and Packed Lunches

We are very impressed by how children have settled back into the routines and expectations in the lunch hall and a recent visitor to the kitchen commented on how polite our children were and what an enjoyable experience lunchtime at our school was. Just a couple of reminders for you as we start the new term:

- We need two weeks' notice if you would like to move your child to packed lunches from school meals.
- We are a nut free school so please take care to ensure that items included in packed lunches are nut-free. Many thanks



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## **Parking/Drop Off**

As always, can I remind parents/carers that parking on yellow lines and markings outside the school entrance is not permitted and poses a safety risk to our children walking into school. Thank you for your support in keeping our children safe.

## **Dates for the Diary**

29<sup>th</sup> September – School Photos (Individuals and Siblings)

4<sup>th</sup> October – Book Fair Week (more information to follow)

11<sup>th</sup> October – Harvest Festival Week (a separate letter to follow but we will ask for Harvest donations please this week)

15<sup>th</sup> October – Year 3 Harvest Assembly at 9.15am    Nursery/Reception/Years 1 & 2 Assembly  
2.15pm

19<sup>th</sup> October – English and Maths workshops for Reception and Year 1 parents/carers pm

21<sup>st</sup> October – Maths workshop for KS2 parents/carers pm

22<sup>nd</sup> October – Year 6 Class Assembly and end of half term



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