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NEWSLETTER FOR PARENTS & CARERS 21st OCTOBER 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we come to the end of our first half term, I have lots of news and reminders to share with you. It has been an action packed few weeks!

We have had a fun day today with some lovely Halloween costumes and decorations around school. A big thank you to our school cook Mrs Quinn and the kitchen staff for their Halloween themed lunch and fabulous decorations. Also to our Lunchtime Supervisors who made an amazing effort with their costumes!



I hope you all manage to find time to relax and enjoy some family time over half-term and we will look forward to welcoming children back on the 1st November

Best Wishes,
Mrs Lavelle



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

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Harvest Festival



Thank you so much to our families for your very generous donations to our Harvest collection, we very much appreciate this and I know The People's Kitchen will be delighted when they come to collect this.

We were delighted to welcome Nursery, Reception, KS1 and Year 3 parents/carers to our Harvest Assemblies after such a long time of not being able to do this. The children shared some very interesting Harvest information, Harvest poems, riddles and prayers in addition to some lovely songs and dances!

School Governor

We have vacancies on our Governing Body for two Parent Governors. This is a voluntary role for parents/carers who are interested in being more involved in the school and would like to share views from a parent/carer perspective and contribute towards the successful running of our school. We have a meeting each term in school (usually 5.30-7.30pm) with nice biscuits! There is usually an opportunity to look around school at these meetings also to look at classrooms and displays. Some governors attend additional meetings if they wish as a link governor for one of the subjects or as a member of our Curriculum Committee.

Our current governing body are a friendly and welcoming group and Mrs Wise and I also attend every meeting. If you are interested in joining us, please watch out for an email that will be sent out after half term explaining how to apply for this role.

Platinum Jubilee Bank Holiday

Due to this extra bank holiday taking place during the Summer Half-Term holiday, schools have been asked to take this additional bank holiday during term time at some point during the year. **We have decided to take our Bank Holiday on Monday 27th June 2022, meaning school will be closed on this day.** As we have a Teacher Training Day on Friday 24th June, we thought this would give families an opportunity to book a long weekend break if they wish at a more reasonable price than during peak times.



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Online Safety



THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD Article 17:

You have the right to get information that is important to your well-being, from radio, newspaper, books, computers and other sources. Adults should make sure that the information you are getting is not harmful, and help you find and understand the information you need.

As you will be aware, it is more and more important to ensure our children are kept safe online and are not accessing inappropriate content or communicating with individuals they do not know. As always, there are stories in the media about games and programmes that are not suitable for children but which they may find out more about through some of their online activity. The link below should support you in keeping your child safe online.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/entertainment-search-engines/>

Miss Allen, our Online Safety Lead will be sending you regular updates/useful information and we are planning an Online Safety workshop for parents/carers in the new year.

Year 5 Theatre Visit to Lord Lawson



Year 5 really enjoyed their visit to Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy to watch this show performed by their students and it was nice to spot some former Ouston Primary pupils! The behaviour of our pupils was superb and it gave them a great theatre experience. Other Theatre visits are planned this year for Years 2, 4 and 6.

Admissions to Reception 2022

Please note that the deadline for applications for admission to Reception in September 2022 is 15th 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.



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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. Please also be considerate to our neighbours and do not block driveways or roads. You will notice that Parking Wardens are now making unannounced visits to our school and will issue fines where needed.

Autumn Art Work

Children across school have enjoyed creating some lovely Autumn Art work during the last two weeks and this is now displayed around school. Here are one or two examples.



Danika Year 4



Nursery and Reception



Oliver Year 5



Daisy Year 1

Parent/Carer Survey

Please see the email that has been sent asking to share your views about our school. Surveys should be completed by 5th November and your views are much appreciated.



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Rights Respecting School Silver Award



You will notice our lovely new banner on the school gates! We were given the award back in June but our banner has just recently arrived. We are very proud to receive this recognition of our work in school and the fact that children's rights are at the heart of everything we do.

Dates for the Diary

1st November: Back to School

8th and 9th November: Nursery, Reception and KS1 Parents/Carers Evenings. Letters will be sent out after half term with more details about these.

8th November, 9.30am: Years 1 and 2 Maths workshop for parents/carers

9th November, 9.30am: Years 3 and 4 Maths workshop for parents/carers

10th November, 9.30am: Years 5 and 6 Maths workshop for parents/carers

More details to follow but these will be an opportunity to hear about how we approach Maths in school, look at our calculations policy and work on some practical Maths activity with your child.

15th and 16th November: KS2 Parents/Carers Evenings. More details to follow

15th November: Anti-Bullying Day – children may come to school dressed in blue

19th November: Children in Need Day – children may wear non-uniform and/or spots, stripes, Children in Need merchandise etc.

26th November – School closed to pupils due to a Teacher Training Day



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