King Street Primary & Pre - School

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Spennymoor

County Durham

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20th April 2018

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome back to all of our children and families. I hope you all had an enjoyable break despite the miserable weather. The children have already been recounting some of the brilliant adventures they have had.

Summer term is always a lovely term, the sun usually shines and the children can be outside far more. Please have a cap and sun cream in your child’s bag so they are always prepared for sunny days- the weather can be so changeable we never know when we will get one!

**Staff news**

I would like to officially welcome Miss Samantha Robson to our school team, she is officially our new Year 5 teacher for this term and already has made great relationships with staff and parents. Miss Robson has set her class away with some wonderful creative work around spies and superheroes – I wonder which super power they all chose to have?

All parents should have now received the summer newsletter from the class teacher which will update you on PE days, curriculum topics and any key dates you need to be aware of. If you have any questions about this, please don’t hesitate to speak to the class teacher.

**Diary dates**

A really important week for Year 6 will soon be upon us – it is essential that children in Year 6 are all present during their SATs. This takes place from Monday 14th May – Thursday 17th May.

The Year 2 SATs are administered by staff in school in a far less formal way. Children do not sit these in a given week and staff have the flexibility to administer these as and when they feel appropriate. However, it is therefore important that your child has good attendance.

The Year 1 phonics screening test is administered in June and information about this has already been given by Mrs Kane. The children are doing amazingly well with their phonic knowledge and continually amaze me with their abilities. We particularly enjoyed the ‘ow’ sound on our snowy days!

**Parent links and communication**

We, as always, are looking at ways of developing our links with parents and the community and ensuring you have the information you require to understand how well your child is doing at school. We have recently brought in Marvellous Me which allows you to hear about the wonderful things they have taken part in or achievements they have had. Over 85% of parents now have this app which means we can communicate really effectively. We would urge others to also sign up as it is a really useful way of seeing what they have been doing. We also work in partnership with ‘Eschools’ which is based around messaging services, online booking systems and display attendance information to families. The company had experienced some technical issues recently and they continue to advise that if you experience problems logging in or receiving messages you should delete the app and re install it. They also advise to undertake any updates of the app. If you do still experience any further problems with the app, please let us know and we can contact them and ask to have it resolved.

Whichever messaging service we use we are limited to no more than 160 characters in a text message, which includes punctuation and spacing between words. This does mean that our text messages have to be concise. Additional text messages cost the school ,as it would to send normal text messages, and I am sure you can appreciate we aim to minimise the overall cost of sending any unnecessary messages when we always want to spend our school budget directly on the children and activities for them to enjoy. I would encourage more people to download the Eschools app as this does have a ‘letter’ format we could use in future for extended messages but I would first need to be confident that all parents would receive this and without the app, this would not happen. If you are unsure of how to download the app or require your login again, please ask the class teacher or send a note to school with your child.

We are also looking for your thoughts and ideas about how you would best like additional information given to you. From September, we would like to ensure that half termly you receive an update about the progress being made, if you have any thoughts or ideas about what you think this could look like please let us know- we value your opinion.

**Sporting news**

Our wonderful Netball team won their latest competition which now puts them through to the next stages and hopefully continue on the winning streak. A big well done to the team and the staff involved in the training.

**After school clubs**

Due to popular demand from children, Mr Colling has been tracking down a number of professional coaches who can offer high quality clubs to children. He has managed to book a range of different types of clubs from Yoga to Karate for children right across the school. We are also doing a board games club due to popular demand and Mrs Cummings has a great range of brand new games ready to play. These clubs will run from next week and children have already been allocated places. If your child would like to join us next half term please look out for the next round of club request forms. We do listen very carefully to the children here at King Street and wherever possible do act upon their requests to ensure that clubs meet their wants and needs!

**Attendance**

Once again I will take this opportunity to remind parents of the importance of good attendance. The Government expectations are that children have a minimum attendance of 96%. We did have an improvement in our spring term which more children than before getting 100% attendance awards but we continue to have a number of children who are persistently absent and this has a detrimental effect on their learning. We are working very closely with the Local Authority Attendance Improvement Team to monitor school attendance and improve it where necessary. We have talked to the children about being a **HERO** - **H**ere **E**veryday, **R**eady **O**n time. There has been a vast improvement in lateness and we now only have a very small number of children who are persistently late, so thank you for your co-operation.

I hope the warm weather continues and look forward to working with you all again for the last term in this academic year.

As always if you have any ideas, suggestions or concerns please speak to myself or make an appointment through the school office. We aim to work together to ensure your child receives the best possible school experience.

Yours Sincerely

J Bromley

Head Teacher

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| Date | Time | Event |
| Monday 7th May | ALL DAY | May Day Bank Holiday – School Closed |
| Monday 14th – Thursday 17th May |  | Key Stage 2 SATs Week |
| Friday 25th May | 5.45 | School Closes for Half Term Holiday |
| HALF TERM HOLIDAY | | |
| Monday 4th June | ALL DAY | CPD Day – School Closed |
| Tuesday 5th June | 7.45 | Schools Re-Opens |
| Friday 15th June | 1.00 | Fathers’ Day Event |
| Wednesday 27th June | 1.00 – 3.00 | EYFS & KS1 Sports Day |
| Thursday 28th June 2017 | 1.00 – 3.00 | KS2 Sports Day |
| Monday 2nd – Wed 4th July | 3.00 – 6.00 | Parents Evening (Pre-School to Year 5) |
| Tuesday 10th – Thursday 12th July | 3.00 – 6.00 | Parents Evening (Year 6) |
| Wednesday 18th July | 1.45 | Year 6 Leavers’ Assembly |
| Thursday 19th July | 6.00 | Year 6 Sleepover |
| Friday 20th July | 5.45 | School Closes for Summer Holiday |