King Street Primary & Pre - School

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Spennymoor

County Durham

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12th January 2018

Dear Parent/Carer,

Happy New Year to you all. I hope you had a wonderful Christmas break and had to chance to relax and recuperate. The children have returned with enthusiasm and energy and are looking forward to the new term. It was lovely to see the children in assembly on Monday, looking very smart in school uniform with smiles on their faces.

We have had a huge improvement this week in the number of children who are late and I am really pleased that we are able to work together on this issue as it is so disruptive to both the child who is late and the other children in class. Late children usually try and creep into class unnoticed but this can prove very difficult with 30 sets of eyes watching! We will be continuing our drive towards being ‘Perfectly Punctual’ and we will always notify you as a parent if your child has been arriving late for school. This drive also continues to improve our school attendance. We still have a few children who are regularly absent and are not informed by parents as to why this is. We are now working very closely with the Local Authority and One Point to support parents of children who have attendance below 96% to ensure they can improve attendance rates and give their child the best opportunity to succeed.

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| **Table of attendance figures** |
| **Percentage** | **Days Absence** | **Comment** | **Achievement** |
| **Above 97%** | Less than 6 days absence per year | Excellent Attendance | These children will almost certainly achieve their full potential in school |
| **95-96%** | 10 days absence per year | Missing 2 weeks of school every year | These children are likely to achieve but could still improve their attendance! |
| **90% - 94%** | 19 days absence per year | Missing one month of school every year | These children will find it hard to achieve their best in school |
| **85% - 89%** | 29 days absence per year | Missing six weeks of school every year | These children will find it very difficult to keep up with work in school and are unlikely to achieve their potential |
| **80% - 84%** | 38 days absence per year | Missing a year of school over the time spent in primary education | These children will find it almost impossible to keep up with their work. |

**Punctuality-**

**5 minutes** late every morning = nearly **half an hour** of lessons missed **every week**.

**10 minutes** late every morning = nearly **one hour** of lessons missed **every week**.

**5 minutes** late every morning = nearly **6 hours** of lessons missed **every term**.

**5 minutes** late every morning = nearly **12 hours** of lessons missed **every term**.

**5 minutes** late every morning = nearly **1 week** of lessons missed **every year**.

**5 minutes** late every morning = nearly **2 weeks** of lessons missed **every year**.

**Eschools**

This is just a reminder that you should have also received a login for a new communication platform called ‘eschools’ which we will begin using this term. Eventually it will allow all communication such as newsletters, trip letters and event reminders to be sent straight to your phone. It also gives you access to your child’s attendance record so you can monitor their attendance levels, as we always aim for children to be at school for 96% of the time. One benefit of this new system is an online booking service for parents evening. This section will become active when we get closer to the date. As it is a brand new system, we do anticipate that there may be teething troubles- the system relies heavily on parents and carers downloading the app to their phone or using the website login that you are given (both give access to exactly the same site). Please, if you have smartphone technology, follow the instructions on the sheet that was sent home and download eschools. (You will need the password on the sheet as this gives direct access to your own child’s personal account) If you have mis-placed the login details please contact the class teacher who can organise a replacement to be sent. We will try uploading this newsletter as a test to see if the system is working as expected, we will then continue to upload future letters as well as sending out the paper copies. Hopefully developing our communication systems means you have better access to information about your child and the events that are happening in school. Please, as always contact myself, class teachers or the office if there is anything you would like to discuss.

**After School Clubs**

Our after school clubs will begin on Monday with children from across the school being invited to join in a range of different types of clubs. We have been trying to improve the range of activities on offer so that many different interests are catered for. We will continue this in the summer term by offering yet another different range of clubs. Hopefully, this way, all children will have the opportunity to participate in a club that suits them. If your child expressed an interest in a club then you should have received a reply slip this week. If you have any queries please contact the school office and ask to speak to Mr Colling who oversees the organisation of these clubs.

The clubs are as follows:

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| Monday | Football |
| Wednesday | Multiskills- Reception/ Year 1/Year 2 |
| Thursday | Newspaper club -Year 5/6 |
| Friday | Drama – all KS2 |
| In addition to this we will continue to work with our Netball and Basketball teams as and when tournaments arise and we will continue to attend festivals of both a competitive and non-competitive nature.  |

If you are a parent or community member and would like to run a club at school or would like to use or school hall as a venue for your current club, please get in touch. We are always looking to offer new and exciting opportunities to the children.

**Dates for diary**

We have added three dates to the existing list of events. These are all information events for parents and carers. We strongly encourage you to attend. The dates are as follows and have been added to the diary sheets for future reference:

**Thursday 25th January at 4:30pm**- Year 6 Ski trip information session. Opportunity to ask any final questions and to confirm travel arrangements and equipment/kit required.

**Wednesday 7th February at 5pm-** Year 6 SATs information session

**Thursday 8th February at 3:15pm-** Year 1 phonics session. Information in supporting your child with phonics and the statutory Year 1 phonics test.

**Community events**

**Messy Church**

We take great pride in our links with the local church, St Andrew’s, and we have pleasure in confirming that the Sunday club will begin running again from 2-4pm. This is a well-attended event and the children participate in lovely activities. Please ask at the church if you require any further information.

**Musical production**

You may be aware that the Town Hall will be hosting a musical production on Friday 9th and Saturday 10th March. Hopefully, this production may involve some of our own children (KS2 only) and is expected to be a very high quality and very entertaining event. It is being run by ‘Enter cic’ drama club at Ferryhill. If you would like further information regarding performance times and tickets please see the posters around the school entrance and reception area.

If you have any concerns, comments or queries please call into school and speak to myself or staff. It has been lovely to get to know so many of you over the last 2 terms and we appreciate your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mrs J Bromley

Head teacher

 Key Diary dates for 2017-18

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| **Macintosh HD:Users:Macmurray:Desktop:King Street Logos:final-white.jpg**Date | Time | **Macintosh HD:Users:Macmurray:Desktop:King Street Logos:final-white.jpg**Event |
| Monday 8th January 2018 | 7.45 | Schools Re-Opens |
| Wednesday 10th January  | 12.30 - 2.30 | Year 1 Multiskills Tournament |
| Tuesday 23rd January  | 12.30 - 3.00 | Year 5 & 6 Basketball Tournament |
| Thursday 25th January | 4:30pm | Year 6 Ski information event  |
| Friday 2nd February | 1.00 – 2.30 | KS2 Swimming Gala |
| Wednesday 7th February  | 5:00 pm  | Year 6 SATs information event |
| Thursday 8th February  | 3:15pm | Year 1 Phonics information event |
| Friday 9th February | 5.45 | School Closes for Half Term Holiday |
| HALF TERM HOLIDAY |
| Monday 19th February | 7.45 | School Re-Opens |
| Tuesday 20th February | 12.30 - 2.30 | Year 3 Sports Skills Tournament |
| Wednesday 21st February | 12.30 - 2.30 | Year 4 Sports Skills Tournament |
| Thursday 1st March | ALL DAY | World Book Day |
| Sat 3rd - Friday 9th March | Whole week  | Y6 France trip |
| Friday 9th March | 11.30 | Mothers’ Day Afternoon Tea |
| Monday 12th – Wed 14th March | 3.00 – 6.00 | Parents’ Evening |
| Friday 23rd March | ALL DAY | Red Nose Day |
| Thursday 29th March | 11.005.45 | Easter Service at St. Andrew’sSchool Closes for Easter Holidays |
| EASTER HOLIDAYS |
| Monday 16th April | 7.45 | School Re-Opens |
| 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 |
| SUMMER HOLIDAYS |
| Tuesday 4th September | 7.45 | School Re-Opens |