King Street Primary & Pre - School

High Grange Road

Spennymoor

County Durham

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06/07/2018

Dear Parent/Carer

This warm weather is wonderful and the children have been brilliant at being ‘sun safe’. Thank you for sending hats, sun cream and water bottles in daily as this means we can allow children to enjoy the outdoors really safely.

Thank you also to those parents who have joined us for parents evening or have made alternative appointments. Teachers have enjoyed their last opportunity to talk to you about your child and they have all expressed their gratitude at the very positive comments parents have made about the quality of care their child has received and the progress they have made. These positive comments really touch our staff who do work incredibly hard to give all the children the best experiences they can – including the climbing wall today and a host of free activities we have set up for the final week of term which the children will thoroughly enjoy!

**Ofsted**

Our Ofsted statement has also now been officially released and I am pleased to announce that the school remains a good school. We are very pleased that the Ofsted inspector raised the same areas for development we had already been working on and have further developments in the pipeline. It will come as no surprise to you all attendance was raised as a key priority- we must work together to get our children to school regularly; every day counts! The inspector recognised we are trying to modernise the school, developing the curriculum and putting children at the heart of the school by giving them access to a wider range of learning opportunities. The introduction of outdoor education has been a huge success but is only the beginning of our plans and hopefully next year you will see your child is excited about the range of different subjects they experience. Children are already helping us to re - design the school playtimes and internal spaces in school and have told us they want more Music, Art, Science and outdoor activities- so this is what they will get! Please remember if you have any skills you would like to share with the children, get in touch as it all adds to their learning experience.

The inspector also recognised the changes made to our Early Years unit, and valued that whilst it still is just developing and we have so much more to add, he felt it had real ‘promise’ and children were developing appropriate skills. He also recognised that children made strong progress across Reading and Writing and Maths in the whole school although felt given the strength of teaching these skills we could now begin to offer a wider range of subjects.

The letter that was sent to the school with the full findings is available on the website under ‘Ofsted’ for anyone who wishes to find out more or please ask at the office for a paper copy. We will endeavour, of course, to continue to develop our wonderful school, where our children have just confirmed in a questionnaire they are ‘very happy’! We hope you too recognise the journey the school is on to include your child in decisions about their education and offer a positive and fun learning environment.

**Attendance**

Year 6 had the highest attendance this week with 100%. The overall school attendance this year so far is 95.4% while this week it has been 94.6%. No classes were perfectly punctual and 306 minutes were lost due to lateness. The threshold for what is termed as persistent absence has been determined as 90%, as opposed to 85% previously. Unfortunately, we are also unable to authorise term time holidays as we have to follow the Government and Durham County protocol. The Durham County protocol explains that penalty notices must be issued ‘in instances of unauthorised holidays in term time (where the holiday gives rise to 7 days or more unauthorised absence in any period). Our local authority will enforce any penalty notices.

**Dates for the diary**

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| Year 6 Leavers’ Performance | Tuesday 17th July 2018 6.00pm |
| Year 6 Leavers’ Performance | Wednesday 18th July 2018 1.30pm |
| Year 4 Pooley Bridge Residential | Wednesday 18th – Friday 20th July 2018 |
| Year 6 Sleepover | Thursday 19th July 6.00pm 2018 |
| School closes at the end of the summer term | Friday 20th July 2018 |

As always, if you have any queries or concerns please speak to myself or a member of staff.

Yours Sincerely

Mrs J Bromley

Head teacher