**King Street Primary & Pre - School**

High Grange Road

Spennymoor

County Durham

DL16 6RA Telephone: (01388) 816078

Email: kingstreet@durhamlearning.net



13/3/20

Dear Parent/Carer

It is hard to believe that we are at the end of another week and the end of this spring term is already in sight. The weather has been really kind to us overall and we are hoping we begin to get even more spring weather. The children have been helping us with ideas for the school yard and we have purchased even more equipment this week which we hope will be delivered soon. We would however, like to reach out to families who may have connections in the ‘wood’ industry as we are looking for donations of lengths of decking and any spare pallet wood that can be offered. If you do have any contacts or know anyone who may have some they are willing to offer, please contact the school office. We are hoping to build messy kitchens from it for the children to use.

Thank you to all the parents who attended parent’s evenings this week. Staff have commented that they feel they were all a positive experience and they enjoyed sharing their knowledge of your children with you. If you have not yet made an appointment you can contact your child’s class teacher and make a convenient time. We do value the information you are able to give us at these events with regards to how your child is enjoying school, finding homework or any things they may be doing outside of school that we can celebrate.

Parent questionnaires

At parent’s evening we were asking opinions about how the school can move forward and share the lovely things that go on in class with our families. We know many children go home and when asked about their day say they ‘did nothing’ or ‘can’t remember’ which is a shame when they do some really fantastic things. We did look at a number of different options that others schools use and decided either Facebook or Twitter would be the best way forward. From the questionnaires that were filled in Facebook has been by far the most popular option. Miss Wigham therefore is now looking at how this would best work and is working alongside our technician to bring this idea to you. It will not be designed as a messaging system as we use text messages and Eschools for that purpose but should hopefully provide daily updates of what we do in school. We look forward to developing this over the coming weeks and will let you know more in due course.

We also asked families if they would like to continue using online communications or return to a paper newsletter and it was really pleasing to see how many people value the online service and do not want to return to paper copies. We will however, always send a paper copy of any letter that needs a reply slip and will have copies of the newsletter at the reception area of the school office if people would like to collect one. If you are not yet set up on Eschools and need any help with this, please do ask at the office as we are hoping over time all of our families will be fully connected with school information.

Coronavirus

Despite there being another COBRA meeting this week, the guidance for school closure remains the same: we are fully operational and remain open until told otherwise. We do have an increased hygiene regime in place and staff have spoken with children about taking extra care and we ask you continue to reinforce this at home. We do regularly check the guidance, both with Local authority and Public Health and have sent home tonight the poster information that is provided to schools. We will of course inform you as soon as guidance changes as we know updates can come at any time.

Packed lunches and school dinners

We are getting an increasing number of children who are swapping on a day to day basis between packed lunch and school dinner. Please can families give the office at least one week notice in writing to make any changes. Food is ordered into school based on the number of children we have registered for lunches the week before, therefore any changes on a daily basis cannot always be catered for.

Pet opportunity!

We have been asked by a family to let you know they have a budgie that needs rehoming. If anyone is interested in this opportunity, please contact the school office who will put you in touch with the family.

Young Carers

We are delighted to have been awarded the Young Carers Award for the work we do with our children. It is recognised we have a strong support system in place for all of our children and the staff work tirelessly to ensure they all receive the best education possible. If anyone feels they could benefit from this service do not hesitate to get in touch as we know there is currently no waiting list for family support.

After School Clubs

We have had a number of calls this week from parents wanting us to check with their child that they still want to go to the after-school club and the days and finish times of each club. Unfortunately, requests like this during the school day are very difficult as it disturbs teaching time. We would politely ask if you sign your child up for a club please ensure you note the information and they do attend the sessions as these clubs have limited places and it takes the space another child could have had. Thank you for you understanding.

Sporting events

Once again, our children have been very busy attending festivals and matches. This week our footballers have been recognised for their achievements and dedication to the school team. Well done to the whole team, Mr Colling was very impressed with your footballing skills.

Mother’s Day tea

We have had a brilliant response to this event and we very much look forward to it. If you have returned a request slip, your payment invoice will now be on Parent Pay. Please ensure payment is made by Wednesday 18th March. If you believe you have returned a slip but no invoice is showing, please contact the school office to ensure the slip was received in school. Please also understand that if, advice changes due to the coronavirus, we may need to cancel this event at short notice. Apologies in advance if this is the case.

Easter Crafts afternoon-3rd April.

Subject to the latest advice from Public Health England, we are hoping to hold an Easter crafts day for families. This will be on Friday 3rd April 1:15pm-2:15pm. This will be an open invitation to families to join their children for an hour of crafts- all equipment and materials supplied by school. We will give further confirmation of this event closer to the time based on the guidance available.

As always, if you have any queries or concerns please do not hesitate to get in touch. We always try and help. Equally, if you would like to volunteer in school we continue to need people of all ages to help with children’s reading- if you are interested please do get in touch.

Yours Sincerely

Joanne Bromley

Head teacher