King Street Primary & Pre - School

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09/02/2018

Dear Parent/Carer,

What a lovely atmosphere there has been in school, children are very excited on ‘Dress Down’ days and are also looking forward to their week off. We have had a wonderful half term which, whilst short, has been crammed with activities and fun things to do.

**Staff news**

It is with sadness that I announce that Mrs Harrison (our Year 5 teacher) will be leaving us after the Easter holidays (April). She will be relocated out of the county and therefore daily travelling will not be possible. Mrs Harrison is a dedicated teacher who is loved by the children and who always delivers thought provoking and exciting lessons. She will be sadly missed by everyone but we wish her good luck in her new adventures and I am sure her new classes will enjoy her teaching as much as we have.

This does mean that Y5 will have new teacher after Easter and I am extremely happy that we have been able to appoint an experienced and dedicated Y5 teacher to join our team. She is called Miss Robson and is very keen to begin to get to know the children – so much so that she is going to start with us straight after these holidays. Miss Robson will begin getting to know the class over the following half term whilst we still have Miss Harrison so the transition after Easter is very smooth and simple. Miss Robson is a very creative teacher who loves all aspects of the curriculum and she hopes to continue developing the good ideas the children already have.

**Breakfast Club and Daycare services**

You may have noticed that the scaffolding is now down from the detached ‘hub’ building that we use for breakfast and afterschool childcare services. This is because building work is now complete and it will be getting its final clean down over half term. We can, therefore, resume these services in this building from after half term. School re opens for Breakfast Club on Monday 19th February at 7:45am.

**Swimming Gala**

Many of our children attended the local swimming gala where I heard competition was fierce! It did not deter our swimming stars though and they came a very respectable 6th place. Well done to them all.

**Basketball Tournament**

After recently getting through to the finals of the local Basketball Tournament, our team worked very hard to secure a seventh place position which is very well done given they were competing at a very high level. Having already seen off many of the local primary schools in the 1st event, the children gleefully tell me that they managed to beat the last remaining local school to become the best Spennymoor Primary School! Well done everyone.

**Attendance and punctuality**

I am pleased to say that we now have fewer children being late than in the previous term, I would like to thank all of families who have made the effort to have children in school and ready for learning by 8.55am. It makes a huge difference to a child’s attitude towards learning and teacher’s all recognise the difference in their progress. We are continuing our drive to improve attendance and whilst I appreciate if children are genuinely poorly they may need some rest time, many children are not able to give reasons for their absence and it is these children who we need too have in school so the disruption to their education is minimised. A couple of days absent from school can mean a whole unit of learning being missed.

**On-line safety**

Once more it is on the news that young children are at risk of being victims of abuse online. This week has been internet safety week and I have been talking to local support services who often become involved in the most serious of cases of abuse and they tell me it is happening in our local area - this is not something our children are immune to. Please monitor your children’s browsing history, check online friends, speak to your child about the details they are revealing about themselves on line. A small amount of information is all someone needs to befriend them. We are also continuing to talk to our children about playing games which are deemed inappropriate due to the age restriction. Many of our children are telling us they regularly access ‘18’ certificate games which show extreme violence and sexualised behaviour. Please ensure that children are not accessing this type of game - school have a duty of care to the children and we will monitor any children who repeatedly advise us they are playing inappropriate games.

**PE kit**

Children should have their PE kits in school every day. These are kept on children’s pegs and can be accessed when needed. There are some days when children would not normally have PE when staff decided to do extra sporting activities. A number of children have not had PE kits in school and can potentially miss out on valuable exercise, please ensure your child brings their kit at the beginning of the new term ready for future sessions.

**World Book Day**

Thursday 1st March is World Book Day and once again we will be participating in this event. It is a wonderful opportunity to promote reading to our children and encourage a love of books - both fiction and non-fiction. We would like to encourage the children to dress up as their favourite book character and they can even bring in a book that they would like to share with/recommend to a friend. Miss Bell will issue a further reminder later closer to the time.

**Holiday Club**

Due to all of the works being undertaken in the ‘Hub’ building, we were not able to commit to running a holiday club this time. However, we are scheduled to run one over Easter and hopefully, most holidays thereafter. The previous one, ran by Scout.ed proved very popular. We look forward to working with them again.

I wish everyone a wonderful holiday break and look forward to seeing all of our children, full of enthusiasm, on Monday 19th February.

Yours sincerely

Mrs J Bromley

Head teacher

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| Date | Time | | 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 16th March** | |  | **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 | | 11.00  5.45 | Easter Service at St. Andrew’s  School 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 |

**** Key Diary dates for 2017-18