King Street Primary & Pre - School

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Spennymoor

County Durham

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13th October 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

It is a busy time of year for schools at the moment and you will notice that you have received a number of letters through Eschools this week.

We have issued request forms for both the Halloween disco and the Halloween themed meal. Please ensure you complete and return these forms (using the online link) to ensure your child does not miss out. Events must always be pre-booked to allow plenty of time for food to be ordered.

We have also issued paper copies of medical consent forms this week and these must be returned to school. This consents for your child to receive medical treatment in the event they have a mild illness in school or in an emergency situation. If you require another copy of this form, please contact the school office.

Once Halloween is over, it won’t be long before we are turning our attention to Christmas and the lovely events we hold!

**Email addresses**

If you change your email address, please let the school office know. Our communication platform, Eschools, relies upon up to date contact details to send you the latest school information including newsletters, events and parents evening information. Where we do not have up to date email and contact numbers you will miss out on crucial information. You can also check our Facebook page and website for information updates.

**Autumn competition**

As always at this time of year, we are having an autumn competition and have asked the children to search for any of the following:

* The biggest Conker they can find.
* The biggest Pine Cone (Fir cone) they can find.
* The reddest leaf they can find.
* The lightest shade of yellow leaf they can find.

Children should bring their competition entries into school in a container or small bag (sandwich bags are ideal) and they should be clearly labelled with their name. The entries will be judged on 10th November and a prize awarded for the winner of each category. The aim of the competition is to encourage children to get outside, enjoy family walks and immerse themselves in nature, finding out lots of facts along the way. The upcoming half term holiday should be perfect for this and we’ve already spotted conkers ripe and ready to collect.

**Show racism the red card**

Friday 20th October is ‘show racism the red card day’. To show our support for this national campaign, children can come to school on Friday 20th October wearing something red. They do not need to wear school uniform. It would be lovely in our assembly to see a ‘sea of red’ to show that our children will not tolerate racism.

**Online safety**

Last week I mentioned a new platform that we have invested in, we’re delighted to let you know that King Street Primary School has become a member of The National College – a multi-award-winning online training provider for parents.

**What does this mean for you?**

As part of our membership, The National College provides dedicated training and resources for parents and carers – particularly, around online safety and keeping children safe online. Of course, staff will continue to teach children about the risks online. But with the internet so readily accessible, the most effective approach to online safety needs everyone involved, including parents and carers.

That’s why you’ve now got access to ***hundreds of*** ***courses, explainer videos and online safety guides***to support your awareness of the online world. Topics range from understanding apps like TikTok and Instagram to recognising the signs of online harm and what you can do to help.

**Sign up is easy**

Signing up to the platform is simple. Just follow [https://nationalcollege.com/enrol/king-street-primary-school](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fnationalcollege.com%2Fenrol%2Fking-street-primary-school&data=05%7C01%7Cj.bromley200%40kingstreet.durham.sch.uk%7C9c60dd8eb60f4aabbb7308dbcbd05a99%7C45dfff5283644d73bf3a8f98bdf10d87%7C0%7C0%7C638327867963967654%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=UoJt73aAwUe2ydGPKJcdFWfd0hnIZym6Ugjp%2Bws0Nbo%3D&reserved=0) and complete your details. Once you’re set up, you’ll be able to choose ‘Parent/Carer’ as your user type and get instant access to all training and resources.

**Download the app for free**

Another fantastic benefit of The National College is its National Online Safety app, which you can download for free. It gives you access to all their parent and carer resources on the go, whenever you want. You can download the National Online Safety app using the links below:

[App store](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fapps.apple.com%2Fgb%2Fapp%2Fnational-online-safety%2Fid1530342372&data=05%7C01%7Cj.bromley200%40kingstreet.durham.sch.uk%7C9c60dd8eb60f4aabbb7308dbcbd05a99%7C45dfff5283644d73bf3a8f98bdf10d87%7C0%7C0%7C638327867963967654%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=ZW5IkKfqGbHpCOejQp%2FLvMecU5xt6VX7s3cecZtNSQ0%3D&reserved=0)

[Google Play](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fplay.google.com%2Fstore%2Fapps%2Fdetails%3Fid%3Duk.co.nationaleducationgroup.nos&data=05%7C01%7Cj.bromley200%40kingstreet.durham.sch.uk%7C9c60dd8eb60f4aabbb7308dbcbd05a99%7C45dfff5283644d73bf3a8f98bdf10d87%7C0%7C0%7C638327867963967654%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Z5Ip%2FUb0DbeVGaifCtncioNFJhr%2FW6%2BT58gcz%2Fh5Tm8%3D&reserved=0)

Please also remember that we issue an informative poster each week on our Facebook page. These are also very useful.

If you are ever concerned that your child is in danger online and maybe at risk of harm or abuse, you must report this.

Keeping children safe from harm is our number one priority. We will always act upon any concerns individuals have, or any disclosures from children. However, if you have any concerns outside of school, or if you have a concern about a child or young person’s welfare you can call First contact on 03000267979.

**Nursery and Reception Intake – September 2024**

We are holding an Open Evening for families to look around our EYFS on 25th October at 5pm. This information can be shared with friends or family within the community who may have a child of Nursery or school age.

Applications are now open for school places for next academic year, starting in September 2024. These must be applied for through the online portal: <https://durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions>. The deadline for applications is Monday 15th January 2024.

For enquiries about Nursery places, please contact the school office.

**Scooter and bikes**

We always encourage children to walk, bring scooters or bikes to school, rather than getting a lift in the car. This helps alleviate some of the parking issues we have but is also much better for the planet and children’s health. Where children do bring scooters or bikes, we do ask that they behave responsibly with them. We have had a number of reports of children running into others with bikes, crossing in front of cars or swinging scooters around and potentially hurting someone or damaging property. Please ensure that your child is supervised at all times to make sure everyone is safe.

**A reminder of family financial help and support**

We are always looking for ways to help our families and are proud to be more than just a school. Please see this range of information for parents regarding financial help and support:

**Financial help and support for families -**A dedicated web page [Help with your money](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.durham.gov.uk%2Fhelpwithyourmoney&data=05%7C01%7Cj.bromley200%40kingstreet.durham.sch.uk%7C423a8f21ba274e87e34708daa79edb03%7C45dfff5283644d73bf3a8f98bdf10d87%7C0%7C0%7C638006601548671637%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=q%2BHxx%2FZFZQQR7kVg4zA95zAplGrB%2F%2FmoPwsNli1gcSo%3D&reserved=0) has been developed for County Durham residents and contains specific help for families. The page has information on a range of support available including applying for Free School Meals (FSM), debt advice/financial help and help with heating and fuel bills.

**Help with buying items for school including school uniforms** - A dedicated web page has been developed for families to find out about this support [Help with buying items for school - Durham County Council](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.durham.gov.uk%2Fschooluniform&data=05%7C01%7Cj.bromley200%40kingstreet.durham.sch.uk%7C423a8f21ba274e87e34708daa79edb03%7C45dfff5283644d73bf3a8f98bdf10d87%7C0%7C0%7C638006601548671637%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=lsBaRYu%2FRPh9OAsH%2Fr8l%2BQrdKhgH0e0EeXkreaAcze8%3D&reserved=0)

**The Bread and Butter Thing (TBBT) -** TBBT collects surplus food and staple goods that often end up going to waste from supermarkets, factories and farms, and distributes it at a discount price through community hubs across County Durham. You will need to become a member to use the service, but this is free to do. Prices range depending on the size of the family, but whichever offer you opt for, you will be saving on your normal weekly food bill.

As the bags vary from day to day, some weeks the savings will be greater than others. However, you will always be paying much less than in the shops and have new foods to try. There is now a community hub in Spennymoor.

Very occasionally, if food supplies that day are low, we will not have enough for the 3 bags. If this is the case, we will lower the price.

We want you to feel we are making a difference to your weekly food bills.

You can pay by cash or card on collection at your local hub.

Don’t forget - someone can collect on your behalf if you can’t make it.

We also accept Healthy Start Vouchers. [Bread and Butter Thing: membership](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.breadandbutterthing.org%2Fmembers&data=05%7C01%7Cj.bromley200%40kingstreet.durham.sch.uk%7C423a8f21ba274e87e34708daa79edb03%7C45dfff5283644d73bf3a8f98bdf10d87%7C0%7C0%7C638006601548671637%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=6sElvMB%2FsOZHJJVHNjUk%2BGIWVMr1yHWrC41tD2t27mE%3D&reserved=0)

**Food bank vouchers**

If your situation becomes very difficult and you require the support of our local food bank at St Paul’s Centre, please speak to the school office (or myself) and we can arrange vouchers for you. Alternatively, you can speak to your health Visitor, GP or family worker and they can make a referral for you.

In addition to this, this website may also be useful:

[Fighting UK Poverty - Turn2us](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.turn2us.org.uk%2F&data=05%7C01%7Cj.bromley200%40kingstreet.durham.sch.uk%7Cd36bd99b356246c4fbb608daa6e2118a%7C45dfff5283644d73bf3a8f98bdf10d87%7C0%7C0%7C638005787127201868%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=kGO1L%2Frh7bogsi9NCONoM7FHz9UXJJdkSxssW5BKW2I%3D&reserved=0)

Turn2us is a national charity that helps people in financial hardship to gain access to welfare benefits, charitable grants and support services – online, by phone and face to face, through partner organisations and our volunteers.

[www.turn2us.org.uk](http://www.turn2us.org.uk/)

**Staff car park and back lane**

I would like to gently remind parents that the staff car park and the back lane are not to be used by parents. The car park is already very limited in space and where we have families also parking, it makes it difficult for staff and delivery drivers to access. The back lane is for residents only and we have been told that there are occasions when residents cannot get out of the lane due to families parking, blocking their access. There is parking around the area that we would encourage you to use. Thank you.

Upcoming diary dates

Friday 20th October – Wear red day (show racism the red card)

Monday 23rd October – School photo day.

Monday 23rd October to Thursday 26th October – SEND children parents’ evenings

Thursday 26th October – Halloween disco in school.

Wednesday 25th October- Open Evening for children eligible for Reception or Nursery places.

Friday 27th October- Halloween school themed meal day

Friday 27th October – School closes for half term

Monday 6th November - School reopens for Autumn term 2

Monday 13th to Friday 17th November – Parents’ evening Y1-6 (more information on booking will follow in due course)

Monday 13th November -Reception class stay and play

Wednesday 15th November – Nursery Class stay and play

Friday 17th November – Children in Need, dress down day.

As always, if you have any queries or concerns please speak to, or email, the school office. Teachers can also be contacted directly by email. If you require a teacher’s email, please speak to the school office.

Yours Sincerely

J Bromley

Head Teacher