King Street Primary & Pre - School

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11th September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I would like to start this week with another thank you to you all. The children continue to be happy and settled and they are working amazingly hard – they should all be sleeping well! Please remember to follow our social distancing guidelines and use the painted spots on the yard while you wait to collect your child.

Flu immunisations and illnesses

We have been asked by the NHS to encourage all families to take up the flu immunisation this year – it will be offered to all children in school and they will be sending out information and consent forms in due course.

In regards to illnesses, we are aware this this is the exact time that children start presenting with colds and stomach bugs. We also appreciate what a difficult time we could face over the next few months when these illnesses start to become more widespread – we already have sore throats and headaches going around.

Unfortunately, if your child presents with any of the Covid symptoms (it does not need to be all of them) we will request that they are taken for a test. This is simply following the guidelines that the Government have sent out to schools. We have already recognised the huge difficulty families are having getting an appointment with many people on the phone for hours and no tests being available. Until the Government change this advice, we will continue to ask that families do be patient with the system and persevere when booking until a test becomes available. We are unable to allow children into school who are presenting with symptoms.

Future lockdown provision

We are required by the Government to look towards provision in the event of a future lockdown. Whilst primary schools will now only ever close as a very last resort, we do need to ensure that education can continue. In the event of a further lockdown we will continue to use Eschools as a learning platform. Staff will upload the activities to the platform which children can access through their own (child friendly) page. Their log in will be first name.last name and password will be king. For example. Username: sam.smith password: king

We do understand that an online platform can present difficulties to families with limited electronic devices or internet access but in a lockdown situation it offers the best form of contact between a child and their teacher. Next week we will be sending out a survey to find out who has access to the internet and who has a device upon which they could access Eschools for learning purposes. (A tablet, PC or laptop are better devices to use than a mobile phone with a small screen). Where possible we will be trying to support families who have limited devices to ensure their children are not disadvantaged by using an online learning system. Please look out for the questionnaire next week and return it ASAP so we can be prepared for future changes.

Eschools continues to be used as a communication tool between school and parents and it is really important that we do have your up to date contact details including your email. Whilst newsletters are uploaded to our website each week, if you use eschools it will come direct to your device.

Staff car park

I would just like to remind parents that the car park is limited to staff use only. At present, the car park has very limited space due to the new walkway and there are cars manoeuvring in tight spaces. We do not want children hurt by getting out of family cars or cutting through the car park and being knocked by a car. Please keep to walkways at all times. Thank you.

Year 6 information

The application date for secondary school is fast approaching and parents of Year 6 children will soon receive an application form that is returned to Durham County Council. As a parent of a child in Year 6, I appreciate how difficult it is going to be this year to make a choice of secondary school when open evenings and day visits are not possible. We will pass on any information that local secondary schools give us but I urge you to contact the schools themselves with any questions because they are also working under difficult circumstances and offering opportunities to view the schools are limited. The closing date for applications has not been changed and remains at 31st October.

Mr Colling has asked that I reinforce to parents a message that he gave to his class – the homework is not obligatory! There is no expectation that all children will complete the homework every night. It is up to you and your child how much you would like them to complete and how often. The Government has asked schools to offer additional support to children (particulalry those who will be taking tests this year) so that they can catch up on missed learning. By creating homework, we are offering this additional work but we also know ourselves as professionals that children work incredibly hard all day and many are exhausted by an evening so please make your own decision about how much they do. We still want them to enjoy school!

Equipment for school

We will soon be into a routine of sending PE kits, water bottles and reading books home please do remember to return these to school as we are unable to share equipment in the current circumstances.

Finally, please remember we are here to help families – not just the children. If anything positive can been taken from the current situation it has been the sense of community and the support people have offered each other. If your circumstances have changed and you are struggling financially, we may be able to offer support to purchase small electrical items, bedding or clothes for children. If you think you may be entitled to free school meals please contact the office. All information is confidential and it would be a shame if allocated funding was not directed to where it is needed most.

If you have any queries or concerns please email the school on kingstreet@durhamlearning.net or contact your child’s teacher directly through your child’s Eschool account.

Yours Sincerely

Mrs J Bromley

Head Teacher