King Street Primary & Pre - School

High Grange Road

Spennymoor

County Durham

DL16 6RA Telephone: (01388) 8160781

Email: kingstreet@durhamlearning.net



Dear Parent/Carer,

A huge welcome back to all the children and families, it has been lovely to chat with children and parents throughout the week and hear about the fantastic experiences the children have had over the summer. Children have been very excited to share their news with friends they may not have seen and of course, with their new teachers. Children have settled well into their new routines and appear to be pleased to be back. We all look forward to the year ahead with lots of exciting things planned.

**EYFS**

Many parents of our younger children will have already had a chance to explore our new EYFS environment. A lovely, calm and relaxing home from home where children can learn with exciting resources which engage their imagination. If you have not yet had a chance to see our new environment and would like to do so, please contact the EYFS team and they will gladly show you around.

**A reminder of the new school routines:**

**Morning procedures**

We are now opening our main school doors (on the yard entrance) at 8:40. This will allow our earliest children (we will refer to these as our Early bird children) to filter into school as they arrive rather than wait around on the school yard. Children are not obliged to arrive at this time but must still be in school for 8:50am in order to be in class and registered for 8:55. In doing this, cloak areas will not be as crowded and parents will have longer opportunities to talk to staff about any concerns. The class teacher will be out on the yard from 8:40 until 8:55 whilst the support staff will monitor classrooms and set ‘Early Bird’ activities to engage the children. Again, this earlier entry time may allow parents to drop off and leave slightly earlier if they need to be at work. Please note. Children should not be on the school yard before 8:40am but are welcome to come to Breakfast club if childcare is needed before this time.

The new system is already working well and a huge percentage of children are entering school within the ‘early bird’ period which allows for a very settled start to the day. The children are thoroughly enjoying the activities set during this time.

**Breakfast and Daycare (childcare services)**

We are now open at 7:45am! This is proving popular, with 14 children who had arrived prior to 8am on some mornings this week. We do hope this is helping to support some parents who need to be at work early.

Please access the Breakfast Club building (the detached building) via the black security gate and use the buzzer to notify staff that you are there, if no staff are present.

Daycare (after school childcare) is also located in this building and is working well. The benefits of using this building are numerous. The children have immediate access to the small garden area which allows more free play opportunities but also allows staff to create activities such as bug hunting and shelter building as part of everyday activities. When required, the children will still be able to access the large sport yard for ball games and other sports.

**Uniform**

Thank you to all of you for providing such super smart uniforms for your children. The new shoes are shining and jumpers are pristine! Please continue sending the children in complete uniforms- including black shoes. We will be issuing some gentle reminder this term if children are wearing trainers, tracksuit bottoms or ‘hoodies’. Please be aware that staff will be vigilant and may catch you if your child is not wearing the correct uniform.

To order uniform please visit: Cre8ive graphics, Peel Street, Bishop Auckland or order through the current school website via the ‘shop’.

**Attendance**

You may have seen in the news recently; a father had attempted to challenge a fine given for taking a holiday in term time but was unsuccessful in court. This has strengthened the Local Authorities position on imposing such fines and tightening up on attendance guidance. The latest information for parents is “The Education Regulations 2006’ were updated recently and the Head teacher will not be able to approve absence for a family holiday ***unless they are very exceptional circumstances.*** Any application must be on the appropriate form, with appropriate evidence, at least 2 weeks in advance of the intended holiday and must clearly state the exceptional circumstances. Exceptional circumstances can include:

* Service personnel and employees who are prevented from taking holidays in term time
* When a family may need to spend time together due to a crisis
* Parents who are subject to a strict and unnegotiable holiday rota and evidence from employer must be provided with the holiday leave application form.

I must stress that based on advice that I have been given from Local authority, **I MUST NOT** authorise any holiday unless they met the very strict criteria and the cost of holidays in term time is not allowed to be taken into consideration.

I appreciate the huge difference that this will make to so many families and fully understand the massive difference a holiday can cost to take during authorised holiday period. I sincerely apologise for not being able to authorise these and despite any personally held beliefs, Government advice is that there is a huge loss to a child’s education if numerous days holidays are taken in term time. This is why therefore, there is an expectation that schools will continue to pursue families with below expected attendance with fines. I will issue in due course the most up to date Local authority leaflet with confirms this guidance alongside the guidance for parents that the school has adopted to ensure only permitted holidays are authorised. .

**Curriculum and learning**

The children are displaying such enthusiasm for their learning this week that it is contagious! Their thirst for knowledge and enquiring minds has been a pleasure to observe. I feel very lucky to work with children who are so keen to learn and behaviour has been wonderful. We have lots more planned over the coming weeks- some children have already experienced our outdoor learning sessions and the feedback has been very positive.

**Ski Trip**

For the first time, children at King Street are having the opportunity of a residential trip abroad. This trip is planned to take place in March next year. It will be organised and facilitated by our Outdoor Learning Team (Real Adventure Through Sport). Steve Kenna, the company leader, will be hosting an information event for parents on Tuesday 19th September at 4:30pm. This is a short informative event which will help you decide if you wish your child to attend. At present the company is currently confirming the final price based on the cost of flights. Final confirmation will be given at the information event. I hope this is an event that will be repeated every year for our future Year 6 children.

**General Information**

**Break and Lunchtimes**

After much staff discussion we have decided to alter the timings of Breaks and Lunches for some of our children. This will make learning time more effective and will ensure that children have adequate time in the hall to eat their lunch at a relaxed pace whilst still having ample play time. This does mean that some of our older children have a slightly later lunch time. Due to this we have decided that children in KS2 (Years 3-6) can now bring fruit for a morning break time. This will ensure that children are not hungry during the slightly extended learning time. Please do not allow your children to bring cereal bars, sweets or snack bars. This is a FRUIT ONLY snack and will build upon the free fruit scheme that children are offered in KS1.

**Book Sale**

We are holding a school book sale all next week (STARTING TUESDAY 12TH) which will allow children to purchase books that were previously in our school and class library that we no longer require. The books will be available for sale during a morning break and also after school. The books are 20p each. Please talk to your child, inform their class teacher or send us a note to let us know if you wish your child to purchase books and how much they may spend. (Maximum limit £3) once your child has chosen the books we will invoice your parent pay account for payment. Please be aware, whilst all the books are in a very readable state- they are not new books and therefore will show signs of wear.

We will also be auctioning off any art work that has previously been displayed around school that is no longer required. This includes some superhero pictures and Frozen pictures. These would make ideal gifts for people as they are all in good condition. To make this a fair process we will be taking sealed bids next week. The items will all be on display after school next week with an allocated number. Please complete a slip with your maximum bid. The highest bidder on Friday evening will be the winner. Winners will be informed the following week and invoiced via parent pay. Good luck to all our bidders!

**Diary dates**

With this newsletter is the upcoming events for the school year, we will add to this over time but hopefully it will allow you to start planning for anything you wish to attend.

**Website and Marvellous Me**

The website is near completion and is due to be live next week. Our communication app Marvellous Me had been due to go live this week but there have been connectivity issues in school and with the provider therefore there is a small delay but hopefully this will also be live next week. It is exciting time for everyone as you will be able to see what your child is up to during the school day.

**Volunteers**

Finally, all volunteers who have put forward to help in and after school have now been allocated to a member of staff. Therefore in the near future a member of staff will contact you directly and make arrangements that suit your availability. Thank you again for your offers of help. We have 22 people signed up to support us and this number grows weekly!

Finally, (so much to tell you in such a short week!) a big thank you for your patience with Parent Pay. I appreciate it isn’t always an easy system to use but it will prove much easier to use once we are all used to it!

As always, if you have any comments or concerns, please speak to a member of staff or contact me through the office or on the yard.

Yours Sincerely

Miss J Nugent

****Key Dates for Academic Year 2017-18

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Time | | Event |
| Tuesday 12th – Tuesday 19th September 2017 | 3.00 – 3.30 | | School Book Fair & Art Auction |
| Wednesday 13th September | 3.45 – 5.00 | | Year 5 & 6 Cross Country tournament |
| Monday 18th September | 9.30 – 2.30 | | Year 6 Transition Day at Whitworth Park School |
| Tuesday 19th September | 4.30 – 5.00 | | Year 6 Parents’ Meeting – Ski Trip |
| Friday 22nd – Wednesday 27th September | 8.30 – 9.00  3.00 – 3.30 | | Scholastic Book Fair |
| Tuesday 26th September | 9.00 – 12.00 | | Year 2 Trip to Botanic Gardens TBC |
| Friday 29th September | 1.30 | | Harvest Festival at St. Andrew’s |
| Monday 2nd October | 9.00 – 3.00 | | Year 6 Trip to Nissan |
| Tuesday 3rd October | 3.45 – 5.00 | | Year 5 & 6 Football League begins |
| Friday 13th October | 9.00 – 12.00 | | Year 3 & 4 Multiskills Tournament |
| Monday 16th – Wednesday 18th October | 3.00 – 6.00 | | Parents’ Evening |
| Tuesday 17th October | 9.30 – 2.30 | | Year 5 & 6 Tag Rugby Tournament |
| Thursday 19th October | 3.30 – 4.45  5.00 – 6.15 | | EYFS & KS1 Halloween Disco TBC  KS2 Halloween Disco TBC |
| Thursday 19th October | 5.45 | | School Closes for Half Term Holiday |
| Friday 20th October | ALL DAY | | CPD Day – School Closed  Holiday Club Available |
| HALF TERM HOLIDAY | | | |
| Monday 31st October | | 7.45 | Schools Re-Opens |
| Wednesday 1st November | | 5.00 | Open Evening for Prospective Reception Parents |
| Tuesday 7th November | | 12.00 - 3.00 | Year 5 & 6 Sportshall Athletics Competition |
| Wednesday 8th November | | 3.45 – 5.00 | Year 5 & 6 Netball League begins |
| Friday 17th November | | ALL DAY | Children In Need |
| Monday 24th November | | 9.30 - 12.00 | Year 2 Multiskills Tournament |
| Monday 27th November | | 4.00 | Full Governing Body Meeting |
| Friday 1st December | | 3.00 – 5.30 | Christmas Fayre |
| Monday 4th December | |  | Nativity Tickets On Sale |
| Friday 8th December | | 9.00 - 12.00 | Year 5 & 6 Boccia Tournament |
| Wednesday 13th December | | 9.30  2.00 | EYFS & KS1 Christmas Nativity  KS2 Christmas Nativity |
| Thursday 14th December | | 9.30  2.00 | KS2 Christmas Nativity  EYFS & KS1 Christmas Nativity |
| Tuesday 19th December | | 1.00 – 3.00 | EYFS & KS1 Christmas Parties |
| Wednesday 20th December | | 11.00  1.00 – 3.00 | Advent Service at St. Andrew’s  Year 3 & 4 Christmas Party |
| Thursday 21st December | | 1.00 – 3.00 | Year 5 & Year 6 Christmas Party |
| Friday 22nd December | | 5.45 | School Closes for Christmas Holidays |
| CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS | | | |
| 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 |
| Friday 2nd February | | 1.00 – 2.30 | KS2 Swimming Gala |
| 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 |
| Friday 9th March | | 11.30 | Mothers’ Day Afternoon Tea |
| Monday 12th – Wednesday 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 – Wednesday 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 |