King Street Primary & Pre - School

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20th November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I would like to start with a thank you to everyone who made a contribution towards the Poppy Appeal. I think, under the current circumstances, everyone had expected that fundraising efforts would be hampered and less money made for the cause. However, I am really pleased to say that the opposite has happened- we have raised more money this year than ever before. Together, we have raised £243. This shows that, even in very difficult times, everyone wants to contribute to good causes. It was equally pleasing to see that in the same week, Children In Need made a staggering 41 million pounds. Thank you again to everyone who has contributed to these causes.

Book amnesty

During lockdown we gave all children books to read at home. Most of these have now been returned but we are still missing a number of books from our shelves and would ask that all families have a good look around their homes and return any school books to us. Every year we spend a significant amount replacing lost books as we have a real passion for encouraging reading at school and at home. Any money spent replacing lost books means that we have less money to spend on other resources for children. If you also have any donations of books, these would be gratefully received so we can create small libraries in each class bubble. Thank you in advance.

Christmas events

As you can imagine, Christmas in the outside world may not look the same this year. We obviously cannot allow parents into school to watch a school performance and we are not able to mix the classes to create a school nativity. However, we do intend to make this year extra special with some wonderful Christmas treats for the children. I have been asked a couple of times this week about children bringing in Christmas cards. There is some logistical organisation needed for us to allow this to happen as guidance suggests we cannot allow children to swap items from home to home but we do appreciate how important Christmas cards are to the children. Therefore we are going to organise the following: Children can bring in Christmas cards but for ***their own class only.*** These will be held in a box in school to allow them to be ‘decontaminated’ before we hand them out. Any child who wants to bring in a Christmas card for their friends must do so by Friday 11th December. These will all then be given out in the last week of term. This ensures we can manage this in a Covid safe way.

We do still intend to hold Christmas class parties and will also be bringing an element of the school fayre to classrooms this year too! In addition to this we will have Christmas movie time with popcorn and sweets, a panto, Christmas crafts and decoration making plus a ‘design and make a Christmas Lockdown t shirt’ event. This, of course, is all in addition to the school Christmas lunch, festive tunes and general festive fun.

Social media

It has come to our attention that many of our children, particularly higher up school, are accessing inappropriate social media and websites. Some of these are explicit adult sites which can be harmful for children to view. We also know that currently Tik Tok is very popular for children to watch and then upload their own videos but I must remind parents that this site is rated as a 13. We have monitored Tik Tok sites over the last week and it is quite easy to access inappropriate videos which include bad language and disturbing scenes. We do teach about online safety in school but would also request that you chat to your child about their online use and regularly check their browsing history. When children have mobile phones, we also ask that you monitor their use of WhatsApp as we have been made aware of messages sent between children which can be very unkind and whilst these incidents are outside of school - they do spill over into school time when children are upset.

Government guidance

The Local Authority have, again, asked schools to remind families of their requirement to follow lockdown rules, to not mix households and to continue to socially distance. There is recognition that communities are feeling ‘Covid fatigue’ but we are determined to reduce the number of cases in the community so we are able to offer our children and families a more ‘normal’ day to day life. Please do follow the guidance and help keep our children and families safe.

King Street Facebook page

Mr Colling has launched our school Facebook page. This is initially is going to focus on health and wellbeing and support our children and families to lead active lifestyles. There will be regular challenges for children to take part in and we would love you to post photos of your children taking part. We already have over 60 followers but would love to have more of you join us. Please look out for our page: King Street Primary- home of Active Ted.

Family support and funding

Please do remember that if your family circumstances have changes, you may be entitled to Free School meals. Please contact the school office for more information. We do also have access to support and funding for many different items from food and clothing to electrical items. We do want to help our families as much as possible and would like to see this funding being utilised so if you are in need of a little extra support in these difficult times, please do not be afraid to ask. We are here to help and all requests are confidential.

Yours sincerely

J Bromley

Headteacher