King Street Primary & Pre - School

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County Durham

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15th September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

The weather appears to have taken a turn for the worse this week and we are holding out hope this is not the start of a much colder spell. Our children love the outdoors and it is always a much nicer experience when the sun shines!

Our building work has now been completed (although due to the age of the building, we will continue to need further works in due course) and we are now just waiting for the remaining scaffolding to be taken down. We are desperate to reopen our EYFs yard and have some new developments planned. We also want to begin the developments to the school bus and have Bishop Auckland College joining us in a couple of weeks to begin the transformation into a wonderful social space.

**Reading**

I am sure you will be aware of the huge benefits of reading. Being able to read fluently opens up a whole world of information and can transport you to a different place (or galaxy) altogether. We want all of our children to become competent readers and would ask that you support us with this at home by reading with them regularly. Children will be bringing home a book from the school reading scheme which is in line with their reading ability. In the next few weeks they will also bring home a ‘reading for pleasure’ book which is for you to enjoy reading together with your child. This book is designed to develop a love of reading and encourage children to read more and more!

**Staff Car park**

A gentle reminder the staff car park is not to be used for dropping children off. It is a very small area and once staff vehicles are in, there is very little space left. We have deliveries at all times of the day and families using the car park is causing problems when deliveries arrive and cannot access the car park. There is a risk a child could be hurt if they are in the car park and are not seen by a driver. Thank you for your understanding.

**Harvest Festival**

Our annual Harvest Festival Service at St Andrew’s Church is on 4th October (1.30pm). We would welcome parents, carers, grandparents and wider community members to join us in celebrating the occasion. You can join our children in singing some ‘classic’ songs that I am sure you will remember from your own primary school days. This year we are asking families to make donations of food directly to the local foodbanks. We are regularly asked by foodbanks for donations and we feel this is an appropriate way to give back to the local community. Our local foodbank is at St Paul’s Church.

**Medical conditions**

As the weather begins to cool we are noticing those children with Asthma are requiring their inhalers more. Please ensure we have your child’s inhaler in school and that you have completed a medical consent form so staff can administer this. We also require parents to keep school up to date with any changes in medication or changes to dosage. If your child is prescribed any medication by a doctor that needs to be administered during the school day, a consent form must be completed before this can be administered and medication must be given to an adult and cannot be kept in children bags. If you have any questions about medication and the information we currently hold on your child, please ask.

**Secondary school applications**

The application process for the Secondary Admissions 2023 Intake (current Year 6 children) is now open. Parents can make their application for Secondary School online by visiting www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions and the School Admissions online application is fairly straightforward. The Closing Date for Secondary School Applications is the 31st October 2023. If parents do not wish to apply online they can complete a paper application form, and these are available on request from the School Admissions Team. These application forms can be requested by e-mail to schooladmissions@durham.gov.uk or by telephone from the School Admissions and Transport Team on 03000 265896.

**Primary school applications**

The application process for Primary school places to start in September 2024 is now open. If your child turns 5 between 1 September 2024 and 31 August 2025 you will need to apply for your child’s place by 15 January 2024. You will still need to apply even if your child attends the nursery unit attached to the school,

or already has a sibling at school. Please visit www.durham.gov.uk/primaryschoolplaces where you can access a useful guide to help with your application. The easiest way to apply is online, if you are unable to

online, paper application forms are available on request by e-mail to schooladmissions@durham.gov.uk or by telephone from the School Admissions and Transport Team on 03000 265896.

**School lunches**

If your child would like to swap from packed lunch to school dinner (or vice versa) please email the school office, giving a full week’s notice. This helps us with the organisation and ordering of food. Thank you.

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 but please do remember that staff will only respond to these during a working day. We have had a number of emails to staff, quite late at night, requiring a response before the next day. Please appreciate we do need to promote the well being of all of our staff as well as our children!

Yours Sincerely

J Bromley

Head Teacher