King Street Primary & Pre - School

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24th November 2023

Dear parent/carer

Thank you to everyone for their donations of chocolate today, our chocolate tombola stall is going to be very full! It is one of the most popular stalls so all donations are very much appreciated. There are a number of families who wanted to bring in other donations and this would be very welcome. If you still have chocolate to bring in, or have any unused gift sets or nice things for raffle prices, these are always very welcome and we appreciate your kindness.

This week we sent out an invitation to request a place at our Movie Night. We already have a fantastic response to this. Please respond by 12 noon on 29th November to ensure your child has a place. Tickets cost £3.50 and this includes a hot dog, drink and popcorn.

Please also remember, if your child would like a Christmas lunch, you must complete the request form by Monday 4th December. This is so we can have all meals ordered and organised for them to have on the 14th December. Children who are already on school meals do not need to request a lunch as these are automatically allocated. Children are allowed to wear Christmas jumpers on this day but please do not rush out to purchase one. A simple bit of tinsel in the hair or another festive touch will do.

Next week

Nativity ticket requests will be sent out on Monday 27th November and must be completed by 4pm on Monday 4th December. Once these requests are received we will allocate tickets which will be sent home.

Reception and KS1 (Year 1 and 2) perform on Tuesday 12th December and doors open at 9:15am for a 9:30am start. They repeat this performance on Wednesday 13th December and doors open at 1:15pm for a 1:30pm start.

KS2 children (Year 3,4,5,and 6) perform on Tuesday 12th December and doors open at 1:15pm for a 1:30pm start. They repeat the performance on Wednesday 13th December and doors open at 9:15am for a 9:30am start.

Please do appreciate we do need to limit ticket numbers due to the size of our hall but we always aim to ensure we can get as many family members to see the performance as possible. We look forward to seeing you all there.

Next Friday we really start the Christmas festivities with a pantomime in school. There is no charge to families for this event and the hall is always filled with laughter with children joining in the whole way through. We also have another dress down day with donations of ‘ a bottle’ for our bottle tombola. If you do send alcohol into school, please be mindful that this must be handed to an adult on the yard or at the school office. We also accept bottles of anything else including juice and shower gel – anything goes!

Community events

St Andrew’s Church fair is being held on Saturday 25th November. You are all welcome along to the Church Hall at 10:30am for homemade refreshments, cake stalls, face painting, tombola and a visit from Santa.

Spennymoor Youth and Community centre are hosting a bingo night on Friday 1st December. This is fun for all the family with a little bit of Christmas festivity thrown in. £3 per person to play with a free mince pie. Free entry, tea and coffee for anyone just wanting to go along and watch. No need to book- just pop along.

SEND News

This half-term is always filled with many different events, from Children In Need Day to Christmas parties, with dress down days and performances in between. For many children, this is a time of year that is filled with excitement and anticipation. However, we also know that for some children in our school community, this time of year can be very overwhelming. The shops and streets are filled with bright flashing lights and Christmas music playing loudly, which can lead to sensory overload for children who have sensory sensitivities. In school, we try very hard to ensure that the sensory impact of the festive season is managed as carefully as possible. There will, of course, be festive activities in school, however we always prepare the children for these. The approach used for this depends on the child's needs - some children need a social story in the days leading up to different activities, while other children are happy to just have the activity listed on that day's visual timetable, which is displayed prominently in each classroom. We always take children's lead on this and if school staff identify that a child is finding Christmas activities to be too unsettling, they will intervene to ensure that the children are able to remain as regulated as possible. We know that this time of year can be challenging for many of our children with sensory differences, but we hope that by making reasonable adjustments to what we do in school as a matter of course, everyone will be able to enjoy the next few weeks in their own individual ways.

Online Safety

Keep children safe online continues to be a priority for us in school. It is equally as important at home and we are constantly managing situations in school where children have been unkind to each other on social media platforms at home. We do believe that no primary aged child should be using social media platforms as they often lack the emotional maturity to use them effectively. However, if your child does use social media please ensure they use the ‘block’ and ‘report’ buttons to prevent any communication that is offensive or inappropriate.

We also have our National Online Safety Platform which has many webinar training sessions for families to inform you of the ever-changing platforms, games and technology that children may be accessing and how you can be confident you know as much about it as they do! Please sign up to this brilliant platform using the link below. Once you have created yourself an account, you will have access to webinars that will give you the latest information to keep your child safe. I hope this is really helpful as online safety is often something that parents often ask us for advice around. If you have any difficulties accessing the site, please speak to the school office and we help you out.

Below are a list of links that we would recommend parents and carers to use to support themselves and their children at home with being safe online.

[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%7C9baf9d6f01b948fa841008db8242f2b7%7C45dfff5283644d73bf3a8f98bdf10d87%7C0%7C0%7C638246996266904261%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=JqyCm%2FRESOTD3UXXuGbltQF16YoKlfprzovZtFTHXYE%3D&reserved=0)

National Links and Resources for Parents/Carers:

* Internet Matters: [www.internetmatters.org](http://www.internetmatters.org) *This site is particularly useful for providing clear information and up-to-date advice on setting parental controls.*
* CEOP:
  + [www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk)
  + [www.ceop.police.uk](http://www.ceop.police.uk)
* Childnet: [www.childnet.com](http://www.childnet.com)
* Get Safe Online: [www.getsafeonline.org](http://www.getsafeonline.org/)
* Internet Watch Foundation (IWF): [www.iwf.org.uk](http://www.iwf.org.uk)
* Lucy Faithfull Foundation: [www.lucyfaithfull.org](http://www.lucyfaithfull.org)
  + Parent protect - advice for parents having difficulties e.g. Peer on peer abuse or Police involvement [www.parentsprotect.co.uk/](http://www.parentsprotect.co.uk/)
* NSPCC: [www.nspcc.org.uk/onlinesafety](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/onlinesafety)
  + ChildLine: [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)
  + Net Aware: [www.net-aware.org.uk](http://www.net-aware.org.uk)
* The Marie Collins Foundation: [www.mariecollinsfoundation.org.uk](http://www.mariecollinsfoundation.org.uk/)
* UK Safer Internet Centre: [www.saferinternet.org.uk](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk)
* **Upcoming Diary Dates**

Friday 1st December – Pantomime in school.

Friday 1st December- Dress down day- bring a bottle donation for the school fair.

Thursday 7th December- Movie night (3.15- 5:30pm)

Tuesday 12th December – Nativity performance (Reception and KS1 9.30am KS2 1:30pm)

Wednesday 13th December- Nativity performance (KS2 9.30am Reception and KS1 1:30pm)

Thursday 14th December- Christmas Lunch day (children can wear a Christmas jumper)

Thursday 14th December- Christmas fair after school (3:30pm)

Monday 18th December – Christmas parties across school

Tuesday 19th December – service at St Andrew’s Church at 10:30am

Tuesday 19th December – School closes for the festive break