King Street Primary & Pre - School

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 22nd September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

In a week where children have shown fabulous kindness towards others and remarkable acts of friendship on ‘International Peace Day’, it is very disheartening to see that we have a minority of adults in the community who have been unable to act in the same way. I was utterly disgusted at the behaviour of a very small number of adults around the school area earlier this week. Many of you reading this newsletter will also be horrified at the levels of aggression and foul language that was witnessed by our families and the children. Please be assured that all information, regardless of whether these adults are part of our school community, is passed over to the police. We cannot allow adults in our community to behave in such a shameful way. Thankfully, the police have taken the incident seriously and are conducting their own enquiries and we will have an increased police presence around the area surrounding the school. We always advise if you ever witness an incident such as this, you report it directly to 101 yourself so that police are given accurate information to assist with their enquiries. No photos or videos should be taken and no information about families should be placed on social media. I, and the rest of my staff, hope to never have this type of behaviour around our school again.

It is such a shame that such behaviour spoils what has been a lovely week for the children, who are always given praise about their conduct when we take them out. This week, we have had recognition for the behaviour of our children while on Outdoor Education and our Year 6 children showed exemplary behaviour when at Whitworth Park School this week. Our children really are delightful!

School Crossing patrol

We have been notified that we will have no crossing patrol on Wednesday 27th September. Please ensure if your child walks to or from school alone, they are safe to cross a road without a patrol. Where possible, we ask that children are collected to ensure their safety.

Sickness bugs and childhood illness

We have lots of bugs circulating at the moment, which is typical of this time of year when children are returning to school and socialising again. Please do remember that children must be absent for 48 hours after their last episode of vomiting before they can return. Hopefully this will minimise the spread of germs.

Online Safety

Every week we talk to children about the benefits of online technology but also that there are times when it can become quite difficult for children to navigate and we teach them how to stay safe. WhatsApp is always a great tool for communicating with others but children can often find it becomes a platform for children saying unkind things to each other or leaving other children out. I have included some information on this newsletter for what you can do as parents to help keep your child safe while using the app. The NSPCC also has some brilliant tips on how to keep your child safe on WhatsApp. Please watch out on our Facebook page for our weekly online safety posters which will return next week.

**Get to know privacy settings.** There are four main settings that you can use to help your child control who can see their information:

1. Everyone – allows all users to see your profile photo, about or status.

2. My contacts – only allows people from your phone contacts to see your profile photo, about, status, last seen and online.

3. My contacts except… – allows you to exclude certain people in your phone contacts from seeing your information.

4. Nobody – doesn’t allow anyone to see your information.

The default setting on WhatsApp is ‘everyone’ but you can help your child to set their privacy controls by clicking the ‘settings’ cog and selecting ‘privacy’. Here you can select each type of information and change it to the setting that you want. To prevent children being added to groups by people they don’t know, we recommend changing the group settings to ‘My contacts except’ and using the tick icon to select all contacts. This option means only your child’s phone contacts, except those you exclude, can add your child to groups. But by selecting all contacts, it means that nobody can add your child to a group chat without first sending them an invitation. In the same section, you can also switch off ‘read receipts’, which means other people cannot see when you have read their message. This might help if your child is feeling under pressure to respond to messages.

**Make use of safety features**. Show your child how to block and report other users of the app or inappropriate content.

**Talk about sharing** Talk to your child regularly about what they should and shouldn’t share with others on WhatsApp. Remind your child that, even if they think what they are sending will stay private, others might save, forward or screenshot it. Talk to them about making sure others are comfortable with what they are sending and let them know they can come to you if they are worried about something they have shared on the app.

**Set rules about location sharing**. Decide with your child if it is appropriate for them to share their location with others and who they are allowed to share it with. You can disable location permissions by going into your device settings and switching off location services for WhatsApp.

SEND News

Over the next few months, County Durham CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service) is running a series of free online workshops for parents and carers. The details of upcoming sessions are below. If you would like to find out more or if you would like to book a place, please email: tewv.countydurhamcamhstraining@nhs.net

**Understanding why children might be anxious about school**

Tuesday 26th September 09:30-11:30

This is an awareness session to increase understanding of why children might be anxious about school, identify potential triggers and look at available support and strategies. This session is suitable for parents/carers of all school aged children but may be of limited value to parents of children with more complex needs.

**Anxiety (two groups)**

Over 11 years – Tuesday 10th October 09:30-11:30

 5-11 years – Tuesday 24th October 09:30-11:30

This session looks at what anxiety is, what the triggers might be, how to identify it and how we can support our children and young people.

**Emotional wellbeing**

Tuesday 14th November 09:30-11:30

This session will focus on emotional wellbeing, what is it and how can we improve it for ourselves and our children. This session explores the link with mental health and looks at how we can manage our own wellbeing as well as that of our children and young people.

**Child to parent violence and aggression**

Wednesday 6th December 1:30-3:30

This awareness training will begin by giving a brief overview on the role of forensic CAMHS and how it differs from generic CAMHS services. We will consider models of aggression in children and young people and identify key influencing factors. We will look to apply these models of aggression and consider them within the family / parent context and explore how aggression can become a pattern in households. Aggression will be discussed in a childhood mental illness and neurodevelopmental context with consideration given to NICE guidance and recommended treatment/intervention approaches for CAMHS and multi-agency partners. On completion of the training the participants should be able to determine how aggression develops in children and young people and what approaches may benefit and hinder family’s approaches to manage it within their child(ren). The participants will also be aware of when a referral to forensic CAMHS is appropriate and how this can be made. There will also be opportunity for participants to ask any questions at the end of the session.

**Understanding Sleep**

Wednesday 11th October 1:30-3:00

**Understanding Behaviour Development in Children and Young People**

Tuesday 17th October 1:30-3:45

Reception Intake – September 2024

I know some of our children have only just started, but applications are now open for school places for next academic year, starting in September 2024. These must be applied for through the online portal: <https://durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions>. The deadline for applications is Monday 15th January 2024. We are holding an Open Evening for families to look around our EYFS on 25th October at 5pm. This information can be shared with friends or family within the community who may have a child of Nursery or school age.

Upcoming diary dates

Wednesday 4th October- Harvest Service at St Andrew’s (1.30pm)

Monday 23rd October – School photo day.

Monday 23rd October to Thursday 26th October – SEND children parents’ evenings.

Thursday 26th October – Halloween disco in school. (More information to follow)

Wednesday 25th October- Open Evening for children eligible for Reception or Nursery places.

Friday 27th October – School closes for half term

Monday 6th November- School reopens for Autumn term 2

Monday 13th to Friday 17th November – Parents’ evening Y1-6 (more information on booking will follow in due course)

Monday 13th November -Reception class stay and play

Wednesday 15th November – Nursery Class stay and play

Friday 17th November – Children in Need, dress down day.

Additional dates are available on the school website.

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. If you require a teacher’s email, please speak to the school office.

Yours Sincerely

J Bromley

Head Teacher