King Street Primary & Pre - School

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Spennymoor

County Durham

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21st June 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

What a difference it makes to see the sun shine! Let's hope this continues into the weekend and beyond. It will not be long before we have our Year 4, 5 and 6 children on residential visits and I know their visit will be enhanced if the days are warm and sunny.

I would also like to remind you, whilst we have the pleasure of this wonderful weather, please send children into school with their sun cream already applied and also sun cream in their bag so we can top this up during the school day. Please note that Nivea have changed their ingredients and their cream now contains almond oil. We do have a number of children with nut allergies in school and therefore ask that you check the ingredients of your sun cream before you send it to school. We know most of the shop own brand creams do not contain nut oil. Information on this has been sent out separately. Thank you.

ParentPay accounts

As we near the need of term, I would like to ask that families ensure that their ParentPay account is up to date and all debts are cleared before we break up for the summer. If you are experiencing any difficulties making these payments, please do speak to the school office in confidence so we can agree a plan to support you.

Holidays in term time

Across the country, unauthorised absences for holidays from September are changing. The new rules are as follows:

For unauthorised absences - fixed penalty notices can be issued from September for 5 days or more absence (10 sessions) in a 10-week rolling period. This is changing from previously being 7 days

or more (14 sessions) in a 12-week rolling period. Further information will be sent home next week which explains this in more detail.

Next week we have another dress down day with bottle donations for our school fair. I would like to thank you for all the donations of chocolate last week, we are going to have a fantastic tombola and I know this is always one of the most popular stalls.

Next week we also have an HGV coming into school to teach children about lorry safety and how to ensure that they can always be seen by lorry drivers when playing outside. I’m sure they will love looking inside the cab but hopefully will also learn about keeping themselves safe.

Children's phones

Once again, I would like to remind parents about checking their child's phone on a regular basis. As a school we regularly get sent reminders from the police who are concerned that children across County Durham are accessing inappropriate content and have the potential to be groomed by online abusers. This is a real risk for this generation of children, which has never been faced before and, as parents, we must do as much as we can to protect them. I am aware that as holidays approach, children will spend more time online (especially if the weather is poor) and we would like to help keep them safe. Some of the content that children show us on a weekly basis is quite worrying with children now normalising swearing and inappropriate language due to the frequency they come across it online. Lessons in school tackle these issues but we hope you can support us with this safety message too. Children are always encouraged to tell an adult about inappropriate content and to remove or block themselves from this. If you would like more advice on how to support your child online, we do have a parent webinar page with many different videos and blogs to help you. Please ask at the school office for the details.

Finally, teachers are currently writing the children's end of year annual reports and we will have these sent home to you on Monday 15th July. We always hold on record which families require two reports due to parents living in separate households but we like to update this annually. If you believe we may not have both home addresses or both parent details, please do contact our school office to update your details.

As always, if you have any concerns or queries please contact teachers directly by email or speak to them on the school yard.

**Upcoming diary dates:**

Friday 28th June- Dress down day- bring a bottle donation for the school fair.

Thursday 4th July- School summer fair (3.30pm)

Monday 8th July- KS2 Sports day 1-3pm

Tuesday 9th July- Reception/KS1 Sports day 1-3pm

Friday 19th July – school closes for summer break

The 2045-25 academic year begins on Wednesday 4th September 2024. Term dates for next academic year are available on our website.

Joanne Bromley

Head Teacher