King Street Primary & Pre - School

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14th January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

After a straightforward return to school last week, this week has been a little more difficult as we start to see increasing cases of Covid in school. We are hoping that this is short lived and that numbers remain small so that disruption is kept to a minimum. I would like to thank our families for following advice and keeping children off school if they are poorly and they suspect it may be Covid. It will really help us to keep cases low and those who are using lateral flow tests will help identify non-symptomatic children. We will continue with our enhanced cleaning routine, staggered breaks and lunches and increased ventilation in school. Where we begin to see an increase in Covid cases in one classroom, that class will be bubbled and all contact with other classes ceased. Children will have lunches within their classroom and use alternative yard spaces for breaks. This will continue for 5 days or until the risk of infection has decreased.

New guidelines for Covid-19

You may have heard on the news that the isolation period for Covid 19 has been reduced to 5 full days from Monday. However, children must only return to school if they have negative LFTs on day 5 and day 6 and do not have a temperature. Children who have a temperature or test positive on these days must not return to school and continue to isolate. Please do remember that if your child has been in contact with a family member who is positive, they should have daily LFTs for 7 days.

Daily testing of close contacts applies to all contacts who are:

• fully vaccinated adults – people who have had 2 doses of an approved vaccine

• all children and young people aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months, regardless of their vaccination status

• people who are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

• people taking part, or have taken part, in an approved clinical trial for a COVID-19 vaccine.

Our children have also been wonderful with making changes and adaptions to their normal routine and for so many of them they have lived within restrictions for so long that it has now become normal for them to need to be adaptable. Whilst the context of the situation isn’t brilliant, the skills of flexibility and adaptability they have developed are life long and will be really useful to them in future years.

If anyone is finding themselves in financial difficulty due to Covid self-isolation rules, financial support is available. Please visit www.durham.gov.uk/covid19help or call the Community Hub on 03000 260260 for further details. There is also support available the coronavirus section via [www.durhamlocate.org.uk](http://www.durhamlocate.org.uk)

Ofsted

We have been informed that our Ofsted report will be published next week and we expect that it will be available on the website from Monday. The behaviour and conduct of our children are a credit to you all. Their thirst for knowledge and personal qualities make them a delight to work with and they will make wonderful contributions to society.

Fundraising events

We have not planned any after school fundraising events for this half term due to the restrictions in place and the reduction in mixing of year groups. However, we do hope to restart some events such as Movie nights and discos as soon as possible. We are able however, in individual classes during the school day, to celebrate and raise awareness for Muscular Dystrophy UK; this will be taking place on 11th February, when children will be encouraged to come to school dressed in bright colours. We celebrate this event each year, hoping to raise funds for the charity to continue researching breakthrough treatments. We do have a child in school with MD and therefore this charity is one we feel very connected to. #Love for Louis

School news

After an appeal for help in the Spennymoor news to repair our Greenhouse and fencing, we now have an offer of help and look forward to the repairs being carried out soon.

You may have also noticed that both our climbing wall and the outdoor gym equipment are now in use and the children are loving using it. We have even more developments to our yard area in the near future with plans to enclose the ‘stage’ area to make it into a cosy relaxing/reading space and developing the blue mat area to include crates and pipes for creative building.

All classes have already issued their termly newsletter and you should be aware of the topics your child is covering this term. Year 6 have had a visitor this week from the DLI and have been discussing WW2 and they thoroughly enjoyed the visit and Year 4 were telling me all about their Science experiment with lemonade and raisins! Please do discuss your child’s learning at home with them, they engage in some really creative learning and love to talk about it.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns please speak to class teachers on the yard or contact the school office to make an appointment.

Yours Sincerely

Joanne Bromley

Headteacher