King Street Primary & Pre - School

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 2nd July 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

It is hard to believe when I wrote the newsletter on Friday morning last week we were without any Covid cases in school and were hopeful we could make it to the end of term. Since then, we have had positive cases in both Year 3 and Year 6. Fortunately, the children affected are managing well and are on the road to recovery. If in the event, we do have any more cases, it is important that you are monitoring communications from us. We will send information by Eschools which will arrive by email and we also send a text message to notify you the email is waiting in your inbox.

There may be occasions where we need to close a bubble as a precaution, whilst we await a further test, as was the case with our Y4 bubble this week. However, we will keep you informed on test outcomes and whether children can return earlier than expected. Fortunately, our Y4 bubble were able to return after the PCR test was negative.

We are really proud of all of our children who have engaged so well (again) in remote learning and took the disruption in their stride. It is a difficult time for everyone but the children show real resilience. Well done too, to the parents who have stepped in once again as teachers and helped as homes turn back into classrooms. We are looking forward to welcoming Year 3 back on Monday 5th July and Y6 back on Tuesday 6th July.

We would ask all parents to please ensure if your child is unwell in any way, they do not attend school and they take a PCR test. This is because there are now clear patterns that positive cases are not always following the typical symptoms on the NHS website. Colleague headteachers in other schools are reporting a wide range of symptoms from sore throats to earache and headaches.

Lateral Flow Tests are now available for families to test children on a regular basis and to help identify asymptomatic cases. Many of our families are now undertaking these tests and we thank you for your contribution in keeping our community safe. We also ask, whilst the world is opening up again and families are enjoying freedom to move around, that you continue to follow government guidelines around social distancing. This will help us to reduce the chance of any further cases in school.

Community engagement

We have been asked by the Local Authority to encourage families or individuals to become part of a support group for children with complex needs and disabilities in County Durham. They have distributed the following information:

*Covid has meant that many parents of children with complex needs and disabilities are struggling. Lockdowns have meant that they have been unable to access the support they would normally need and many are at breaking point.*

*We work with providers to offer short breaks, which allow young people (aged 5 to 25) to take part in a range of activities, while their carer gets a well-earned break!*

*Our short break providers are urgently looking for staff to support these children and young people. You can work as much or as little as you like, on evenings, weekends or during school holidays.  They are offering competitive rates of pay if you have experience with children and young people with complex needs – this could be through work, volunteering or by caring for a child of a friend or family member.*

*If you have no experience there are still opportunities to support children and young people with SEND and training can be provided.*

*Contact Short Breaks Solutions on 03000 260270 or email**ShortBreaksSolutions@durham.gov.uk**for more information.*

Family financial support

We have also received confirmation from the Local Authority this week that the Covid Local Support Grant will continue to support families who receive Free School Meals over the holiday period. It is expected that families will receive these vouchers during the last week of term.

Celebration of Summer

I mentioned in my last newsletter on Thursday 15th July we will be having a ‘celebration of summer’ day in our bubbles. Children can come to school wearing Hawaiian shirts, summer dresses, grass skirts, shorts and T-shirt or anything else that gives them that ‘summer feeling’. We will also be celebrating the day with a special school meal- details were sent by Eschools separately. If you would like your child to have a school dinner on this day please complete the form provided by no later than 9am on Monday 5th July. We will not be able to accept requests after this date as orders for meals need to be placed. The amount will be chargeable through Parent Pay or free to those who are eligible for benefits.

Covid information

Finally- just a reminder of the information provided by the NHS to help manage transmission of Covid.

The symptoms of Covid as listed by the NHS are:

* Continuous cough and/or
* High temperature and/or
* A loss of/change in normal sense of taste or smell

If your child develops these symptoms, they should remain at home until a PCR test can be arranged. Testing can be arranged by ringing 119 or via gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test

If your child has developed symptoms, all other household members must begin to self-isolate, this means staying at home, not go to work, school or public areas- even for exercise. This also means that if a household member displays symptoms, your child should self-isolate bas part of the household and not attend school until after the 10 days isolation period or until a negative test result has been given.

To help you comply with the requirement to self isolate the County Durham Together Community Hub can provide access to essential supplies, financial support and emotional support as well as other services. Please visit durham.gov.uk/covid19help or call the Community hub on 03000260260 for more details.

How to stop Covid spreading:

* Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
* Use hand sanitiser when entering shops and when out and about
* Wash your hands as soon as you get home
* Cover your mouth with a tissue (not your hand) when you cough or sneeze
* Put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash hands afterwards
* Keep indoor areas well ventilated
* Keep your distance- stay 2 m away from others

As always, please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any concerns or questions. Please email the school office kingstreet@durhamlearning.net

Yours Sincerely

Joanne Bromley

Head Teacher