King Street Primary & Pre - School

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6th January 2023

Dear Parents /Carers

Happy New Year to everyone. We welcome you back to the start of our Spring Term, the weather has been really kind to us so far this year and we hope that this continues as the term progresses. The children love being outside and the outdoor space has been a big development for us recently. The new school bus will be our next big project- making a relaxing space for children to socialise and play. We also hope to open our new construction play area very soon so children can design, build, climb and have endless adventures. We are just waiting for some final resources to arrive.

This term we also have our Year 2 children on outdoor education and our Year 5 children will be swimming. In addition to this, we have sports festivals, class visits, discos and more movie nights to enjoy. It promises to be another busy term.

**The Community Hub and adult wellbeing sessions**

Our Community Hub will reopen on **Tuesday 17th January at 9am (not next week!)**. Please do come along for refreshments and to browse the things we have available to families. On this occasion we are fortunate enough to be visited by Kirsty Flatman who is a mental health specialist who can advise and signpost families to the most appropriate support available. We are also still hoping to access funding from the AAP to support families struggling with their mental health and self-confidence by teaming up with our Outdoor Education provider to offer ‘immersing in nature and outdoor activity sessions’. We have previously asked interested families to let us know so they can be part of this proposal. These sessions are open to all families and will take place during the school day. If you have not already informed us you would like to take part in free outdoor activity sessions to improve your self-confidence or mental health, please speak to Mrs Livesley at the Hub or email the school office. If we are successful in our application for funding and the sessions go ahead, you will be informed of your place.

**A reminder of financial help and support**

We are always looking for ways to help our families and are proud to be more than just a school. Please see this range of information for parents regarding financial help and support; we understand that January in particular can be a difficult time for families:

**Financial help and support for families -**A dedicated web page [Help with your money](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.durham.gov.uk%2Fhelpwithyourmoney&data=05%7C01%7Cj.bromley200%40kingstreet.durham.sch.uk%7C423a8f21ba274e87e34708daa79edb03%7C45dfff5283644d73bf3a8f98bdf10d87%7C0%7C0%7C638006601548671637%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=q%2BHxx%2FZFZQQR7kVg4zA95zAplGrB%2F%2FmoPwsNli1gcSo%3D&reserved=0) has been developed for County Durham residents and contains specific help for families. The page has information on a range of support available including applying for Free School Meals (FSM), debt advice/financial help and help with heating and fuel bills.

**The Bread and Butter Thing (TBBT) -** TBBT collects surplus food and staple goods that often end up going to waste from supermarkets, factories and farms, and distributes it at a discount price through 10 community hubs across County Durham. You will need to become a member to use the service, but this is free to do. For just £7.50, TBBT members' shopping bags can be filled with an average of £35 worth of items made up of quality, nutritious food. Each week members can access three bags of produce, including fresh fruit and vegetables, chilled goods, as well as cupboard staples such as pasta and cereal.     [Bread and Butter Thing: membership](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.breadandbutterthing.org%2Fmembers&data=05%7C01%7Cj.bromley200%40kingstreet.durham.sch.uk%7C423a8f21ba274e87e34708daa79edb03%7C45dfff5283644d73bf3a8f98bdf10d87%7C0%7C0%7C638006601548671637%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=6sElvMB%2FsOZHJJVHNjUk%2BGIWVMr1yHWrC41tD2t27mE%3D&reserved=0)

**Warm Spaces scheme**

Warm Spaces are somewhere people can go to get warm, stay warm and enjoy a little company. In some you can get refreshments and our Warm Spaces network aims to support residents across County Durham this winter. Warm Spaces are free and will let people stay for as long, or for as short a period as someone needs (within their opening hours).

**How to find a local Warm Space**

Finding a Warm Space is easy. There is a section to Locate, our online directory, allowing residents to connect with local services. So, if someone is cold they can find out where to go to get warm, stay warm and enjoy a little company. Some Warm Spaces also offer refreshments, wi-fi access, parking and baby change facilities.

Find local Warm Spaces and the facilities they can offer on [Locate: Warm Spaces](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.durhamlocate.org.uk%2FSearch%3FCategoryId%3D152%26SM%3DServiceSearch%26UDG%3DTrue%26SME%3DTrue&data=05%7C01%7Cj.bromley200%40kingstreet.durham.sch.uk%7C94f3fc2058a148e6a3c908dade9f43eb%7C45dfff5283644d73bf3a8f98bdf10d87%7C0%7C0%7C638067074444819974%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=sJxV7VlXAP5HV1PoAuBUZjyUHF2X0Xlt%2FtRUpETtdNc%3D&reserved=0).

As always, if you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to speak to staff or email the school office. Equally, if you would like to volunteer to work within our school team, please speak to the office for a volunteer application pack.

Yours Sincerely

Joanne Bromley

Head Teacher