King Street Primary & Pre - School

High Grange Road

Spennymoor

County Durham

DL166RA Telephone: (01388) 816078

Email: kingstreet@durhamlearning.net



11th March 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

I would like to start with a huge thank you to all of our families for the very generous donations this week. Our clothing and toiletries donations were taken to the collection point at Jubilee Park and were shipped over to Poland on Wednesday afternoon. The charity collecting were overwhelmed with the huge amounts that were donated and in response have delivered some sweet treats for our children. Today, we held our non-uniform day and raised over £200. This will be donated to the Red Cross who are currently supporting families over in Ukraine. I am sure this will all be gratefully received. A special note goes to Will in Y4 who made the local news this week by donating his teddy so that another child would not be frightened. The link to the news article can be found on our Facebook page. A huge well done and thank you to everyone involved and I know that the generosity of the community will continue over the coming months.

On a less positive note, we have been informed by the Local Authority that children across the region have been accessing disturbing images of devastation in Ukraine and some are struggling to cope with what they have seen. Watching the horrors of war unfold has been very difficult for many adults this week. TV and Radio news are full of information about the awful attacks on the Ukrainians. Much of the information on TV has, to a certain extent, been sanitised with the most horrific content removed, however this is not the case on social media. There is not one particular app or website that is worse than the others. Pictures and videos of the war are available on YouTube, Instagram, TikTok, Snapchat and probably lots of other social media sites too. In addition, they are being reposted so they do not always come directly from Ukraine. We strongly recommend you take some actions to help your children:

1. Discuss this with your children, have they seen upsetting content? Explain what you would like them to do if they see something scary. (Turn the device upside down and get either Mum, Dad or their carer – they are not in trouble).
2. Carefully consider what social media (if any) is suitable for your children. The minimum age for most platforms is 13 because the content providers cannot guarantee that it is suitable for a younger audience.
3. Set up parental controls on devices. Many apps have settings which try and limit the most graphic content – but even with safety features turned on, content is not guaranteed to be “child friendly". The website “Internet Matters” <https://www.internetmatters.org/> is particularly useful in providing advice on most apps and security settings.
4. Talk and listen to your children. We can’t pretend this isn’t happening and they may well have questions and worries which are better discussed than kept secret.
5. If you have serious concerns then please talk to the school as staff there may be able to help, or it might be that other children from the school are equally affected.

**Car parking and road safety**

The Moors Pub have asked if parents would not use the car park as there are occupants residing there and their car is being blocked in, preventing them from leaving.

The area in front of the pub is also dangerous and has been highlighted as a risk, due to the potential of the pavement falling into the cellar below. Their risk assessment only allows for one car at a time to be parked near the front entrance.

We appreciate the area around school is limited, but please be mindful when dropping off and collecting children as we do have a duty of care and respect for our whole community and in keeping everyone safe. We have had a number of families recently express concern about the dangerous parking around the whole area and the added danger this poses to children crossing a fast road. We also noted that despite being advised by DCC that a crossing patrol would start after the half term holiday, as yet we still do not have one in place. We are following this up with the Local Authority as we believe the road poses a danger to children trying to cross and want someone in place as soon as possible. Please ensure your child is supervised crossing the road or with older Y5/Y6 children, ensure they have a strong understanding of road safety.

**Science Week**

Next week it is Science week in school and we will be many activities with a Science theme. We have visitors booked to speak to the children and to talk around the theme of ‘growth’. We have some animal guests so we can look at life cycles and some speakers will look at inspiring our children into careers in Science. I am sure they will be in for a wonderful week so please be sure to ask them all about it.

**Parents’ evenings**

It is that time of year again and we will soon be releasing slots on our Eschools Platform so you can book a Parents’ evening session with your child’s class teacher to discuss the progress they are making. We are delighted that, finally, we are able to hold these as face to face meetings so please look out for the text message coming soon to let you know that the booking system is open. If you would prefer a phone discussion, these ***will not*** be booked through the Eschools system and instead we advise you contact class teachers to make a mutually convenient time. Meetings will take place in the last week of this half term (4th April-7th April).

Parents of children in EYFS will be invited by staff to a stay and play session in the last week of term. If you are unable to attend this and would like a phone discussion, please contact teachers directly through Tapestry.

**Household Grant Fund Vouchers**

This week we have issued, on behalf of the Local Authority, our household fund vouchers. These are given to families who are eligible for Free School meals. If you believe you were eligible but have not received your vouchers, please contact the school office. If your circumstances have changed and you believe you may be eligible for future vouchers, please let us know and we can run eligibility checks for you.

**Summer fair**

The organisation of our summer fair has begun and we would like to offer the opportunity for any families who would like to host their own stall to get in touch. Previously, we have had sellers with cakes, crafts and cards. The fair is always really busy and can be a great way to promote your business. Stalls are not limited to families of children in school so if you have a family member or your place of work who would like a stall, please get in touch. Please note, places will be limited and booked on a first-come, first-served basis.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns please email the school office or speak to teachers on the school yard. If you would like to volunteer in school to support children’s reading or to offer skills such as crafts please contact the school office for a volunteer application pack.

Yours Sincerely

Joanne Bromley

Head Teacher