King Street Primary & Pre - School

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12th November 2021

Dear parents/carers

Thank you all for your donations to the Poppy appeal this week. The charity are organising collection of the donations and we should know next week how much we raised. I can say though that the donation container was very heavy so thank you for your generosity. I would also like to thank our Year 6 volunteers, especially Charlie B who never missed a day, who went around classes each day selling the items- it was a job very well done. I would also like to say a special thank you and well done to Esther (Y6) who read a poem at the remembrance service on Thursday and received huge amounts of praise from the public for the way she conducted herself and her eloquence when speaking. We are really proud of her.

Staff news

We are sad to announce that after a very long time in education, Mrs Stiles has decided that, now her own children are young adults, she would like a change in career and will be moving to a company in Newton Aycliffe later this term. Whilst we are sure that she will enjoy the experience of new challenges, we know that she will miss the children and staff a huge amount and I am fairly confident we will see her again soon for a visit. Mrs Stiles has contributed a huge amount to the school community over the years and has positively influenced the education of lots of children. I know you will join me in wishing her the best of luck in her new role.

We will be looking at staffing for Y5 next week to ensure that there is no disruption to their learning and will let parents know of the changes as soon as possible.

Covid procedures

Our Local Authority recently sent information to all schools regarding increasing Covid cases across the North East and the need for schools to review their Covid restrictions and procedures. I am pleased to say that we already had in place their suggested changes such as increased cleaning, handwashing, ventilation, staggered entrance/exit points and staggered playtimes. This has helped ensure that we have had a minimum number of cases in school so far. We have, however, been observing home time collections and this is the biggest point at which families gather. Therefore, we are asking from Monday 15th November, that Year 2, 3,and 4 parents separate on the yard. We are going to allocate each class a ‘waiting area’ on the yard and staff will now bring children out to that waiting area.

Year 4 children will now exit from their classroom side door and Miss Bell will walk them down the steps onto the main yard and parents will be asked to wait by the brick garages.

Year 3 parents will be asked to wait by the blue matting by the wall.

Year 2 parents will wait by the climbing frames/blue planters.

If you have children in different classes, teachers will keep hold of children until they see you move from one area to another. Parents of children in Year 5 and 6 can continue to wait on the Sports yard but please be mindful of social distancing.

Parents collecting from the EYFS yard are also asked to be mindful of social distancing, although no waiting places will be allocated as Nursery already have a staggered finish time which reduces some of the congestion. Year 1 parents are asked to try stay closer to the garden end of the small yard where Y1 children exit is, rather than spread across the whole of the yard.

At this stage, we are not yet requesting all families wear masks but understand some families may feel more comfortable doing so. As case numbers are reviewed in due course, procedures will be reviewed but we are hopeful we can keep school case numbers low so we do not need to reintroduce class bubbles and one-way systems like many other schools. Please help minimise disruption by maintaining social distancing where possible.

Christmas performance

At present, based on current risk assessments, we are expecting to go ahead with our Christmas performances with a few minor adjustments to meet Covid regulations such as staggered entrance points, limiting tickets to 2 per family and adult visitors wearing masks. Whilst this may not seem ideal to everyone, it is the only way we could allow the performances to go ahead with an audience. The dates and performance times are as follows:

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Year group | Time |
| 7th December 2021 | Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 | Doors open at 9.30am for 9:45am start |
| 7th December 2021 | Year 3, 4, 5, 6 | Doors open at 1:15pm for 1.30pm start |
| 8th December 2021 | Year 3, 4, 5, 6 | Doors open at 9.30am for 9:45am start |
| 8th December 2021 | Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 | Doors open at 1:15pm for 1.30pm start |

More specific information about requesting your preferred performance tickets will be issued in due course. Please also note that families will not be guaranteed their preferred performance due to limited seating. However, all families will be guaranteed to see their child perform.

**Reminders**

Odd sock day

On Monday 15th November we are encouraging children to wear odd socks. This means they can also wear casual clothes and ‘dress down’ for the day. This is part of the national anti-bullying campaign and aims to highlight the uniqueness and individuality of people and that everyone should be treat with kindness. No money is required for this event but children will participate in activities and an assembly in school.

BBC Children in Need day

Children in Need day is Friday 19th November and children are encouraged to come dressed as their favourite character or, again, in casual clothes. We do not expect families to purchase the Children in Need clothing or accessories and often suggest that they may already have hair clips, hairbands, socks from previous years which can all still be worn. We will not be collecting money in school and suggest that any donations you wish to make will be made directly through their text service or through their website.

Parents’ evenings

KS2:

Bookings for parents' evenings for Years 3-6 have now closed. Appointments will take place from Monday 15th November - Friday 19th November. Thank you to those parents who have booked. If you have missed this opportunity but would like an appointment, please contact the class teacher who can rearrange a mutually convenient time.

EYFS/KS1:

Parents' evenings for Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will be Monday 22nd November - Friday 26th November. Eschools booking opens Monday 15th November at 9 a.m. and closes Friday 19th November at 3 p.m.

With the exception of Nursery, please log onto your own (parent) E-school account (not your child’s) and make an appointment. If you have any difficulties in logging in, please contact the school office. Once you have your log in details please change these to something memorable as you will need them for future parents’ evenings.

Christmas Lunch

Please look out for information coming out next week to book your child’s school Christmas lunch. This is always a lovely festive event that lots of children (and staff!) participate in. All requests must be booked in advance so meals can be ordered.

Information on Christmas parties, Christmas activities, panto visits will all be issued in due course.

All events planned in school will be subject to the Covid restrictions at the time. Some events may need to be cancelled if rules change.

**Nasal Flu Spray- catch up clinics**

We have been contacted by the NHS and asked to pass over the following information:

Has your child missed their nasal flu vaccination in school? If so we would like to invite your child to attend the school aged immunisation service clinic at:

**Woodhouse Close Children’s Centre**on **13/11/2021 between 9.30am and 2.30pm.**

This is a drop-in clinic so there is no need to make an appointment just turn up on the day.

Details of the clinic:

**Woodhouse Close Children’s Centre, Walker Drive, Woodhouse Close Estate, Bishop Auckland, DL14 6QL**

Can we ask that only one adult attends with a child please and that the adult wears a face mask.

As always, if you have any questions or queries please speak to a member of staff on the yard or make an appointment at the school office. We are also happy to answer any queries by email on [kingstreet@durhamlearning.net](mailto:kingstreet@durhamlearning.net)

Yours Sincerely

Joanne Bromley

Headteacher