King Street Primary & Pre - School

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8th September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

What wonderful weather we have had to welcome our children back this week. It really helps the children to settle when the sun shines and they can play outside with the friends they have not seen all summer!

School Update

I would like to start this week’s newsletter with a huge thank you to our staff for the immense effort and additional hours they have put in this week trying to return our school back to some form of normality after the building work. During the holidays I was quite fearful we would not reopen this week as the weather delayed the work to the roof and they were unable to start work until mid - August. This has hugely affected the schedule of works with ceiling works in school still ongoing as late as Monday this week. The builders and scaffolding should have been a distant memory by now and the school should have undergone huge renovation and redecoration but sadly this is now delayed and we are left with patches of bare plaster in some parts of the school and further works will need to be undertaken at some point. We now hope the decorator can, at least, repaint some areas so we can replace displays and bring the sparkle back to the affected areas.

Whilst this is hugely frustrating for us, I do appreciate staff have tried very hard to ensure that furniture was back in classrooms, that children could return to school and families could regain their routines. I know many families look forward to the new term and many children thrive being back in the school environment so we did not want to delay the start for anyone. We have definitely seen many beaming smiles this week and it has been lovely to have the school full of chatter rather than builders!

Please bear with us whilst the remaining works take place and the scaffold is taken down. We have been advised that this will be in the very near future (hopefully early next week). We will then be able to finally get our lovely school fully functioning again. The positive side is we will no longer have a leaky roof and our school should feel much warmer with the significant amounts of insulation that was added. We have also been given an electrical rewire in part of the school so we really are more energy efficient and thankfully we are not affected by the RAAC issues that have disrupted the start of term for some schools in the region.

If you do have any questions about the building works, please do just ask and we will answer what we are able to at this stage. I will be continuing to have meetings with the project manager so I have the most up to date information.

As always, I will continue to send out a weekly newsletter that will keep you up to date with what has been happening in school and things that will be taking place. Class teachers will also send out a class newsletter today which will detail information regarding the curriculum topics, PE days, reading books, homework and any other relevant information.

Next week (Monday 11th) we will be hosting our usual ‘meet the teacher’ event, for children in Year 1-6, where you can see your child’s classroom and meet the staff. Teachers will build upon information given in their newsletter and you will hear more about specific expectations within their year groups and can ask any questions you may have. We will run 2 sessions so that families with more than one child can attend both meetings. The sessions will run from 3:15pm-3:45pm and then repeat at 3:45pm-4:15pm. There will be no need to book a place at these sessions. You are welcome to attend either of the sessions. Please enter the building via the doors your child uses on a morning and you will be directed to the classrooms.

For children in Reception there will be a phonics information event for parents and this will also run over the same 2 sessions. This will be very informative, helping parents understand the phonics programme we use and how they can help extend learning at home. We look forward to seeing you all there.

**After School Clubs**

We are restarting our after school activity clubs the week beginning 18th September. These will run for the whole autumn term. A booking form will be issued next week through Eschools so please look out for this. We do expect the clubs to be popular, as always, and spaces will be limited. If children would like to attend, they must be able to attend for the whole term. Many of the clubs/coaches are being paid for by the school at no cost to families and we do not want to waste coaching costs if children do not attend.

**Governor vacancy**

You will have received a letter yesterday regarding a vacancy for a parent governor. This happens when a governor’s term has come to an end or they no longer wish to continue in their role. If you are interested and feel you have the skills and time to commit to the role, please contact the school office. We look forward to your application.

**Secondary school applications**

It is that time of year again. The application process for the Secondary Admissions 2023 Intake (current Year 6 children) is now open.

Parents can make their application for Secondary School online by visiting [www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.durham.gov.uk%2Fschooladmissions&data=05%7C01%7Cj.bromley200%40kingstreet.durham.sch.uk%7C685015fadb284750356408da8f2b0f9d%7C45dfff5283644d73bf3a8f98bdf10d87%7C0%7C0%7C637979712346575138%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=zI3OLbaF7Jj63PvN4I2Z%2B%2BzUi3yt7p0aaZFUcVwIY74%3D&reserved=0) and the School Admissions online application is fairly straightforward.

**The Closing Date for Secondary School Applications is the 31st October 2023**.

If parents do not wish to apply online they can complete a paper application form, and these are available on request from the School Admissions Team.

These application forms can be requested by e-mail to [schooladmissions@durham.gov.uk](mailto:schooladmissions@durham.gov.uk) or by telephone from the School Admissions and Transport Team on 03000 265896.

**Contact details**

We are aware that over the summer break some families have moved home and have not updated their contact details. This is also the case with mobile phone numbers and email addresses. Please keep contact details up to date. Phone and email details must be kept up to date as this is how we will contact you in the event of any queries or an emergency situation. Our Eschools platform also relies on these details to keep you up to date with newsletters, parents’ evenings and other letters and events. Please do not miss out on this information by not updating your details.

You can contact the office at [kingstreet@durhamlearning.net](mailto:kingstreet@durhamlearning.net)

**Reception parents**

We would like to welcome all of our new Reception families to school this week and hope your child has enjoyed their first few days. You should have received a log in for our Eschools communication system yesterday and today you will receive details of how to log onto ParentPay. Please check children’s bags for these. We are a cashless school and therefore all payments are made through an electronic system so please ensure you have your log in details. We use this system to pay for visits, events and also school meals. Thank you.

**Holidays in term time**

We understand the cost difference for family holidays during term time, however, I am obliged to remind you that holidays in term time will not be authorised. This is due to the guidelines and policies set at local and national level. Thank you for your understanding.

I would also like to highlight to families that the October half term is a week later than usual this year. These dates are set by the Local Authority but where siblings attend an Academy school, it may mean that holiday times are different this year.

We look forward to a very busy Autumn term as children begin their new curriculum topics, take visits out to new places, take part in the harvest church service, attend Halloween discos, movie nights and of course, towards the end of the year they begin practising for the very important Christmas nativity! Dates for all of these events were sent out at the beginning of the week but are also attached with this newsletter. We know this term will fly over.

If you have any queries or concerns please do not hesitate to get in touch. If there is any information you believe is important to pass on about your child, staff are always available on the school yard or you can make an appointment through the school office.

Joanne Bromley

Head Teacher