King Street Primary & Pre - School

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County Durham

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 25th June 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

This week has been a week of mixed emotions in school. We had had some lovely activities for the children, Year 6 have had their class visit and the sun has (mostly) shone, however, the number of cases of Covid in the area have risen exponentially and many colleagues have had to close their schools because of the huge number of positive cases. We are therefore, asking for your support to help us through the last few weeks. We have done so well over the last 18 months to keep educational disruption to an absolute minimum and not had to close a bubble, but I fear that the rise in cases means that the risk is rising. We have more children absent from school this week than ever before and it is becoming increasingly difficult to ascertain what the symptoms of the virus are, with colleagues reporting such a range of things in children. We therefore ask, that if your child is unwell that they do not attend school until they are better. If they display the listed symptoms of Covid they must either have a PCR test or self-isolate for 10 days. I must emphasise that Lateral flow Tests that families can access are not suitable for children with symptoms. Anyone with symptoms must book a PCR test at an appropriate test centre. Lateral Flow Tests were only designed to pick up asymptomatic cases and should not be used on symptomatic children.

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 as 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

Please understand that if we ask you to have your child tested, we are not being awkward but are following guidelines for schools. Whilst it might feel inconvenient to have to self-isolate or be tested, the alternative is that a whole class bubble would need to self-isolate or potentially whole school closure and this would be inconvenient to a far greater number of people.

You must also keep us up to date with email addresses and contact numbers and check emails regularly as this is how we will contact you if your child’s class bubble needs to be closed.

Celebration of Summer

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 of this will be sent by Eschools separately. If you would like your child to have a school dinner on this day please complete the form provided. We hope the sun shines for us!

NSPCC workshops

This week children across school have been accessing workshops with their class teachers about the importance of staying safe. We always run sessions for online safety – especially as children are now on line more than ever, but it is also important to teach children about being safe wherever they are. The NSPCC workshop teaches children about PANTS which stands for **P**rivates are private, **A**lways remember your body belongs to you, **N**O means No, **T**alk about secrets that upset you, **S**peak up, some one can help. The lessons are always engaging, age appropriate and fun and ensures that our children know how to keep themselves safe.

Community events

‘Benching’. Spennymoor Town Show 2021. Friday 3rd September 3pm-7pm. Jubilee Park

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