King Street Primary & Pre - School

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 7th October 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Space week has been a blast! Children have taken every opportunity to impress us with their models, their writing, their jokes and their enthusiasm to be the astronauts of the future. They have had an incredible time and I would like to thank families for the time they have dedicated to supporting children with their space projects. It took 3 adults to judge the models today with huge discussions about which ones to choose. It was incredibly difficult and was certainly not a straightforward decision. The winner from each class was congratulated in assembly alongside our students of the week and were given a small prize in recognition of their work.

With only 2 more weeks left of this half term, we have a busy couple of weeks ahead of us. Next week we have our school photo day. This will take place on Thursday 13th October. Once photos have been taken, the company will send home proofs and you can decide if you would like to purchase these. There is no obligation to buy them. If children have siblings in school, we will organise that siblings can be photographed together as well as individually.

Our Halloween disco is on Wednesday 19th October and information and ticket requests have already been sent. If you have not seen this information, please check your Eschool app or email for full information. Payment for tickets will be allocated on ParentPay from Monday. Once payment has been collected, tickets will be issued in due course.

**Year 6 Eden Camp visit**

Year 6 children had an absolutely brilliant time at Eden Camp – the Blitz hut was a particular favourite. It was so good they even went in twice! It was a pleasure to take our children to experience this exhibition and as always, their behaviour was impeccable. They make us very proud to take them to public places and be ambassadors for our school.

**Phonics information session**

Thank you to the parents who attended the Year 2 phonics information session this week. We will continue to promote phonics and reading throughout school and we will be encouraging all families to read regularly with their children. This is not only the books that we send home but also anything that you have at home or from the local library. Reading is the gateway to learning and we want all of our children to become confident, fluent readers. We will be sending home reminder letters to families where reading books have not been returned to school for a long period of time. Please help us to create a love of books by encouraging your child to read a range of material. Comic books and non-fiction are particularly good for encouraging reluctant readers.

**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:

1. **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.

1. **Help with buying items for school including school uniforms** - A dedicated web page has been developed for families to find out about this support [Help with buying items for school - Durham County Council](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.durham.gov.uk%2Fschooluniform&data=05%7C01%7Cj.bromley200%40kingstreet.durham.sch.uk%7C423a8f21ba274e87e34708daa79edb03%7C45dfff5283644d73bf3a8f98bdf10d87%7C0%7C0%7C638006601548671637%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=lsBaRYu%2FRPh9OAsH%2Fr8l%2BQrdKhgH0e0EeXkreaAcze8%3D&reserved=0)
2. **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)

In addition to this, we are also opening our community hub on Tuesday 11th October 9-11am where you are welcome to come for a chat, to browse our free uniform selection or to ask advice about anything that may be concerning you- we have a wealth of knowledge of services who may be able to offer support. We also have a small amount of funding to help families who are struggling financially and require essential household items, food or clothing. Please speak to Mrs. Livesley in confidence. She is always available on the yard or can be emailed on n.livesley300@kingstreet.durham.sch.uk. We hope to open our community pantry very soon too and will continue accepting donations of dry or tinned food from families to be able to continue with this project.

**Parking**

Once again, I need to remind families about parking in the local area. We have had a number of concerned parents this week who are finding using the local pavements and crossing the roads very difficult due to inconsiderate parking. There will be an accident one day if families do not park carefully and considerately and we do not want this to happen. We have contacted the local transport and policing team who have advised that they will be patrolling the area and talking to adults who have parked inappropriately. The have confirmed that where inconsiderate parking is persistent, fines will be issued.

**Attendance**

Every week in our Friday assembly we recognise and celebrate attendance across the school. It is vitally important that children attend school regularly so they can make progress and keep up with their peers. The average attendance across a school year is 96% and we strive to achieve this in school. Where children’s attendance is dropping below expected standards, we will contact you to find out ways in which we can help. Where absence becomes persistent we will invite you into school to discuss ways of improving this. This is a national approach to improving attendance and the Government are particularly keen in ensuring that post -Covid, children continue to receive a consistent education.

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| **Percentage Attendance**  | **Days missed over a school year**  |
| 100%  | 0 days missed  |
| 95%  | 10 days missed  |
| 90%  | 20 days missed  |
| 85%  | 30 days missed  |
| 80%  | 40 days missed  |

We also find that a number of our children are regularly late and this can cause anxiety among them when they have to walk into class after lessons have started. Please ensure your child has a comfortable start to the day by helping them arrive on time.

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| **Minutes lost each day**  | **Days lost per year**  |
| 5 minutes  | 3 days  |
| 10 minutes  | 6.5 days  |
| 15 minutes  | 10 days  |
| 20 minutes  | 13 days  |
| 30 minutes  | 19 days  |

**Tablet Loan scheme**

We are now in a position to extend our tablet loan scheme to children in Key Stage One. Please look out for a letter coming home with children next week. If you would like a loan tablet, please complete the paperwork and return to school. We do only have a limited supply so please return forms ASAP.

**Future dates**

We have a couple of additional dates to add to our diary dates sheet will be reissued after half term.

Please be aware of the following:

**Friday 21st October** -Show Racism the Red Card- children wear something red for the day (no donation required)

**Wednesday 2nd November**- Y5 visit to Hancock Museum

**Wednesday 2nd November** – Y2 visit Beamish Museum

**Thursday 1st December-** Aladdin pantomime in school

**Friday 16th December**- Nursery- Y4 to visit Santa

Yours Sincerely

J Bromley

Head Teacher