King Street Primary & Pre - School

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 9th September 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

After the sad news last night, we have ended our week with a slightly more sombre and reflective mood than we began with. Staff have spoken to children about the news today and children have had some very wise and thoughtful contributions to discussions. We will, in due course, follow any further events and acknowledge these in a sensitive and respectful way. There is also a book of condolences open at St Andrew’s Church which will be open tonight until 6pm and tomorrow between 11am-1pm.

Whilst the end of the week has a more subdued note, the rest of the week has been very busy. Today’s newsletter will be full of information for you so please read it carefully and keep your eye out for letters that will follow with more detailed information on individual events or activities. Our children are now very settled back into school routines and it has been wonderful to see them skip into school, many without even looking back at anxious parents! Autumn term is always very busy 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 will be sent out separately. We look forward to lots of exciting activities and know that it will fly over.

**Meet the teacher events**

Today, your child will bring home a class newsletter with detailed information about the term ahead. Please read this carefully and retain it for future use. To compliment this newsletter, we are also holding a ‘meet the teacher’ event on Thursday 15th September which will allow you to see your child’s learning environment, meet the teacher and hear more detail about the year ahead. Each teacher will hold 2 consecutive sessions (repeated information) to allow parents to chose a time that suits them best and allows for parents with more than one child, to attend both sessions. We have run these sessions in the past and they have always been a useful source of information. The first session will run from 3:15pm-3:45pm and the repeated session from 3:45pm-4:15pm. Please make your way to your child’s classroom from the doors on the main school yard. (EYFS and Y1 will use their normal entrance door on the EYFS yard). Bookings are not needed for these events and we look forward to seeing you.

**After School Clubs**

We are restarting our after school activity clubs the week beginning 19th 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 and we do not want to waste coaching costs if children do not attend.

**Governor vacancy**

You will have received a letter today 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.

**Community events**

Earlier this year we had a wonderful visit from the Bishop of Durham and he was so impressed with our school he asked if we would be interested in continuing to develop links with him and his team. As a result, we are taking some Year 5 children to be part of a pilgrimage walk that is happening next week. Our children will accompany the walkers for a short distance and hear all about St Cuthbert. The rest of the journey will then continue over a number of days to Lindisfarne. We will have an assembly next week to hear more about it.

**Secondary school applications**

It is that time of year again. The application process for the Secondary Admissions 2023 Intake (current Year 6 children) is due to begin on **Monday 5th September 2022**.

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 facility will be available to parents from **Monday 5th September 2022**.

**The Closing Date for Secondary School Applications is the 31st October 2022**.

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 from **05 September 2022.**

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

A paper copy of this information has been sent home with your child today. Please check their bags.

**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.

**School meals – new catering company**

You may have seen the photograph on Facebook this week of our new catering team and the amazing food they are offering. The company believe in offering children high quality, professionally presented meals and we have definitely seen evidence of that this week. Both staff and children have been delighted at the food on offer, with children rating it 5 out of 5 for taste and presentation. We can highly recommend the meals. If your child would be interested in tasting the new menu and would like to change from packed lunch to school meals please inform the office in writing. You must give at least a week notice so food orders can be amended. This also applies if you would like your child to swap from school meals to packed lunch.

**Open Evening for Early Years provision**

We are holding an open evening for anyone interested in applying for a child’s place in our Early Years Provision (Nursery or Reception places) on Monday 17th at 5pm. If you have a child who will be starting either Nursery or Reception in September 2023, we would welcome you along to view our provision and meet our friendly staff. Where families are unable to attend this date, individual viewings can be arranged. Please contact the school office.

**Reception parents**

This week you will receive a log in for our Eschools communication system and also details of how to log onto ParentPay. 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.

**Phonics meetings**

Parents of children in EYFs, Year 1 and Year 2 will receive information next week regarding our phonics sessions for parents. These will be held after school over the next few weeks and we encourage you to come along, play some phonic games and hear the best way to help your child learn to read. More information will follow.

**Holidays in term time**

We understand that after a difficult couple of years families will be looking to book holidays away. I am obliged to remind you 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.

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. kingstreet@durhamlearning.net

Joanne Bromley

Head Teacher