King Street Primary & Pre - School

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21st October 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

The final day of half term is here already. We cannot believe how quick it has gone and how soon we will be planning for Christmas. This week we have had children in Year 1 attend a gymnastics event, children in Year 5 visiting the church for a reflection visit and we have ended the week with a huge outpouring of support for ‘Show Racism the Red Card’. Children all across school dressed in red and took part in sessions to understand how they can help stamp out racism. The school has definitely turned from blue to red today!

Many of our families may have noticed the presence of our PCSO this week. This is in response to the parking issues we have and the concerns we have for children’s safety. The PCSO had a mostly positive response from parents who all moved vehicles out of dangerous positions. These PCSO patrols will continue and parking enforcement are also joining in with these patrols. As a school, we will play our part by continuing to educate children on the dangers of roads and will deliver road safety workshops across the year. We are also going to be looking for children to volunteer to be part of a road safety campaign that will be advertised across the North East. Hopefully, the campaign will be successful at promoting the safe parking message that we continue to battle with week after week. Children who would like to take part will have a police consent form sent home in due course.

As and end of term reminder, I thought it was worth recapping some of the information that has been shared this term.

**A reminder of 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:

**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.

**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)

**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, this website may also be useful:

[Fighting UK Poverty - Turn2us](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.turn2us.org.uk%2F&data=05%7C01%7Cj.bromley200%40kingstreet.durham.sch.uk%7Cd36bd99b356246c4fbb608daa6e2118a%7C45dfff5283644d73bf3a8f98bdf10d87%7C0%7C0%7C638005787127201868%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=kGO1L%2Frh7bogsi9NCONoM7FHz9UXJJdkSxssW5BKW2I%3D&reserved=0)

Turn2us is a national charity that helps people in financial hardship to gain access to welfare benefits, charitable grants and support services – online, by phone and face to face, through partner organisations and our volunteers.

[www.turn2us.org.uk](http://www.turn2us.org.uk/)

**Tablet Loan scheme**

Letters went out last week extending our tablet loan scheme to Key Stage 1 children. We have now processed all of these requests and still have a few tablets remaining. If your child is in Key Stage 1 or 2 and does not have access to a tablet at home, please email the school office and we are able to arrange one for you. This will help children to access homework and supports any additional learning they would like to undertake.

**Holiday activities**  
Free swimming is once again available in the October Half Term and further information is available here: [https://www.durham.gov.uk/freeswimming](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.durham.gov.uk%2Ffreeswimming&data=05%7C01%7Cj.bromley200%40kingstreet.durham.sch.uk%7C286b28d13d7141d867a508dab1e63029%7C45dfff5283644d73bf3a8f98bdf10d87%7C0%7C0%7C638017900499780479%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=cDJBwZuPpmewLTV5AMCRI8Zd2SpwIi7QLT%2F5NmSf49c%3D&reserved=0)

Ahead of the school holidays, we want to remind everyone about good hygiene at our swimming pools and leisure venues. Please make sure you wash your hands and shower before using our pools. If you have been unwell, particularly with a tummy bug, please don’t use the pool for at least 48 hours. If you have been diagnosed with cryptosporidiosis you should not use swimming pools for**14 days** after symptoms have resolved.

**Attendance**

As we are now at the end of our first half term, I thought it would be a worthwhile reminder to families about the importance of attendance. We always aim for 96% attendance, this was the last published National Average. This term our overall school attendance was 93%. The overall attendance for each class is below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Year Group** | **Half term attendance** |
| Reception | 87% |
| Year 1 | 96% |
| Year 2 | 93% |
| Year 3 | 94% |
| Year 4 | 91% |
| Year 5 | 94% |
| Year 6 | 96% |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **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.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **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 |

**Parents’ evenings**

We will be opening our parents’ evening booking system on Eschools at 3pm today. Please log on to your parent account and book your session. These will take place in the week beginning 7th November. If you have already had a meeting with the class teacher this week because of their additional needs, you do not need to make a further appointment. These meetings will be focused upon how your child has settled, how engaged they are in their learning and to discuss any queries or concerns you may have. Appointments are face to face when booked through Eschools but can be made for an over the phone appointment if you contact the teacher directly to book this. If you have any difficulty with booking an appointment through Eschools, please contact the class teacher.

**Safeguarding**

As a school we are often central to recognising safeguarding concerns and children recognise us as a ‘safe space’. Keeping children safe from harm is our number one priority. Whilst we always act upon information we are given, as the holidays approach I would like to let you know how you can report your own safeguarding concerns from within the community. If ever you have a concern for a child, you can contact First Contact for advice on 03000267979

**Poppy Appeal**

After half term we will begin selling poppy merchandise to each class. This always proves very popular (especially the wrist bands!) and I am sure we will make a huge amount for the appeal. If children would like to purchase any of the poppy items, they should bring a donation of £1 in the week beginning 31st October. The items will be brought round to classes each day. Paper poppies require a donation of 20p.

**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:

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

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

**Wednesday 23rd November** – Y3 visit to Bowes Museum

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

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

I hope all of our families have a restful break and enjoy some quality family time together. Please remember that family time does not mean that children have to visit expensive places - a walk down to the woods or river is equally enjoyable, especially at this time of year.

Yours Sincerely

J Bromley

Head Teacher