**King Street Primary & Pre - School**

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County Durham

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 10th February 2023

Dear Parents /Carers

We have had a wonderful final week in school and have celebrated ‘Random Acts of Kindness Week’ with our children. It is delightful to see the ways in which our children can show their kindness; from making cards for one another, a smile or kind word, or making sure others have someone to play with. We do feel that we have a school of kind and thoughtful children who want to be part of a bigger community of kindness. They are always looking for ways to help the community from visiting the elderly in the residential home to litter picking around the local area.

Our Youngest children have been looking at ‘people who help us’ as part of their curriculum and following a recent visit to the police station, they have also had a visit from the local fire brigade. It is really important that we instil in our children that these services are here to help the communities and they should be respected. It is always sad to read in the news they have been physically and verbally attacked. Hopefully, our children can spread the same kindness they have shown this week to others in the community and hope that kindness becomes contagious.

**Staff news**

We have been delighted to welcome Miss Simpson back from her maternity leave this week and she has loved catching up with all of the children and getting to know new faces. Miss Simpson will spend the rest of the academic year working across both Year 1 and 2 supporting learning across the curriculum. Miss Boe will remain as Year 1 teacher and Miss Chazot will remain as Year 2 teacher. It will be lovely for the children to share an additional teacher and it will be a real boost to their knowledge and skills.

**Parents’ evening**

Year 1- 6 Parents’ Evening will be held week beginning Monday 6th March. Our Parents’ Evening booking platform on Eschools will open today at 3pm and remain open for bookings until 3pm on 2nd March. This is an opportunity for you to hear how your child is progressing, their attitude to learning and their overall developments across the curriculum. It is your chance to ask any questions or to raise any queries so we look forward to seeing you all. You do need your parent login for Eschools so if you have misplaced this, please email the school office and they will reset it for you.

Nursery and Reception will hold Stay and Play parent events and these are being held on Monday 6th March for Reception and Wednesday 8th March for Nursery. EYFS will send out information, after half term, to book your place.

**Strike action**

There is further strike action planned for Tuesday 28th February. The school will not be closed on this day and children should attend as normal.

**Half term activities**

There are lots of half term activities now being advertised to keep children busy and well fed during the holidays. For more information visit <https://www.durham.gov.uk/funandfood>

Many cafés also offer free kid’s meals during the holidays so look out for these deals on social media.

**Flu Immunisation catch up programme**

The NHS have asked that we advise parents of the available catch up sessions for children who have not yet had the annual flu immunisation. Please see the clinics below.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Appointment Time** | **Clinic** | **Area** | **Address** |
| 18-Feb-23  | 9.30 to 2.30pm  | The Dolphin Centre   | Darlington  | Horsemarket, Darlington DL1 5RP  |
| 20-Feb-23  | 9.30 to 3pm  | Spennymoor Health Centre Home Education Room  | Durham  | Bishops Close, Spennymoor, Co Durham DL16 6ED  |
| 23-Feb-23  | 9.30 to 2.30pm  | Newton Aycliffe Family Centre  | Durham  | Stephenson Way, Newton Aycliffe DL5 7DD  |

**Adult well-being sessions**

We have now finalised the information for our adult outdoor wellbeing sessions and they will be held 9am-3pm starting Friday from Friday 21st April. The sessions will last for 8 weeks and will be led by qualified outdoor activities instructor from ‘Endless Adventure’. Week 1 will start with some forest-based activities including camp fires and bush craft. After this, the group will collaboratively help plan the rest of the sessions which may include paddle boarding, rock climbing, river walking and team games. The aim of the group is to develop self-confidence and to introduce adults to the therapeutic benefits of nature and the local environment. You do not need specialist equipment or any previous experience and we know these sessions will be amazing (our staff would love to go!) so please email kingstreet@durhamlearning.net to book your place. We do have a maximum number of people we can take so please book early to secure your place. The sessions are all free of charge.

**World Book day**

We will be celebrating reading for world book day and children have the chance to dress as their favourite character on Friday 3rd March. A paper version of the book token has been sent home today so please check your child’s bag. There is also a digital version of the voucher available.

[https://www.worldbookday.com/primary-digital-token/](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.worldbookday.com%2Fprimary-digital-token%2F&data=05%7C01%7Cj.bromley200%40kingstreet.durham.sch.uk%7C4c0945ad877248d447b508db0aa8d3b3%7C45dfff5283644d73bf3a8f98bdf10d87%7C0%7C0%7C638115493603247964%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=msKWUHBwOUG7WHfZvTDg6Y79wUVy%2Fbtr%2FBwfadD1VLo%3D&reserved=0)

**General reminders**

Without wanting to end our half term on a negative note, I would like to give parents some reminders about our expectations when in and around school.

Please remember we do not allow dogs on the school yard. We do not recommend tying your dog up outside of the school grounds for safety reasons and also the risk of it being stolen. We advise dogs are left at home.

We do not allow smoking or vaping on the school grounds and we discourage this in the immediate area surrounding our school. We want our children to grow up healthy and do not want them in areas of smoke and we have also had incidents where cigarettes have been held in positions that are close to passers by and could pose a danger of burning.

We ask that all families conduct themselves in a polite and friendly way and do not shout at each other or their children around other families. We have had a few instances where young children have witnessed altercations between families and this causes them to become very upset. This is not acceptable for our children.

Please ensure you park responsibly. I now feel that I mention this on every newsletter and those persistent offenders are not accepting their responsibilities to park safely.

All of the above issues have been passed onto the police who have acknowledge the problems and will, once again, be patrolling the area to keep our children and families safe.

**Upcoming dates for diary**

School reopens – **Monday 27th February**

Dress up as a book character for World Book Day - **Friday 3rd March**

Year 1-6 Parents’ evenings- **Week beginning 6th March**

Reception Stay and Play- **Monday 6th March**

Nursery Stay and Play- **Wednesday 8th March**

Movie Night- **Thursday 9th March (3:15- 5:30pm)**

Comic Relief- **Friday 17th March** (dress down day)

Mother’s Day event- **Friday 17th March (1:15-2:15pm)**

Easter crafts event – **Friday 31st March (1.15-2.15pm)**

As always, if you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to speak to staff or email the school office. Equally, if you would like to volunteer to work within our school team, please speak to the office for a volunteer application pack.

Yours Sincerely

Joanne Bromley

Head Teacher