King Street Primary & Pre - School

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19/1/24

Dear Parent/carers,

I mentioned last week that we hadn’t yet had the really cold weather and I definitely spoke too soon! What a cold, icy snap we have had. The children have been desperately hoping we would get snow but I think most of the adults have been glad it has stayed away! We do recommend that children bring hats and gloves during the winter as we still try to give them time outside and we want to them be warm and comfortable.

Some of our families have been asking if the Local Authority will be issuing household vouchers again over the half term holiday, however, these are usually only offered at Easter, Summer and Christmas. If anyone is struggling with the current cold snap and the cost of living, please do come and speak to us as we should be able to signpost you to further support. We also have access to food bank support and support for children’s clothing. We do not want to see any of our families struggle.

**Childhood illness**

Alongside the cold snap we have seen a rise in the number of children off school with fever and flu like symptoms. We are able to give children paracetamol in school to help them through a school day, if they have mild cold symptoms. We do advise that if children have a temperature, sickness and diarrhoea or are showing extreme tiredness that they remain at home until they feel better. This will help minimise the spread of viruses. If your child is attending school and you feel paracetamol is needed for mild discomfort, please ensure you send a bottle of medicine to the school office, clearly labelled with your child’s name. Most families have already given written consent for their child to have paracetamol in school but if you have not, this must be given before any medicine can be given. Whilst we do hold some paracetamol in school, this is designed for emergency situations only.

**Year 4/5 residential trip.**

We now have lots of children signed up for the residential visit and children have been talking very excitedly about it- I hope they can contain this excitement as the trip is not until July! If you have not yet signed your child up for the visit, please use the link below which contains all of the details you need to know.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=Uv_fRWSDc02_Oo-YvfENh0-Ga7Qi6YNKrtBPCYTM6cRUMk4yUkFBS1E1TDU0NjhES1AyTjBSNlUwMy4u>

**Online safety**

Keeping children safe online continues to be a priority for us in school. It is equally as important at home and we are constantly managing situations in school where children have been unkind to each other on social media platforms outside of school. We do believe that no primary aged child should be using social media platforms as they often lack the emotional maturity to use them effectively. However, if your child does use social media please ensure they use the ‘block’ and ‘report’ buttons to prevent any communication that is offensive or inappropriate.

I would like to remind parents that we have a National Online Safety Platform which has many webinar training sessions for families to inform you of the ever-changing platforms, games and technology that children may be accessing and how you can be confident you know as much about it as they do! Please sign up to this brilliant platform using the link below. Once you have created yourself an account, you will have access to webinars that will give you the latest information to keep your child safe. I hope this is really helpful as online safety is often something that parents often ask us for advice around. If you have any difficulties accessing the site, please speak to the school office and we help you out.

[https://nationalcollege.com/enrol/king-street-primary-school](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fnationalcollege.com%2Fenrol%2Fking-street-primary-school&data=05%7C01%7Cj.bromley200%40kingstreet.durham.sch.uk%7C9baf9d6f01b948fa841008db8242f2b7%7C45dfff5283644d73bf3a8f98bdf10d87%7C0%7C0%7C638246996266904261%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=JqyCm%2FRESOTD3UXXuGbltQF16YoKlfprzovZtFTHXYE%3D&reserved=0)

Below are a list of links that we would recommend parents and carers to use to support themselves and their children at home with being safe online.

National Links and Resources for Parents/Carers:

* Internet Matters: [www.internetmatters.org](http://www.internetmatters.org) *This site is particularly useful for providing clear information and up-to-date advice on setting parental controls.*
* CEOP:
  + [www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk)
  + [www.ceop.police.uk](http://www.ceop.police.uk)
* Childnet: [www.childnet.com](http://www.childnet.com)
* Get Safe Online: [www.getsafeonline.org](http://www.getsafeonline.org/)
* Internet Watch Foundation (IWF): [www.iwf.org.uk](http://www.iwf.org.uk)
* Lucy Faithfull Foundation: [www.lucyfaithfull.org](http://www.lucyfaithfull.org)
  + Parent protect - advice for parents having difficulties e.g. Peer on peer abuse or Police involvement [www.parentsprotect.co.uk/](http://www.parentsprotect.co.uk/)
* NSPCC: [www.nspcc.org.uk/onlinesafety](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/onlinesafety)
  + ChildLine: [www.childline.org.uk](http://www.childline.org.uk)
  + Net Aware: [www.net-aware.org.uk](http://www.net-aware.org.uk)
* The Marie Collins Foundation: [www.mariecollinsfoundation.org.uk](http://www.mariecollinsfoundation.org.uk/)
* UK Safer Internet Centre: [www.saferinternet.org.uk](http://www.saferinternet.org.uk)

**Mental Health News**

We have been asked to help engage with children and young people on behalf of our Health Commissioners to gather feedback about what young people would want from an online mental health support offer in County Durham. The results of the engagement will help identify whether existing online support offers are actually what young people want or whether or not there is a gap.

There is also a link below to the survey. There’s only 2 questions so hopefully it won’t take long to complete. [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RS37T2S](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.surveymonkey.com%2Fr%2FRS37T2S&data=05%7C02%7Cj.bromley200%40kingstreet.durham.sch.uk%7C976bb910ec934e189b3808dc18d70d36%7C45dfff5283644d73bf3a8f98bdf10d87%7C0%7C0%7C638412563935521787%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=kf9GCBicWBSSOpVwSkDqiLEVG%2FPXASTazBWTt18WCRc%3D&reserved=0)

Please can you share this with your child and help them complete the survey so they can help drive improvements in mental health support. The deadline for this feedback is the Friday **9th February**.

With this newsletter I am also sharing a list of contact numbers within the local authority who may be able to support your child. Please see the attachment and ask us for any further advice you need. We may be able to signpost you to which service is the most suitable for their needs.

On Thursday 1st February it is Time To Talk Day. This is an annual event to encourage positive conversations about mental health. To download free resources for young people, community groups, your workplaces or sports clubs go to: [**https://timetotalkday.co.uk/**](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Ftimetotalkday.co.uk%2F&data=05%7C02%7Cj.bromley200%40kingstreet.durham.sch.uk%7C976bb910ec934e189b3808dc18d70d36%7C45dfff5283644d73bf3a8f98bdf10d87%7C0%7C0%7C638412563935521787%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Vlay0oICG5O5wLgk%2FlWd2ZLrA2%2BNuK9wdYXfjHALzgk%3D&reserved=0)

Time to Talk Day is the nation’s biggest mental health conversation. Happening every year, it’s a day for friends, families, communities, and workplaces to come together to talk, listen and change lives. Time to Talk Day 2024 will take place 1 February 2024. It’s run by [Mind](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.mind.org.uk%2F&data=05%7C02%7Cj.bromley200%40kingstreet.durham.sch.uk%7C976bb910ec934e189b3808dc18d70d36%7C45dfff5283644d73bf3a8f98bdf10d87%7C0%7C0%7C638412563935678036%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=iiSfjI6M8uRAO8hRfpFHs%2BD2JQDyrKcqHqWkfGZEw6Y%3D&reserved=0) and [Rethink Mental Illness](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.rethink.org%2F&data=05%7C02%7Cj.bromley200%40kingstreet.durham.sch.uk%7C976bb910ec934e189b3808dc18d70d36%7C45dfff5283644d73bf3a8f98bdf10d87%7C0%7C0%7C638412563935678036%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=XEheJLZWULGI5p61aPt2UUsOtEUj6S9okJw24a8Zxno%3D&reserved=0) and is being delivered in partnership with [Co-op](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.coop.co.uk%2F&data=05%7C02%7Cj.bromley200%40kingstreet.durham.sch.uk%7C976bb910ec934e189b3808dc18d70d36%7C45dfff5283644d73bf3a8f98bdf10d87%7C0%7C0%7C638412563935678036%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=tbEH1alWWdDpqoWko5UM076haK5ZWy5KNaeQmqrjoXM%3D&reserved=0) for the third year running. The more conversations we have, the better life is for everyone. Talking about mental health isn’t always easy and sometimes it’s even harder to say how you really feel. But a conversation has the power to change lives. Time to Talk Day is the perfect opportunity to start a conversation about mental health.

**Learning in school**

You will have read the class newsletter last week and will see that there is lots of learning going on in school. It has been lovely to talk to children about what they are doing and what they find most interesting. It is also lovely to hear that they are enjoying reading many different books across school and that so many children want to continue this at home. Please do remember to send your child into school with their reading book every day. Staff are always looking for opportunities to take up extra reading with the children and therefore children need their books available.

In Mathematics we are having a real push on supporting the children to learn their multiplication tables. Knowing the times tables (and their associated division facts) supports mathematical learning and understanding and those children who have a strong grasp of them tend to be more self-assured when learning new concepts. As part of the National Curriculum, every child is expected to know their multiplication tables up to 12 x 12.

This is broken down across school as follows:

Year 1: count in multiples of 2, 5 and 10.

Year 2: be able to remember and use multiplication and division facts for the 2, 5 and 10 multiplication tables, including recognising odd and even numbers.

Year 3: be able to remember and use multiplication and division facts for the 3, 4 and 8 multiplication tables, including recognising odd and even numbers.

Year 4: be able to remember and use multiplication and division facts for the multiplication tables up to 12 x 12.

Year 5: revision of all multiplication and division facts for the multiplication tables up to 12 x 12.

Year 6: revision of all multiplication and division facts for the multiplication tables up to 12 x 12.

**School meals**

A quick reminder to families who want to swap their child’s meal preference. If you need to swap from school lunch to packed lunch (or vice versa) please contact the school office by email with at least 1 weeks’ notice. This allows time for the food ordering process to be amended. We have a number of children who are usually on packed lunch but are arriving at school wanting a school meal on the same day. Many families are entitled to a free school meal based on certain benefits they receive. If you believe you may be entitled to free school meals, please contact the school office to check eligibility. [kingstreet@durhamlearning.net](mailto:kingstreet@durhamlearning.net)

Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are all eligible for free school meals through the Government’s universal meal offer. However, families must still notify us that they wish to take up this offer.

**Upcoming diary dates:**

Monday 12th- Friday 16th February SEND children parents’ evening (teachers will contact parents directly to make appointments)

Thursday 15th February – School disco. Reception/KS1 3.15-4.30pm KS2 4.30-5.30

Friday 16th February – school closes for Half Term

Monday 26th February – School reopens for teaching purposes

Wednesday 28th February – Captain Chemistry visiting school to deliver workshops to children

Wednesday 28th February – 1st March – Reception class ‘bikeability sessions’

Monday 4th- Friday 8th March- Key stage 1 and 2 parents’ evenings

Monday 4th – Thursday 7th March – Year 1 ‘bikeability’ sessions

Monday 4th March – Reception children parent stay and play session (times to follow)

Wednesday 6th March- Nursery parent stay and play session (times to follow)

Thursday 7th March- World book day

Thursday 7th March- Mother’s day event 1.15pm-2.15pm

Thursday 14th March – Movie night 3.15-5.30pm

Monday 18th March – Year 6 SAT’s information session for parents at 5pm

Thursday 28th March- Easter service at St Andrew’s Church 10:30am

Thursday 28th March – Easter Craft event for families 1-2pm

Thursday 28th March- School closes for the Easter break.

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.

Joanne Bromley

Head Teacher