King Street Primary & Pre - School

High Grange Road

Spennymoor

County Durham

DL166RA Telephone: (01388) 816078

Email: kingstreet@durhamlearning.net



7th January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy new Year to you all and welcome back to the new school term. As usual, the children have returned from the break full of energy with lots of wonderful stories about the family time they have had. It certainly seems like it has been a busy break and thoroughly enjoyed. This time last year schools were closed so it is a really positive step forward that we have remained open and our children can continue their education without disruption.

As we seem to have more certainty now it feels like we can move forward with school visits and to pursue the curriculum we really want for the children. This week we have confirmed our Y6 residential visit to London and have agreed the schedule for the restarting of Outdoor Education. A very positive start to the term! Mr Colling has issued a paper copy of a letter to his Y6 class today with information about the London visit and this has also been sent to Parent/Carers by Eschools. Please ensure that the information sheet is completed and returned. Other classes have also issued newsletters with information about the topics being covered this term, reading and homework expectations and PE days. This will help you to support your child at home.

Our Outdoor education programme will begin next month with our Year 4 and Year 2 classes and further information will be sent out by individual teachers. Other classes are scheduled for activities later this term and over the summer. It appears to be a really exciting mix of events from rock climbing, kayaking, den building, hill walking, coasteering and fossil hunting! Our Year 4 and 5 children also have much more of this to come with their residential visit to Weardale in July. Hopefully, we will be able to host an information event for Y4/5 parents, with the company, once restrictions are eased, more information on this is to follow.

As we move deeper into winter, we do encourage children to bring warm coats, hats and gloves and even wellies with them as playtimes are still outdoors. Children usually enjoy playing in the snow and therefore they need to be well equipped to stay warm and dry. If you are having any problems providing these items for your child, please do speak to us as we may be able to help with some items. It is a vital part of a child’s development to play outdoors and to also brave the cold!

Food bank

On behalf of the local foodbank I would like to thank you for the donations made last term. I received a letter from them this week which confirmed that there will be many families who had a much brighter Christmas due to the donations given. Thank you for your generosity and if anyone would like to continue supporting the foodbank, we will always pass donations over to them.

School meal events

Once again, our school cook Alison, has been busy arranging some meal events for our children. This term we have the following events in place:

1.2.22 - **Chinese New Year**

11.2.22- **Valentine's**

8.4.22 - **Easter**

17.6.22 - **Royal High Tea**

Information on the meal provided and how to book these events will be sent in due course so please do look out for them. Booking is essential if you would like your child to take part.

Dates for the diary

I have attached the diary dates that we currently have planned and hopefully as restrictions ease and cases drop we can begin to fill the calendar up with many more activities which involve families. Please make a note of the term dates and holidays as I know that some families will now be looking towards booking family holidays and the term dates will be vital for planning this. Please note also that we cannot authorise holidays in term time.

Guidelines for Covid-19

Please see below the updated Department for Education guidance regarding Covid-19 and testing, as well as the attached flow chart. The Actions for Schools guidance has now been updated to reflect the fact that daily rapid testing is now recommended for fully vaccinated adults and children aged 5-18 ½ who are close contacts of anyone with Covid-19 (whether Omicron or not) for 7 days instead of self-isolating.

Extract below: -

“From 14 December 2021, adults who are fully vaccinated and all children and young people aged between 5 and 18 years and 6 months identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 are strongly advised to take a LFD test every day for 7 days and continue to attend their setting as normal, unless they have a positive test result.

Daily testing of close contacts applies to all contacts who are:

• fully vaccinated adults – people who have had 2 doses of an approved vaccine

• all children and young people aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months, regardless of their vaccination status

• people who are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

• people taking part, or have taken part, in an approved clinical trial for a COVID-19 vaccine”

As always, if you have any questions or concerns please speak to class teachers on the yard or contact the school office to make an appointment.

Yours Sincerely

Joanne Bromley

Headteacher