King Street Primary & Pre - School

High Grange Road

Spennymoor

County Durham

DL166RA Telephone: (01388) 8160781

Email: kingstreet@durhamlearning.net



21st June 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

Thank you to everyone who has donated bottles for our school fair today. You have been very generous and we certainly have a huge collection to use for our tombola. We are all hoping that the weather stays fine so we can all enjoy the many stalls and activities that we have planned. I always like to acknowledge the hard work from staff in organising such a big event as this is all done in their own time and it always raises significant amounts of money for the children. Don’t forget to put the 4th July in your diary and come along and enjoy the treats we have on offer.

Please look out in children’s bags for a letter about our Fun and Fitness week which starts on Monday 8th July. The letter shows the activities we have planned for across the week and includes the details for our sport’s days. It will definitely be another busy week and the children will sleep well by Friday! Once again, we always hope the weather stays fine as these activities rely upon us using our outdoor space.

**Community events**

Over the summer holidays ‘Little Endless Tales’ are holding a book hunt for children in the community. Whilst not all information has been released yet, if you follow them on their Facebook page, all dates, clues and access information will be released soon. As a school, we have sponsored 20 of these books so we do encourage the children to get out into the community and find them!

Mrs Longhorne, in the school office, has now completed all of her fundraising activities and is delighted to announce that they have raised over £3000 for Kidney care UK. We know this will be gratefully received by Sunderland hospital and the Kidney care units and will help support patients in our community.

Joanne Banks dancers are also presenting ‘Electric Energy’ - a performance not to be missed. A number of our children are participating in this event and we are incredibly proud of the bravery they show to get on stage in front a large audience. Performances are on Thursday 4th, Friday 5th and Saturday 6th July 7pm at Darlington Hippodrome. Please contact [enquiries@joannebanksdancers.com](mailto:enquiries@joannebanksdancers.com) for more information.

**Holiday clubs**

Durham County Council are continuing to offer free fun and food clubs over the summer break. This is for families who are eligible for benefit-related free school meals and families must have a voucher to use the service. All vouchers have now been emailed to eligible to families and we hope you take advantage of this offer.

There are also other holiday clubs that are open to all families on the Durham County council website, we know that SportsCool are a popular club that offers daily rates of £15 or a 5-day club for £60. These clubs do book up fast so please do book up early if you are looking for activities for over the holidays.

**Transition session**

Children will be attending a transition session on 3rd July with their new teacher in their new classroom. These visits always help alleviate anxiety and excite children for the curriculum they will be study in the year ahead. It gives both staff and children opportunity to begin to get to know each other and to share stories about their family and friends. I hope they come home telling you all about it and looking forward to the next stage of their educational journey.

**Attendance and lateness**

I would like to remind parents that children must be in school by 8:45am. We encourage all children to come to school prior to this from 8:30am so they can have a softer start to their day. We are regularly getting children arrive at 9am when lessons have begun and children often feel awkward walking into classes during teaching time. It is well researched that children who miss school regularly or regularly arrive late, do not achieve their potential and do not have as strong educational outcomes and economic successes as those who attend daily and arrive on time. Please ensure your child is here on time and is only absent if they are too unwell for school. A separate document has been sent home today regarding unauthorised attendance from September. This is will enforced by the Local authority who are aiming to reduce absence rates across County Durham.

**School meals/packed lunches**

I would like to remind parents that we require one week’s notice for a child to change from packed lunch to school dinner or vice versa. We have a number of children who are registered for school dinners but sometimes during a week, will bring a packed lunch. All meals are ordered a week in advance and changes on a daily basis cannot be accounted for and result in food wastage or no meal being available for a child. Please ensure that, your child remains consistent with their meal choice and any changes are made through the school office one week in advance. Thank you.

**Public Health**

We have been asked by the Local authority to advise parents of current public health concerns and relevant advice if you need it. Please find below updated guidance for parents and carers on Whooping Cough (Pertussis) and Scabies.

**Whooping Cough (Pertussis)**

We have recently seen cases of whooping cough (pertussis) rise across the North East. Whooping cough is caused by a bacterial infection and symptoms include:

* a cough lasting several weeks following initial cold-like symptoms
* prolonged bouts of coughing
* post-coughing retching or vomiting
* a ‘whoop’ sound on breathing in
* rib pain

For most school-aged children, symptoms will resolve over several weeks, but on occasion coughing can persist for a few months.  Young babies (particularly those under 6 months of age) may, however, be at risk of more severe complications. Further information can be found on the NHS website ([https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/whooping-cough/](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nhs.uk%2Fconditions%2Fwhooping-cough%2F&data=05%7C02%7Cj.bromley200%40kingstreet.durham.sch.uk%7C061100914a3549f69eed08dc974b6989%7C45dfff5283644d73bf3a8f98bdf10d87%7C0%7C0%7C638551597361267701%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=UQB%2FXNqEk5%2BQpBZ%2BOIGk%2BWqoikzNfbIQN0MjviJnMm8%3D&reserved=0)).

Advice for parents or guardians

If your child has any of the symptoms described above, we advise you seek prompt medical advice from a GP.  Treatment for whooping cough depends on your age and how long you’ve had the infection.  Individuals are no longer considered to be infectious to others after 48 hours of treatment with antibiotics or, if untreated, 14 days after the start of their illness.

If your child missed any of their infant or pre-school vaccines, or if you are pregnant and have not yet received the whooping cough vaccine during this pregnancy, we recommend that you arrange catch-up vaccination through your GP practice as soon as possible.

**Scabies**

Scabies is a skin infection caused by tiny mites that burrow in the skin.

The symptoms of scabies are:

* intense itching, especially at night
* a raised rash or spots

The rash usually spreads across the whole body, apart from the head and Scabies remains infectious until treated.

Advice for parents or guardians

If your child has any of the symptoms described above, we advise you seek prompt medical advice from a GP or pharmacist.  Affected individuals can attend settings with advice to avoid close physical contact with others until 24 hours after the first dose of chosen treatment.

Young children not able to adhere to this advice due to their age (for example those under 5 years old) or additional needs, should be excluded from the setting until 24 hours after the first dose of chosen treatment.

As always, if you have any concerns or queries please contact teachers directly by email or speak to them on the school yard.

**Upcoming diary dates:**

Thursday 4th July- School summer fair (3.30pm)

Monday 8th July- KS2 Sports day 1-3pm

Tuesday 9th July- Reception/KS1 Sports day 1-3pm

Friday 19th July – school closes for summer break

The 2045-25 academic year begins on Wednesday 4th September 2024. Term dates for next academic year are available on our website.

Joanne Bromley

Head Teacher