King Street Primary & Pre - School

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County Durham

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20th July 2022

Dear Parents/carers,

As we finish our summer term and the holidays begin I thought it would be useful to share some information which may be helpful to families over the holidays.

**Free travel**

​Families across County Durham can enjoy free travel for children on buses this summer, throughout the school holidays.

Durham County Council are supporting bus companies Arriva, Stagecoach and Go North East alongside Nexus and other local authorities to launch the special offer so that families can make the most of the summer.

**Pre -loved boutique**

To help with the cost of living and in keeping with protecting the environment, families in our area can now access preloved swimwear (adults and children) and equipment at Woodhouse Close or Willington Family Centres. They can also donate clean, undamaged, and usable swimwear, goggles, and swimming hats, in any size (children’s and adults) too.

**Summer clubs**

There are a number of holiday clubs running over the summer period which may help many families find engaging activities for their children. Some of these activities are free so please have a look below. Please note that many of the DCC leisure centres are offering free swimming sessions to children and we know from swimming sessions in school, this is always a popular option for children. Some of the available clubs also offer a free food element too. Please check the information below.

Durham county council website- Fun and food: [**https://www.durham.gov.uk/funandfood**](https://www.durham.gov.uk/funandfood)

**Or**

<http://www.countydurhamfamilies.info/kb5/durham/fsd/results.action?qt=HAWF&term=&sorttype=relevance&x=0&y=0&districts=4>

<http://www.countydurhamfamilies.info/kb5/durham/fsd/results.action?qt=HAWF&term=&sorttype=relevance&x=0&y=0&districts=0&sr=0&nh=10>

<https://www.durham.ac.uk/colleges-and-student-experience/team-durham/community/holiday-camps/>

**Water safety**  
Over the Summer, we are encouraging and raising an awareness and continue to promote the importance of staying safe in and near water. Drowning Prevention is a vitally important part of County Durham’s National Curriculum and water safety education curriculum and a number of children and as young people have sadly already lost their lives recently, this information may be useful to share with your children.

1.      [http://durham.gov.uk/watersafety](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fdurham.gov.uk%2Fwatersafety&data=05%7C01%7Cj.bromley200%40kingstreet.durham.sch.uk%7Cfec877e82f454eab0fec08da6a289200%7C45dfff5283644d73bf3a8f98bdf10d87%7C0%7C0%7C637939019727478424%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=6yVaxhTIyP7z6XkHJONvX%2BC3%2BnUJbJcFFXuKpa%2F6ZA4%3D&reserved=0)

2.      [Water Safety Advice | Royal Life Saving Society UK ( RLSS UK )](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.rlss.org.uk%2FPages%2FCategory%2Fwater-safety-information&data=05%7C01%7Cj.bromley200%40kingstreet.durham.sch.uk%7Cfec877e82f454eab0fec08da6a289200%7C45dfff5283644d73bf3a8f98bdf10d87%7C0%7C0%7C637939019727478424%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=%2FmZsABK4M0MMaBohztXj9shX%2BLnL2p72oLMRgxadHkY%3D&reserved=0)

3.      [Water Safety Advice And Tips - Know The Risks (rnli.org)](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Frnli.org%2Fsafety&data=05%7C01%7Cj.bromley200%40kingstreet.durham.sch.uk%7Cfec877e82f454eab0fec08da6a289200%7C45dfff5283644d73bf3a8f98bdf10d87%7C0%7C0%7C637939019727478424%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=y8YrDdcw0yq%2FIbRRl9tJL3qkesUZsHnyQ4WbmTtELFg%3D&reserved=0)

4.      [Water Safety Pack | Canal & River Trust (canalrivertrust.org.uk)](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fcanalrivertrust.org.uk%2Fspecialist-teams%2Fyouth-engagement%2Fwere-here-for-youth%2Fyouth-resources-and-activities%2Fwater-safety-pack&data=05%7C01%7Cj.bromley200%40kingstreet.durham.sch.uk%7Cfec877e82f454eab0fec08da6a289200%7C45dfff5283644d73bf3a8f98bdf10d87%7C0%7C0%7C637939019727478424%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=PM%2B8g1BhHrUBEwAfLsNgk7OArCzcSC%2FISg0MuAHSSxA%3D&reserved=0)

5.      [Home | StayWise](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fstaywise.co.uk%2Fhome&data=05%7C01%7Cj.bromley200%40kingstreet.durham.sch.uk%7Cfec877e82f454eab0fec08da6a289200%7C45dfff5283644d73bf3a8f98bdf10d87%7C0%7C0%7C637939019727478424%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=L7LAGKyc5o7fTQK1kdip%2F9ycVeBGiS5zvSo37LzMBHs%3D&reserved=0)

**Online safety**

With children spending more time online over the holiday period, it will be worth reminding children about the importance of staying safe online. We always advise that children do not give out their details online, do not access platforms above their age range and never engage in conversations in chartrooms with people they do not know. Despite these warnings, every week we deal with children who have been disturbed and upset what they have witnessed online. Please help keep children safe by reinforcing this message and checking your child’s devices regularly. Children are very quick to learn how to navigate sites and can easily be led into inappropriate content.

**Information for September**

In September, Durham County Council are changing their catering contract to a company called Chartwells. Chartwells already serve school meals to large numbers of schools and academies across England and we hope they continue the high standard of food that our children are used to. Chartwells have informed us today that, due to cost increase in food prices, school meals will be £2.25 a day from September. Please do remember that if your child was in Year 2 and received the universal infant school meal (not benefit related) you will be charged for a school meal from September as the scheme only covers to the end of Year 2. If you want your child to swap to packed lunch in September, the office must be notified in writing at least a week in advance.

**Attendance**

This year has been difficult for many families who have seen their child’s absence rise due to Covid and an increase in childhood illnesses. The Government have released guidance to schools that makes it clear that now that restrictions on schools have been removed, children should attend regularly. We will be issuing our attendance policy to all families in September as a reminder of the expectations in school. Please also remember that we cannot authorise any absence related to family holidays.

The school day begins at 8.55am and it is expected that all children are in school for this time. We do open our doors to children at 8:40am to allow for a more comfortable start to the day and allows work to be consolidated whilst enjoying a bagel breakfast.

**Parent Pay**

We continue to be a cashless school and all families will need a Parent Pay account to be able to pay for meals, visits and event tickets. Please ensure that you know how to access this system to ensure that you or your child do not miss out on any of our activities. Please also clear any debts that may have accrued on ParentPay before the start of the new academic year.

**Uniform**

We recommend that all school uniform is purchased at local supermarkets in order to keep costs to a minimum. Whilst families can opt for uniform with the school logo, this is not essential. Branded items can be purchased through our supplier Cre8tive Graphics in Bishop Auckland. There is a link to their shop on our website. At present, a number of local supermarkets have sales on uniform so you may be able to pick up a bargain.

Please remember when purchasing uniform that children need to wear plain black shoes. They should not be coming to school with coloured trainers or high heeled boots.

We will be hosting uniform events again this year where high-quality uniform, coats and shoes are upcycled in order to help reduce waste and save our planet. More information on these uniform events will be issued in the Autumn term.

**Contact details**

Please ensure that we have you most up to date contact details, including email. Our communication system relies upon mobile phone numbers and email addresses and we often find that when information has not been received by a family, it is due to out of date details. It is very important that we are able to contact you in an emergency or if your child is unwell. New details can be emailed to [kingstreet@durhamlearning.net](mailto:kingstreet@durhamlearning.net)

We wish all of our families a wonderful summer break, making memories and enjoying the (hopefully) sunny weather. We will see you all on Tuesday 6th September. Whilst the holidays may have only just begun, staff are already planning and organising an adventure rich and exciting curriculum for September.

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Yours Sincerely,

J Bromley

Head Teacher