King Street Primary & Pre - School

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18th March 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have been blessed with lovely weather for our Science week which made our outdoor animal experience really lovely. The children have had a fantastic week joining in online live Science lessons, meeting visitors in different fields of science and being able to consider where science fits into the wider world- including climate change. A thank you, of course, must go to Mr Colling for organising the event and the teachers and visitors who have enthused the children all week. Next week if our festival of languages week so no doubt the children will have another week of fabulous activities.

**Yard developments**

We are slowly continuing with the repair work on our greenhouse and hope to have it completed by the Summer term.

As it is all work in progress at present and is taped off until it can be finished, would you please not remove the tape or allow children into the area for safety reasons.

Our children are so excited to be growing food in their very own allotment area and no doubt will take delight in showing you what the different food types are but it is important that they are not accessing the area whilst it is taped off. Over the coming months further work is being undertaken and therefore other areas of the yard will be taped off in due course so the same will apply in to these spaces too.

**Crossing patrol**

After discussion with the Local Authority we have been informed that we are **definitely** getting our new crossing patrol on Monday. This is wonderful news, especially for those children who walk home alone. Our new patrol is called Dennis Foster and we welcome him into our King Street team, I am sure our children and families will give him a warm welcome.

**Parents’ evenings**

On Monday, our eschools booking system will open for families in Year 1- 6, to book their face to face appointment with class teachers. The appointments will be for the last week of term and you will need your personal, parent Eschool login to be able to book online. We look forward to welcoming you all back into school.

If you would prefer a phone call appointment, we are still able to offer these but they need to be booked directly through the class teacher to find a mutually convenient time. Staff can be contacted through emailing the school office kingstreet@durhamlearning.net or by speaking to staff on the yard.

EYFS are hosting a parent ‘stay and play’ session and information will be sent directly from EYFS staff- Eschools is not needed to book these sessions.

**Social media and apps**

The negative side of social media is showing again in many of our children at the moment. We are seeing an increase in the number of children who are deeply upset by friends or strangers being unkind to them in chatrooms, Fortnite, WhatsApp and Snapchat. Online safety is embedded into the whole of our curriculum but we still find that children make choices on these platforms that they would not do in a face to face situation. Once again, we ask that you check through your child’s device regularly and monitor any chats they have to prevent any unkind behaviour. We are encouraging children to talk to parents about their experiences as many of the children tell us that they don’t report it and wait until they see staff the following day. Most platforms have a ‘report’ or ‘block’ button that children can use to prevent others being unpleasant. Please remind your child to use these if they come across situations they are uncomfortable with. Technology is a wonderful thing in keeping us connected but also poses dangers to children when used inappropriately.

**Summer fair**

Just a reminder that we are opening our summer fair stalls to the wider community. Previously, we have had sellers with cakes, crafts and cards. The fair is always really busy and can be a great way to promote your business. Stalls are not limited to families of children in school so if you have a family member or your place of work who would like a stall, please get in touch. Please note, places will be limited and booked on a first-come, first-served basis.

**Attendance**

This week we have seen a number of children absent with a sickness bug. Just a reminder that if your child is sick, they should not return to school for 48 hours after their last bout of sickness. This will hopefully reduce the spread of infection.

Now that Covid restrictions have eased, we are advising that children with childhood illnesses such as colds can attend school. Previously we had followed guidance which suggested that children should remain at home but this is no longer the case. If your child appears well enough to attend school, we welcome them in. If you are unsure about coughs and high temperatures, PCR tests are currently still available if you require them.

**Volunteers**

We are currently looking for volunteers to help support reading across our school. Our children love to read and to be read with and therefore we would ask if you have any time you could give to read with our children we would love to hear from you. Volunteer packs can be collected from the school office. Please ask Grandmas and Grandads and other family members who you think would be interested - it would be great to have them in school.

**Water bottles**

As the weather improves and becomes warmer, it is even more important that children bring their water bottles to school. Keeping hydrated is essential to learning and children are encouraged to take frequent drinks during the school day. Please send children with their water bottles each day (no juice) and help them to stay hydrated.

**PE kits**

Each class participates in PE sessions every week and we do request that children get changed for these lessons. Children should bring their PE kit to school on a Monday and it will be returned home on a Friday. This way their PE kit is always in school. There are occasions when PE sessions need to be rearranged and if kits are not in school, children are missing their session. Please help your child to remember their kit each Monday so they can participate fully in all of the sessions. Thank you.

As always, if you have anything you would like to speak to us about, please contact the school office or speak to myself or staff on the school yard.

Yours Sincerely

J Bromley

Head Teacher