King Street Primary & Pre - School

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 9th July 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

It was lovely to have both Year 3 and Year 6 back in school this week and to see Y6 enjoying some of their end of year activities. Last night, we held their annual sleepover in the hall and although this had to be scaled down because of the current restrictions, they still all had an amazing time and I think they will all sleep well tonight. A huge thank you to the staff who organise and run these events and ensure that the children have an amazing experience. We now look forward to our final week of term and the many lovely activities that we have planned. Thursday 15th July is our ‘celebration of summer event’ so put this in your diary! Children are encouraged to come in dressed ready for summer. Hawaiian shirts, hats, straw skirts and garlands are all welcome. Please note that school finishes on Friday 16th July.

We have been asked today if we will be changing our school timings on Monday to allow for a later start after the England match on Sunday night. We will not be doing this but would still encourage families to watch the match and enjoy encouraging the national team. We will talk to children on Monday about using their resilience, to get through the day, even if they are feeling tired. Building resilience in children and helping them understand that sometimes days can be hard to get through is really important and part of their development of life skills.

Covid Local Support Grant

For families who access Free School Meals in school, the Local Authority have now issued the vouchers from the Covid Local Support Grant. Please note that for children in EYFS, vouchers have not yet been issued and we expect these next week. The vouchers are used to support fuel and food costs and for essential items. Please check your inbox and junk box if you are expecting to receive the vouchers. Any issues redeeming them, please email help@durham.gov.uk

Families of children on Free School Meals are also able to access a summer club. “SportsCool are proud *to announce that we are an official provider of the Holiday and Food program on behalf of Durham Council. This summer we will be providing a 3 week Multi-Sport Holiday Club for primary school children (aged 4 to 11) which includes a two course healthy hot meal at St Andrew's Primary School, Bishop Auckland for FREE!”* Information regarding this summer club will be sent directly to families who are entitled to attend. Please look out for this in your inbox.

Free swimming sessions

For anyone that maybe interested, there are free swimming sessions in Durham during the holidays

[https://www.durham.gov.uk/article/25838/Free-summer-swimming-sessions-launch-for-school-holidays](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.durham.gov.uk%2Farticle%2F25838%2FFree-summer-swimming-sessions-launch-for-school-holidays&data=04%7C01%7Cj.bromley200%40kingstreet.durham.sch.uk%7C1bdbad039767471ceef108d942c8c66f%7C45dfff5283644d73bf3a8f98bdf10d87%7C0%7C0%7C637614252529943902%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=HWwLDjTXRZaJfUK0bnYIiZpwgFqrhw3mBAuBZ0jmwlU%3D&reserved=0)

We hope many families get to enjoy this.

Transition and reports

Today, your child will have briefly met their new class teacher. We hope the session will help excite the children for September and to relieve any anxiety they may have been feeling. Teachers have already been thinking ahead to September and I have heard of lots of ideas for visits and curriculum activities. It should be an exciting year for everyone.

On Monday, your child will bring home their annual school report. This is a detailed report which informs you of the work they have covered across the whole year. Where we are aware of split families, both parents will be issued a copy of the report. If you have not already informed us of a separation, one report will be sent to the home that the child will reside at on Monday night. Please check their bags for the report. We are really pleased with the progress children have made this year and I have had the pleasure of reading every single one! You should be really proud of your children- they have worked incredibly hard in another very tricky year.

School resource amnesty

During lockdown we issued huge numbers of resources to children such as whiteboards, tablet computers and books. If you still have any of these items at home please can you return them to school before the end of term. We are currently auditing our reading books in school so we can identify what we need to replace.

Also, if you have any books at home that your children no longer read and you would like to donate these, they would be gratefully received. They make ideal reading books for class reading areas.

September arrangements

You may have heard the recent change to government guidance released this week relating to class bubbles and arrangements for September. Schools will not be required to have class bubbles, staggered starts and finish times, or the one-way systems we currently have in place. Full school information for September will be issued next week with all of our timings, entry points, uniform details, term dates and anything else we feel you may need. We will be maintaining some elements of our current risk assessment including increased ventilation, handwashing and cleaning. Schools have also been issued further guidance on procedures in the event of significant outbreaks in local areas, and this may include the return of bubbles for short periods of time. Please look out for the school information letter next week. Hopefully, it will answer any questions you may have.

Covid information

Finally- just a reminder of the information provided by the NHS to help manage transmission of Covid.

The symptoms of Covid as listed by the NHS are:

* Continuous cough and/or
* High temperature and/or
* A loss of/change in normal sense of taste or smell

Please also note that other symptoms are being noted but are not on this list. Symptoms in children appear to include sore throat, headache and runny noses.

If your child develops these symptoms, they should remain at home until a PCR test can be arranged. Testing can be arranged by ringing 119 or via gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test

If your child has developed symptoms, all other household members must begin to self-isolate, this means staying at home, not going to work, school or public areas- even for exercise. This also means that if a household member displays symptoms, your child should self-isolate as part of the household and not attend school until after the 10 days isolation period or until a negative test result has been given.

To help you comply with the requirement to self isolate the County Durham Together Community Hub can provide access to essential supplies, financial support and emotional support as well as other services. Please visit durham.gov.uk/covid19help or call the Community hub on 03000260260 for more details.

How to stop Covid spreading:

* Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
* Use hand sanitiser when entering shops and when out and about
* Wash your hands as soon as you get home
* Cover your mouth with a tissue (not your hand) when you cough or sneeze
* Put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash hands afterwards
* Keep indoor areas well ventilated
* Keep your distance- stay 2 m away from others

As always, please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any concerns or questions. Please email the school office kingstreet@durhamlearning.net

Yours Sincerely

Joanne Bromley

Head Teacher