King Street Primary & Pre - School

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12/1/24

Dear Parent/carers,

Our first, full week back has been lovely and we have been fortunate that we have not yet had the very cold spell of weather we were expecting. Children have been working very hard and can already talk with enthusiasm about the new topics they are covering. Class teachers have sent class newsletters home with all of the information you need about the term ahead. If you do not receive a copy of this, please contact class teachers or the school office who can organise for it to be resent.

**Community events**

Spennymoor Youth Theatre group proudly present ‘Return to the Forbidden Planet’ at Spennymoor Town Hall on 15th-17th February. Tickets are £10 each. For more information please contact [www.ticketsource.co.uk](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk)

**Year 4/5 residential trip.**

Every year we try and offer our children in Year 4 and 5 the opportunity to participate in a residential visit. This year however, we found our usual organisations and activities have significantly increased in price and we no longer felt they were value for money for families. We have therefore been looking at the other options available and have created a bespoke visit for our children that we believe they will thoroughly enjoy. Please follow the link below to access the information and book your child a place. The link has also been sent separately via the eschools platform.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=Uv_fRWSDc02_Oo-YvfENh0-Ga7Qi6YNKrtBPCYTM6cRUMk4yUkFBS1E1TDU0NjhES1AyTjBSNlUwMy4u>

**Uniform**

We are seeing an increasing number of children who are wearing bright or white trainers for school. Our school policy does state that children’s shoes should be all back. Please ensure your child follows our school policy and wears the correct footwear. If you are struggling to purchase correct footwear for your child (their feet grow so quickly) please contact the school office and we will be able to support you. Once children attend secondary school, they have very stringent uniform rules with detentions given for incorrect uniform. We always aim to help children develop good uniform choices to help them in the future. Our community hub is open on a Tuesday morning and is also able to help with uniform. Please feel free to call in- we really promote using this resource to help minimise uniforms going to landfill.

**Holiday Clubs**

We are starting to receive information regarding holiday club provision across the county. Most of these clubs are free to eligible families and they provide a hot meal, snacks and some brilliant activities to keep children busy. If you are interested in this provision please see Durham County Council’s website and search for fun and food or use the link provided. <https://www.durham.gov.uk/funandfood>

**Attendance**

The Government are launching their advertising campaign to remind families of the importance of good attendance at school. Even small amounts of absence can lead to children being behind their peers. There is such a lot of curriculum content to cover that class teachers move on through topics very quickly and where attendance is sporadic, gaps in knowledge quickly appear. Each week in assembly we discuss class attendance and compare this to the national average. Please ensure your child reaches their potential by sending them to school each day. This link is a government poster supporting parents to improve attendance.

<https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2024/01/03/improving-school-attendance/>

**SEND News**

Parent/Carer Autism Online Workshops

We have been advised that many parents in our community are requesting help to support their children’s needs at home, yet there appears to be limited services in the community. Below is some information for workshops that we have been sent. We do not work alongside this company but we felt they may be of help to some families.

“Whether your child is awaiting a diagnosis or has already been diagnosed, these workshops are a great opportunity to learn more about Autism & ask questions within a supportive group of other parents & carers”

• Monday 5th February - An introduction to Autism. An opportunity to explore what Autism is, the many strengths and the differences that make each child so wonderfully unique.

• Monday 12th February – Communication. Identifying what communication is and the different communication methods that may be helpful for Autistic children.

• Monday 19th February - Sensory Processing Explaining the 8 sensory systems, how the environment can impact on a child with sensory processing differences/challenges and strategies to meet an individual’s sensory needs.

• Monday 26th February - Pathological Demand Avoidance. A look into the interesting subject of PDA, how this may present and what is the best approach to take to avoid conflict.

Workshops will be held 7:30-8:30pm via Zoom. £25 per workshop for each family. To book your place…Email enquiries@theautismtrainingnetwork.com

Also this term, CAMHS will be running a series of online sessions for parents and carers to support with a range of difficulties that families may be experiencing. The sessions on offer are detailed below and will run via Microsoft Teams.

If you would like to take part, please email CAMHS on: [tewv.countydurhamcamhstraining@nhs.net](mailto:tewv.countydurhamcamhstraining@nhs.net)

If you would like to take part in these sessions but do not have the technology available to be able to do this, please speak to Mrs Kane in school, who will be happy to help with this.

Understanding why children might be anxious about school - Tuesday 6th February, 9.30am to 11.30am

This is an awareness session to increase understanding of why children might be anxious about school, identify potential triggers and look at available support and strategies. This session is suitable for parents/carers of all school aged children but may be of limited value to parents of children with more complex needs.

Anxiety -Tuesday 13 February, 9.30am to 11.30am (5-11 years)

This session looks at what anxiety is, what the triggers might be, how to identify it and how we can support our children and young people:

Emotional wellbeing – Tuesday 5th March 9.30 – 11.30am

This session will focus on emotional wellbeing, what is it and how can we improve it for ourselves and our children. This session explores the link with mental health and looks at how we can manage our own wellbeing as well as that of our children and young people.

Understanding sleep - Wednesday 10th January or Wednesday 17th April, 1.30pm to 3pm

This workshop will provide an understanding of sleep cycles and the importance of good sleep hygiene and routine. We will look at why sleep problems may occur for young people, possible causes and look at strategies to help your child develop good sleep habits.

Understanding behaviour development in children and young people – Tuesday 19th March 9.30 – 11.30am This session will look at behavioural norms in the developing child and how adult behaviour influences this. We will look at the challenges parents and carers may face and how they can support their children and young people to develop resilience and manage risk as they grow to adulthood and independence

**Upcoming diary dates:**

Monday 12th- Friday 16th February SEND children parents’ evening (teachers will contact parents directly to make appointments)

Thursday 15th February – School disco. Reception/KS1 3.15-4.30pm KS2 4.30-5.30

Friday 16th February – school closes for Half Term

Monday 26th February – School reopens for teaching purposes

Wednesday 28th February – Captain Chemistry visiting school to deliver workshops to children

Wednesday 28th February – 1st March – Reception class ‘bikeability sessions’

Monday 4th- Friday 8th March- Key stage 1 and 2 parents’ evenings

Monday 4th – Thursday 7th March – Year 1 ‘bikeability’ sessions

Monday 4th March – Reception children parent stay and play session (times to follow)

Wednesday 6th March- Nursery parent stay and play session (times to follow)

Thursday 7th March- World book day

Thursday 7th March- Mother’s day event 1.15pm-2.15pm

Thursday 14th March – Movie night 3.15-5.30pm

Monday 18th March – Year 6 SAT’s information session for parents at 5pm

Thursday 28th March- Easter service at St Andrew’s Church 10:30am

Thursday 28th March – Easter Craft event for families 1-2pm

Thursday 28th March- School closes for the Easter break.

If you have any queries or concerns please do not hesitate to get in touch. If there is any information you believe is important to pass on about your child, staff are always available on the school yard or you can make an appointment through the school office.

Joanne Bromley

Head Teacher