King Street Primary & Pre - School

High Grange Road

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County Durham

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28th January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are finally starting to see a reduced number of Covid cases across the school and hope this is the beginning of a reduction in restrictions. From Monday, Years 2,4 and 5 will no longer be in a bubble and will be able to share yard space with other classes. I’m sure many of our children will have missed being able to socialise with children from across the school. It also means we are able to reintroduce assemblies next week too and this is always a highlight for the children who love to receive their student of the week award in front of others.

It also gives us hope that we can finally begin to put some dates in the diary to host events which involve families and the obvious event to choose would be the Queen’s Jubilee. It would be lovely to be able to host a street party with families and bring the community together again, so watch this space for when we are able to remove restrictions currently in place.

If you would like to be involved in the Jubilee celebrations as a family, there is a lovely competition children over the age of 8 can enter. The competition is to design a pudding recipe that is fit for the Platinum Jubilee with the 5 successful finalists preparing their puddings in front of a panel of judges. The winning recipe will be made available to the public and the pudding will be enjoyed at the Big Jubilee Lunches during the Jubilee weekend, and by generations to come. The link to enter is below. Parents/carers must also submit their contact details, including an email address to <https://www.royal.uk/platinum-jubilee-central-weekend>

Road safety

We continue to be very frustrated at the lack of patrol crossing on Durham Road. Whilst we appreciate the post is being advertised by the Local Authority and there are no applicants, we now feel that the County Council need to consider other options such as a fixed road crossing, e.g. zebra crossing. On behalf of the school and community, one of our Year 6 pupils has written to the Highways team at County Hall and expressed our ongoing concerns about the danger children face every day. We have also been made aware of a road campaign, started by a number of families, to have a road crossing fitted to the A688 to the Merrington Park development and we have teamed up with them to lobby the council to make improvements on both roads quickly. If any families would also like to write to the highways department to express your concern, we would encourage this and hopefully it will make an impact.

Chinese themed meal

Information was sent out through Eschools yesterday to invite your child to participate in a Chinese themed meal. This is to celebrate Chinese New Year. Forms must be completed by 12 O’clock on Monday 31st, in preparation for the meal on Tuesday 1st February. Thank you. Please note, you will be charged for this meal on the actual day through Parent Pay unless you are eligible for a free meal.

Mental health week

It is Children’s Mental Health week 7th-13th February and we will be celebrating this in school through lots of activities in classes and helping children understand their mental health is important. Mental health is in the spotlight at the moment with a significant increase of both adults and children experiencing difficulties since the pandemic and we appreciate that services are stretched to the limit. By offering children strategies to manage their emotions, we can help them lead a fulfilled life.

Whilst the week is designed to raise the profile of children’s mental health we are looking, as a school, at how we can support adult mental health. One of the ideas we have is to utilise our link with our outdoor activities company and open up some sessions for adults. The objective would be to get adults back into nature and enjoying the outdoors as it is well documented that the outdoors can offer therapeutic benefits. As part of this, the company have connections with qualified counsellors/therapists who could accompany the sessions and offer advice to anyone who feels they would benefit from this. In order to make it as accessible as possible, we are hoping to access funding that would make the sessions free to attend however, to access the funding we would need approximate numbers of adults who feel they would use this service. If you feel this would be of interest to you (sessions would be held during the school day) please email the school office with your expression of interest and we can then look at applying for funding to make this happen.

Non-uniform day

We will end mental health week with a non -uniform event to celebrate and raise awareness for Muscular Dystrophy UK; this will take place on Friday 11th February, when children will be encouraged to come to school dressed in bright colours. Please put this date in your diary. We celebrate this event each year, hoping to raise funds for the charity to continue researching breakthrough treatments. We do have a child in school with MD and therefore this charity is one we feel very connected to. #LoveforLouis

NSPCC assemblies

Every year we team up with both the NSPCC and Childline to deliver assemblies to children about staying safe. This year, due to restrictions the NSPCC has designed online assemblies that will be delivered to individual classes next week. The assembly theme is ‘Speak Out, Stay Safe’ and will encourage children to identify adults they feel comfortable talking to if they have any concerns or feel uncomfortable in any situations. These assemblies are essential in safeguarding our children and are usually run alongside the NSPCC PANTS programme with the very well-liked Pantosaurus song!

As always, if you have any questions or queries please speak to a member of staff on the yard or make an appointment at the school office. We are also happy to answer any queries by email on kingstreet@durhamlearning.net

Yours Sincerely

Joanne Bromley

Headteacher