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4th March 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have had a wonderful first week back with some very creative costumes for World Book Day yesterday. Once again, we had lots of home-made costumes from book worms and butterflies to robots and monsters. Thank you to all of our families for encouraging children to participate and raising the profile of reading. It is a very important, lifelong skill and we want to foster a love for it in our children. We will be participating in some interactive sessions on 24th March where children will be able to speak directly to children’s authors and ask them lots of questions. Please remember to use your book token too - these have already been sent home but may still be at the bottom of a book bag so please do look out for them.

In our assembly today we also said goodbye and best wishes to Miss Lloyd who will be leaving us to begin her maternity leave. We know she will be looking forward to the arrival of her little boy and pop into school soon with him as the children (and staff) are desperate to meet him.

**Community support and fundraising**

In school we have a group of children who take on the role of community champions and fundraising. These children have considered ways to help the families of Ukraine and we will be working directly with ‘One Step at a Time’ who operate from The Hub at Jubilee Park. We are, therefore, asking for all of our families to help support the cause and send into school any donations of items on Monday and Tuesday next week. These will be taken over the park on Wednesday morning and will be collected and transported to Poland on Wednesday afternoon. The items suggested are: toiletries including toothpaste and toothbrushes, cotton wool, sanitary products, dog/cat food, baby wipes, baby food and first aid items including plasters, paracetamol tablets and liquid paracetamol for children. However, they will take any other items you consider useful such as warm clothing, waterproof clothing, torches, batteries, flasks, hairbrushes, towels and dried and tinned food (must have ring pull top).

All donations would be gratefully received and I know from past experience how generous our community is.

For those who would prefer to make a donation of money, we will be holding a whole school non-uniform event on Friday 11th March with a suggested donation of £1. Children can come to school wearing clothing of their choice or may chose to wear the colours Blue and Yellow. The donation is voluntary and will be passed over to charities working directly with the families of Ukraine. Thank you for your support.

MD day

Before half term we held an event to raise awareness and essential funds for Muscular Dystrophy UK. On behalf of the family involved, I would like to say a huge thank you for your donations. It has raised over £100 for the charity and will be used to fund vital research into finding a cure for the crippling disease.

**Self-Isolation and close contacts**

Whilst the legal requirement for cases to self-isolate was removed from 24th February, adults and children who test positive for Covid-19 will continue to be advised to stay at home and avoid contact with other people.

This guidance is taken directly from the UK Health Security Agency:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-people-with-covid-19-and-their-contacts](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gov.uk%2Fgovernment%2Fpublications%2Fcovid-19-people-with-covid-19-and-their-contacts&data=04%7C01%7Cj.bromley200%40kingstreet.durham.sch.uk%7C25f8cb00dc454eacc50808d9f7aba23c%7C45dfff5283644d73bf3a8f98bdf10d87%7C0%7C0%7C637813138808008284%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=J5GSYldIM55hgTX0V5w4C0g0PlzRjwaaEmPI3nMUAms%3D&reserved=0)

The national Public Health advice is that anyone who has tested positive for Covid-19 should self-isolate at home for at least 5 full days, with LFD testing starting from 5 days after the day symptoms started (or the day the test was taken if there are no symptoms), and be undertaken daily until there are two consecutive negative tests at which point self-isolation may end provided the case has no fever/high temperature. The advised self-isolation period for cases ends for all cases after 10 full days from the day following their symptom onset.

The guidance for individuals states that children and young people with COVID-19 should not attend their education setting whilst they are infectious.

**Fun and food programme**

After speaking to colleagues this week, I thought I would raise the profile of the Fun and Food holiday programme that has been running through Durham County Council. I have been told that the activities on offer have been amazing and children have been given experiences that will stay with them forever. This programme is open to all families, is free of charge and is open over Easter, Summer and Christmas holiday periods. Children who have attended have thoroughly enjoyed themselves and have suggested we spread the word. The list of activities for the Easter holidays is being published next week and we would encourage you to have a look at what is on offer. <https://www.durham.gov.uk/funandfood> or email [Funandfood@durham.gov.uk](mailto:Funandfood@durham.gov.uk)

**School uniform**

We continue to have a small number of children who are not wearing correct school uniform. We appreciate that school uniforms can be expensive and therefore can offer financial help and support where families need it to cover some of these costs. If you are facing any difficulties in purchasing uniform items, including school shoes, please speak to us. All requests are confidential. From next week, we will be sending letters to individual families where uniform does not meet school policy in order to ensure that all families are clear of the expected requirements. Please note, we do not expect any clothing to have the King Street embroidered logo and recommend that items are purchased from local supermarkets at much lower prices. School shoes should be plain black. Please also note that earrings should be studs only and must be removed for PE. Please make sure that your child’s uniform is also clearly named, as so much of parents’ money must be wasted on replacing lost jumpers!

**Community issues**

We are noticing a huge increase in litter and dog excrement in our local area, particularly in the back lane accessing school grounds. Caring for the environment is a key part of our curriculum and our children are keen to do all they can to look after our world. We have a group of children who are Eco Warriors and are keen on being part of the big Spring Clean campaign but we would like to ask families to do their bit too. Please ensure that you do not drop litter and use bins in the community or take your rubbish home. Please also remember that dogs are not permitted on school grounds and if you do walk your dog in the community, we ask that you clean up the mess after them. If you would like to join a community litter pick event you can find information on social media #CleanerDurham2022 or email [litterfreedurham@durham.gov.uk](mailto:litterfreedurham@durham.gov.uk)

**Diary dates**

I have included the most recent diary dates with this newsletter and ask that you put the information into your diaries. Since my last newsletter we have added a couple more things, so please check it carefully.

As always, if you have any questions, comments or concerns please speak to staff on the yard or make an appointment to speak to teachers or myself via email. [Kingstreet@durhamlearning.net](mailto:Kingstreet@durhamlearning.net)

Yours Sincerely

J Bromley