King Street Primary & Pre - School

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County Durham

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4th November 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for the donations of bottles today, we do appreciate how tight household budgets are at the moment and yet we have a very generous number of bottles that we can use on our bottle tombola at the Christmas Fayre. It is always a very popular stall (alongside the chocolate tombola) and is a really fun way to raise funds for the school.

This week, both Year 2 and Year 5 made visits to museums. Year 2 visited Beamish Museum and had a wonderful time exploring what life was like in our more recent past and Year 5 explored our very ancient past at the Hancock Museum. Both classes came back to school full of ideas and knowledge and we feel it is a very valuable way to understand history in an easy-to-understand way. We now look forward to visits for Year 3 and Year 4 who will, no doubt, thoroughly enjoy the opportunity to be exploring new places.

On Monday we are celebrating Odd Sock day in recognition of anti-bullying week but children do not need a donation for this event. Children can attend wearing odd socks of whichever colour and style they chose. Children will be undertaking work next week exploring how we can ensure that our actions and words are always kind and thoughtful. We will also exploring ‘remembrance’ next week and pausing to reflect on how the lives lost in the war have impacted on the lives we live today. We will be selling poppy merchandise across the school and children are welcome to bring a £1 donation to purchase something. The wrist bands and zip reflectors are always popular.

We will also be hosting ‘King Street Bake Off’. Each class will be baking a sweet treat which will be entered into a competition and the winners from each class will be given a Bake Off prize. We are not asking children to bake anything at home for the event but we do hope it inspires children to want to cook in the home and to take an interest in cooking and baking. We will showcase all of our creations on our Facebook page so please do make sure you join our group: King Street Primary- The Home of Active Ted.

**Attendance**

I mention most weeks on our newsletter that we are striving to improve attendance at our school. Prior to Covid, national attendance had been 96% and we were matching this as a school. However, post Covid attendance has dropped significantly and regional figures are now much lower. There is a huge emphasis placed on schools to ensure that every child is attending school every day. Most recent data shows that attendance figures for last year were at 93%. This leaves a significant number of children not accessing regular education which leaves them at a disadvantage when it comes to future prospects. We recognise at the moment that childhood illnesses such as Chicken Pox are circulating which affect attendance but please help us to ensure your child meets their potential by sending them to school when they are well. Every missed day really does count. You can track your child’s attendance on the Eschools app. If you are having any difficulties in getting your child to school, Mrs Livesley is happy to offer ideas and solutions to support you.

**Safeguarding**

I know that a number of families found it useful in our last newsletter to know how to report concerns in the community where they believe children may be at risk of harm. As a school we are often central to recognising safeguarding concerns and children recognise us as a ‘safe space’. Keeping children safe from harm is our number one priority. If you have concerns about a child in your family or in the wider community, you can report your own safeguarding concerns by speaking to First Contact for advice on 03000267979.

**Flu Vaccine for pre-school children**

Walk-in FLU Vaccination Clinics for 2–3-YEAR-OLDS are coming to County Durham – a flyer with full information has been sent out today to families.

These clinics are held on a no appointment basis - just walk in! School-age children will be receiving theirs in school for those parents who have consented to this.

Children must be accompanied by an adult with parental responsibility.

5 reasons to get your Child vaccinated against FLU!

* Protect your child – the vaccine will help to protect your child against FLU and serious complications such as bronchitis and pneumonia.
* Protect you, your family and friends – FLU spreads easily; vaccinating your child will help to protect vulnerable family and friends.
* No injection needed - the nasal spray is painless and easy to have.
* It's safe – the nasal spray helps protect against flu, it has a good safety record and millions of children in the UK have been vaccinated safely and successfully.
* It works, it's quick and more effective in children than an injection.

Finally, I would like to thank our community volunteers for their time and effort in creating a very nice social Hub space for families. The Hub is open to all of our families and provides a warm space to chat/ read or to gather information about services in the area. We also offer a free uniform and clothing bank as well as a food pantry and small electrical items scheme. Please come and visit and use our services on Tuesdays 9am-11am. Everyone is welcome.

Yours Sincerely

J Bromley

Head Teacher