King Street Primary & Pre - School

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County Durham

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 23rd September 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

I would like to start with a huge thank you to all the families who have donated clothing for our community hub. We are looking to expand the range of clothing we offer to families and are now looking for donations of good quality adult clothing. We hope to have all of our donations organised in the next couple of weeks. Thank you to our volunteers for giving up their time to help us with this. It is greatly appreciated and I know the scheme will prove very popular once it has opened. Our vision for this service is to eventually include a community pantry, a reading and social space and a place where advice can be sought about a range of things. If you would like to volunteer to be part of this community group, please meet at the hub building on Monday 26th at 9am. Everyone is welcome.

**Spennymoor Town Football Club**

As part of our work within the community we have teamed up with Spennymoor Town Football Club to be able to offer families one free child ticket to any home match in the 2022/2023 season. We do only have a limited number of tickets available and ask anyone interested to email the office by Wednesday 28th September. If we have more requests that we have available tickets, names will be chosen at random. Tickets will be sent home with your child and you will receive a text message confirming you were successful.

Please email kingstreet@durhamlearning.net

**Headlice**

As always in primary schools, we are constantly dealing with outbreaks of Head Lice. We currently have an outbreak in our Year 2 class and would ask all parents to check their children’s hair thoroughly and treat any lice or eggs. Once treatment has been applied, children can return to school. There is no requirement for them to be absent. If families check hair regularly then we can control and minimise outbreaks. Thank you.

**Weardale Adventure Centre**

For families who have requested a place on our Weardale Activity Residential, a payment plan has been set up on ParentPay. Please pay the deposit payment of £10 by 30th September.

**Year 6 Eden Camp visit**

Year 6 children are going to be visiting Eden Camp, Yorkshire on Thursday 6th October. Having previously taken children to this centre in the past, I can confirm they will have an amazing time. The sights and sounds the museum have recreated are amazing and will immerse children in the history of World War 2. The cost of the visit has been subsidised by school to keep the cost lower for families and payment can now be made on ParentPay.

**Harvest Festival**

Next Friday (30th) is our annual Harvest Festival Service at St Andrew’s Church (10am). We would welcome parents, carers, grandparents and wider community members to join us in celebrating the occasion. You can join our children in singing some ‘classic’ songs that I am sure you will remember from your own primary school days. This year we are asking families to make donations of tins of food that we can then offer in our own community pantry. This way any donation you make goes to helping families within our school community. Any donations of packets/tins you can make would be gratefully received. This includes packets of pasta or rice, long life milk, tinned vegetables and sauces. The current economic climate is very difficult and the more we can do to help one another, the better we can make the lives of our families. Please send donations into school.

**Phonics information session**

Thank you to the parents of children in our Reception Class who attended the phonics information session last night. Phonics is an essential part of your child learning to read and much of this process has changed since parents were at school. It is therefore useful to hear the terminology we use and how you can best help them. Children learn to recognise that individual letters (graphemes) represent a sound. By learning these individual sounds (phonemes) children are able to blend together simple words and this is the very beginning of reading. For any parent who was not able to attend the event, information about phonics and early reading is available on our website. We encourage all families to read at least 3 times a week with their child and to practice sounds at home so they become fluent. There will be further information events for families of children in Year 1 and 2 over the coming weeks. We look forward to seeing you there.

**School developments**

A number of years ago we began making developments on our school yard to improve the playground experiences for children. However, due to Covid much of the work was halted and equipment and materials were in short supply. More recently, we have had the climbing wall and sports equipment added and I am pleased to announce we now have confirmation that further work can be undertaken at half term. Please look out for the new areas and I know that children will be very excited too – they have waited a long time!

We also have a start date for internal developments. We are redeveloping an area outside of the year 2 and 3 classroom to allow it to be a more useable teaching space and reading area. We place a high emphasis on reading and encouraging children to have a love of reading and we felt we needed a space to reflect this. We should have all of the works completed before Christmas so children can enjoy their new space.

**Medical conditions**

As the weather begins to cool we are noticing that those children with Asthma are requiring their inhalers more. Please ensure we have your child’s inhaler in school and you have completed a medical consent form so staff can administer this. We also require parents to keep school up to date with any changes in medication or changes to dosage. If your child is prescribed any medication by a doctor that needs to be administered during the school day, a consent form must be completed before this can be administered and medication must be given to an adult and cannot be kept in children bags. If you have any questions about medication and the information we currently hold on your child, please ask.

As always, if you have any queries or concerns please speak to, or email, the school office. Teachers can also be contacted directly by email but please do remember that staff will only respond to these during a working day. We have had a number of emails to staff, quite late at night, requiring a response before the next day. Please appreciate we do need to promote the well being of all of our staff as well as our children!

Yours Sincerely

J Bromley

Head Teacher