King Street Primary & Pre - School

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3rd December 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

What a week! We have had some really lovely and exciting parts to this week and then the real disappointment of cancelling the performances to our families. It was a very difficult decision to make as we have, fortunately, not had many Covid cases in school but we do recognise cases are rising in the community and the concerns raised about the new variant. We know it was the right decision to make as further information is being published on a daily basis, with the additional advice being offered to schools about potential measures needed. We are fortunate that we already had a number of these in place but we would now ask that, if you would like to speak to a member of staff or call into the office, that you wear a mask. Staff will do the same. Additional Covid information from DCC is provided alongside this newsletter.

On a really positive note, our Christmas decorations are nearly all up and the Christmas tunes are flowing. The children have had a super time at the pantomime and we pass our thanks over to the Settlement for hosting the event. Pantomimes are a great experience for children and we are grateful for having the event on our doorstep. Please do ask them who Squirty McQuirty is!

We are now looking forward to many more class Christmas events over the last two weeks of term. You may find it useful to send a carrier bag in with your child in the last week so they can bring home any Christmas creations!

We also say goodbye to Mrs Stiles today as she ventures into a new role in the corporate sector. We are sure it is going to be very different to the education sector and she will miss the children and staff terribly but she will definitely be back for a visit and has also said she would love to join the children on class visits and activities on her days off! We wish her the best of luck in the new role.

Poppy appeal

We have now received our certificate from the Poppy Appeal which confirms our collection amount. Thanks to the generosity of our families we have raised an amazing £274.03. This is nearly double what we have made in previous years and we are very grateful for all of the contributions. We know the money is going to a good cause.

Toy appeal

Our Toy appeal was also very successful and all donated toys will be making their way to charities over the next week. Once again, your generosity helps others out when they need it most.

**Reminders - diary dates**

**Thursday 9th December - Christmas Lunch and Christmas Jumper day**

**Monday 13th December –** **Santa visits**

At present, the Santa visits are going ahead but depending on how the Town Hall implement the restrictions, this may be cancelled.

**Thursday 16th December - Christmas parties**

**Friday 17th December - Our church visit has now been cancelled due to new restrictions. School breaks up for the Christmas holidays.**

We are looking at a variety of different ways that the Christmas performances can be recorded and shared with parents but schools have received guidance from the Local Authority today on ensuring we meet all the required GDPR guidelines when recording performances. Once we are confident we have all the consents for children in place and can meet the required guidelines, we will publish the recording to parents. More information will follow.

Water bottles

Just a reminder that children should bring water bottles to school each day. Our classrooms are not fitted with sinks and taps and therefore, children having water bottles to access at any time is more convenient for them than waiting until cups of water can be brought to them. As a reminder, the bottles used in classrooms should also only be filled with water and not juice.

Reading books

Although we are heading towards the end of term, we are still asking children to read frequently, both in school and at home. Therefore, please continue to send their reading books back to school and we can change these for you. If you can find any additional school reading books in your home, please do return these to school so we can replenish our shelves.

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](mailto:kingstreet@durhamlearning.net)

Yours Sincerely

Joanne Bromley

Headteacher