King Street Primary & Pre - School

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23rd April 2021

Dear parents/carers

We are at the end of another week already and the children have really enjoyed the warmer weather this week and the opportunity to spend more time outdoors. Long may it continue!

There are some reminders to give out this week so please read the following information carefully. Each class teacher will also send out their own class-based newsletter with specific information relating to class routines. This will confirm PE days, topics to be covered and expectations for homework.

One-way system

Despite some restrictions easing, our risk assessment remains unchanged at this time and we ask that you continue to use our one-way system. This is to ensure that adults do not need to pass each other in close proximity. It came to our attention this week some families were using the back lane to access the school yard. Please do not attempt to do this. Our caretaker will be monitoring this area on both mornings and evenings to ensure everyone follows the rules. Thank you for your cooperation.

Water bottles and suncream

As the weather continues to get warmer we would like to ensure all children have a water bottle for during the school day. We ask that the water bottles are sent in for children to use during the school day are to be filled with water only. Please reserve juice for packed lunches only. Water bottles can be refilled by staff during the school day if it is particularly warm.

We would also ask on days where it is forecast to be really warm, children come to school with sun cream on and then bring spare cream to school to top up during the school day as required.

Where children also wear nappies, please do not forget to also include wet wipes for cleaning and nappy sacks for disposal.

COVID Community Champion Programme

The Local Authority have asked that we share the following information about an opportunity for people in the school community to become local champions.

Throughout the pandemic Durham County Council has been supporting County Durham communities to stay up to date with the latest information and guidance. It has built on this approach by empowering communities to take action in local areas through the Covid Community Champion programme. The programme enables the County Council to adopt a person-centred approach to supporting and upskilling people across County Durham with access to relevant information and messages to share within their community. A trusted voice in the local community, sharing key information, leads to more people receiving the most up to date information to keep our communities safe.

This programme is to be owned by communities and shaped by their needs, with the intention of achieving lasting change. Taking both a population level and targeted approach, the programme works with people and organisations to empower communities strengthening and building local assets and resilience.

Signing up to the Covid Community Champion Programme is easy. Just click on the link to fill out a simple online form. [http://www.durham.gov.uk/covidcommunitychampion](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.durham.gov.uk%2Fcovidcommunitychampion&data=04%7C01%7Cj.bromley200%40kingstreet.durham.sch.uk%7C0a822767c5f641aee1df08d90003bf70%7C45dfff5283644d73bf3a8f98bdf10d87%7C0%7C0%7C637540838493830146%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=7%2BAw4UZAU3HgmLHuOv5OhttYuKlvyOcXXKg8Colf%2BCw%3D&reserved=0)

The roles and criteria are as follows:

• Share information with people you know in a way that best suits you.

• Talk to people about your Covid Community Champion role and encourage others to be champions.

• Tell us what you think via regular online drop-in sessions or emailing us so that we can understand what's working well, and what's working not so well in our communities.

• Support other champions.

• Attend regular online meetings to keep up to date with the latest information and guidance.

• Take part in promotional activities in the event of an outbreak such as giving out leaflets or having an information stall at an event.

• Help the County Durham Together Community Hub and work with other organisations in your community.

You can find the full breakdown of Covid Community Champion and Champion plus roles here - [http://www.durham.gov.uk/article/24192/Covid-community-champion-roles](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.durham.gov.uk%2Farticle%2F24192%2FCovid-community-champion-roles&data=04%7C01%7Cj.bromley200%40kingstreet.durham.sch.uk%7C0a822767c5f641aee1df08d90003bf70%7C45dfff5283644d73bf3a8f98bdf10d87%7C0%7C0%7C637540838493840146%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=6BJgClJHWNynhQ2dy05w%2FKipm62CrqYXAUwDdW8wXFo%3D&reserved=0)

The Covid Community Champion Programme will provide the following:

• A full induction process.

• Key messages to share.

• Training opportunities.

• Additional volunteering opportunities within the community.

• Informal catch up meetings.

• A monthly newsletter.

There are over 80 volunteers who have already signed up to support this community led programme  Please click on the following link: [http://www.durham.gov.uk/covidcommunitychampion](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.durham.gov.uk%2Fcovidcommunitychampion&data=04%7C01%7Cj.bromley200%40kingstreet.durham.sch.uk%7C0a822767c5f641aee1df08d90003bf70%7C45dfff5283644d73bf3a8f98bdf10d87%7C0%7C0%7C637540838493840146%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=M3Nc7w16u3nM8219HqvykCoFqYSFJY%2BA5SFzDj2nnWY%3D&reserved=0) to watch a video from Amanda Healy, our Director of Public Health to find out more about the Covid Community Champion Programme and how you can sign up today

If you have any queries please email us on covidcommunitychampions@durham.gov.uk

NHS Test and Trace Self-Isolation Payments

We have also been asked to share the following information. This is not a school initiative and any queries would need to be directed to the email address below.

The Government recently announced that it has expanded the eligibility criteria for Test and Trace Support Payments to include a parent or guardian who is staying off work to look after a child who is self-isolating who meet the income eligibility threshold.

Durham County Council are in the process of updating our scheme to accept applications from parents and guardians. Parents/carers can email TestandTracePayment@durham.gov.uk if they would like to be notified when we start accepting parent and guardian applications. We will circulate the link to the website for applications once the application form has gone live.

Covid lateral flow tests

We sent out information to all families this week regarding the availability of rapid lateral flow tests. These tests are now available to any family who wishes to regularly test themselves. They are designed to detect asymptomatic cases. If you or your child presents with symptoms of Covid-19, these flow tests are not sufficient and you must book a PCR test. Please ensure if you, your child or anyone in your house hold presents with symptoms you must not send your child to school. Please help us keep all of our families safe. Thank you.

Esafety

We are continuing to talk to children about staying safe online, about trying to reduce screen time now that the weather is better and to spend time doing other things. However, we continue to have children in school who are falling out over social media use and other platform games and we are now asking for your help to encourage children to reduce their screen time and to chose their platforms carefully. We have heard lots of stories this week about significant adult content circulating on Tik Tok, yet we know this is a favourite platform for many of our children. We recognise the important part technology plays in the lives of our children but we firmly believe screen time should be limited and children encouraged to play imaginative ‘real life’ games. Thank you for your help with this, our Facebook Strava group would be a great way for children to get active and then post their activity online for their friends to see. The Strava group are doing really well at the moment on their European tour.

As always, if there is anything you would like to discuss or anything is concerning you please contact me through the school office. We are here to help. I hope you enjoy some time outside in the nicer weather.

Yours Sincerely

Joanne Bromley

Head Teacher