King Street Primary & Pre - School

High Grange Road

Spennymoor

County Durham

DL16 6RA Telephone: (01388) 8160781

Email: kingstreet@durhamlearning.net



27th November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I would like to begin this week with a very happy announcement on behalf of Mrs Kane. She is now the very proud mum to a second little girl- Olivia Isabelle Kane born weighing 6lb 13oz. They are both doing incredibly well and we look forward to a time when she will be allowed to visit us so we can see her in person. We have sent our congratulations to the whole family and know they will be looking forward to all spending their first Christmas together.

Parent’s evenings

Thank you to all our KS2 parents who have spoken to class teachers this week. Staff say it has been lovely to chat with you as contact is so limited in the current situation and it has been good to catch up about your child. EYFS and KS1 parent’s evenings are being held next week. If you have not organised your appointment with the class teacher, please speak to them directly and they will find a convenient time for you both.

Financial support

Durham County Council are advertising their benevolent fund to help families in financial difficulty. They can provide up to £35 for a coat and for shoes if you qualify. For more detail please use the website link [www.durham.gov.uk/schoolbenevolentfund](http://www.durham.gov.uk/schoolbenevolentfund) to find out more.

Vodaphone are also running a scheme for schools which can provide a limited number of pre-paid data sim cards for families in need. This is designed to ensure that children who need to access the internet for their learning have wifi connection. The pre-paid card would give up to 90 days free wifi connection. We have applied to be part of this scheme and if you are interested in receiving a pre-paid card please email the school office and once we know our application was successful we will be able to distribute the cards.

Christmas activity dates

As mentioned in our last newsletter, we have many lovely activities planned for the Christmas period. These are some key dates for you.

**11th December**: Christmas pantomime- all children in school will be watching a Christmas panto from the comfort of their classroom. They will have panto treats of popcorn and Haribo.

**16th December:** School Christmas lunch and Christmas jumper day. Lots of treats and Christmas songs too! (Please note the Parent Pay invoice will not appear on the account until after the event. This is to ensure that any children who are absent on the day are not charged.) Please do not feel you need to purchase a Christmas jumper for this occasion. Children can equally wear tinsel in their hair instead!

**17th December:** Class party afternoon. All party food will be provided by school this year. Class teachers will organise games and lots of fun activities. Children can come to school wearing their party clothes or can bring a change of clothes to school.

**18th December:** Movie morning. Children will watch a Christmas movie with their class and enjoy a hotdog and a chance to win on the tombola.

All teachers will also post a short video on the school website of their class and some Christmas activities they have been undertaking.

Please note that we are not charging for any of the events above- except for Christmas lunch.

In addition to the above events, class teachers are organising lots of other treats and other activities such as designing and making a Christmas card, making a Christmas Lockdown t-shirt, making Christmas decorations, sewing and cooking activities. We are hoping that we may be able to organise for some individual classes to visit St Andrew’s church for reflection time and potentially singing. However, schools and churches do face restrictions around singing so this is all subject to local guidelines.

With regards to a nativity, St Andrew’s will be hosting a nativity this year called ‘The mystery of the new noisy neighbour’. This is a fun, family retelling of the nativity story which you are invited to attend and your child is encouraged to go dressed as a character from the nativity. This will take place on Thursday 24thy December at 4pm. We will be sending more information about how to get tickets very soon.

Government regulations

You may have heard this week that after the national lockdown ends on 2nd December, County Durham will remain at Tier 3. This means we continue to face high restrictions and that social distancing must remain. Households must also continue to avoid mixing. When collecting your child, please avoid standing with other families and leave the premises as soon as your child has been collected. We want to remain as safe a space as possible and require your cooperation to do this. Please help keep our children and staff safe. Please also remember that if any member of your household displays symptoms, you must all self-isolate until a test is taken and shown to be negative. We cannot allow children in school if they are displaying any symptoms of the virus.

Free school meals over Christmas

We received information from the Local authority this week to advise that they are looking into how Free Schools Meals could be continued over the school holidays. Previously, the Government had said that this would only begin next year but we are hopeful that some support will be in place for the Christmas period. It is essential that we have up to date email addresses for all families. When vouchers were issued over summer, email was used to send these and incorrect or out of date email addresses was the biggest reason that families did not receive the vouchers. Please ensure your email address is up to date by contacting the school office.

King Street Primary – the home of Active Ted Facebook page

We now have over 100 members on our face book page and Mr Colling continues to add weekly posts and challenges. Please do join us and take up some challenges with your children- we would love to see what you get up to. We are hoping that as we begin our Christmas activities we will be able to add more photos from across the school showing the wonderfully festive activities taking place.

Yours sincerely

J Bromley

Headteacher