King Street Primary & Pre - School

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29th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I think it is probably fair to say everyone has found this week the greatest challenge so far and seems to have taken its toll on everyone. We can see it in the children in school, they are finding it hard and we are hearing from parents they have hit ‘the wall’. We need to be kind on ourselves and recognise January is always a difficult month but we do know that it gets better- and it will! Not only have you managed 4 difficult weeks of lockdown but many of you have learned new things alongside your children and will be experts on ‘fronted adverbials’, ‘prepositions’ and ‘expanded noun phrases’! Added into the challenges this week was the announcement children will not return until at least the 8th March. Based on all of these factors, we think you are doing a marvellous job and from all of our staff we thank you for your positive messages of support and the way in which you are helping your children.

Please believe us when we say we honestly know nothing more than the public when it comes to information about school reopening. We find our information out from BBC news! This means staff feel they cannot give you answers which saddens us as usually we are here with reassurance that all will be OK. Nobody has the answers this time. Nobody could have imagined how tough it would be with employers still expecting work from home to continue and schools being expected to set work to follow the National Curriculum yet we know you are not teachers and that is our job. First and foremost, you are their parents and we want home life to be as stress free as possible. If the school day is causing you or your children anxiety please go for a walk, bake a cake, play a board game or sit outside and watch the birds. Teachers will revisit the work set over lockdown when children return, children will not be penalised if they missed out a worksheet- please just do what you can. You will not get this time back with your child, it already passes so quickly that we wonder where the years went. Please enjoy being with them, it is precious.

Resources plea!

We would like to thank Carrs Billington for helping us out with our request for pallet wood this week and to Louise Powell for pointing us in their direction. We are currently redeveloping our outdoor provision and the wood helps us build mud Kitchens, wellie racks and much more! Watch out too, as we will soon be asking for more help and resources and appreciate any offers from the community.

Muscular Dystrophy awareness week

Last year we celebrated MD awareness by wearing sunglasses and something orange. This year the theme is to wear anything bright. To show our support we are promoting ‘Brighten Spenny for a Penny’. We would like all key worker children to come to school for the whole week in dress down clothes to include something bright if possible. We would ask that the children bring in £1 at some point in the week and we will pass this onto the MD charity. For those children at home, we would like you to join in by wearing something bright and getting out for a walk- brighten up Spennymoor. We welcome your photos on our school Facebook page, any donations you wish to make would be made directly to the MD charity through their website. It really is vital, especially in challenging times such as these, to keep supporting our charities.

Mental Health Week

Please remember next week is Mental Health Week and staff will be setting a range of different activities to encourage children to relax and be mindful. It is really important everyone takes time for the positive things in life and give ourselves some space to enjoy these. Activities will be given by teachers through Eschools.

Curriculum after half term

Now we know schools will not reopen after half term we have begun looking at the remote curriculum for the first couple of weeks. We are planning some exciting activities to help us thorough these challenging times so look out for more information on Science week and outdoor learning week.

Benefit Related Free School Meal Vouchers

For parents in receipt of benefit related free school meals, you will have already received an E-code from Edenred, this voucher is to cover the cost of a lunch for the children who are not attending school, during the current lockdown period and up to the 12.2.21. We are delighted to announce our local authority are issuing vouchers to all parents during February half-term as they did over the Christmas period. The vouchers will be emailed to you at some point from school next week (we are waiting for the vouchers to arrive). Please check your junk box and contact: help@durham.gov.uk if you have not received your vouchers by Saturday 13.2.21.

We have not received any further advice on a further roll out of Edenred vouchers after half-term, we will keep you update once we have any further information.

Key Worker children

This is just a gentle reminder to families that our school provision finishes at 4pm and we must have children off site by this time. We must continue to follow our School Risk Assessment and reduce the time our staff spend on the premises. Please ensure your children are collected at 4pm at the latest. If you are able to collect your children before this time, we do urge you to do so to minimise contact time in school. Thank you.

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.

Yours Sincerely

Joanne Bromley

Head Teacher