King Street Primary & Pre - School

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Spennymoor

County Durham

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 18th November 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Today has been a fabulous day in school. There was a real hive of activity as children made tissue paper Pudsey collages, played ‘hide and seek Pudsey’, played spot the Pudsey difference and many more activities. This was all part of our discussions with children around why the organisation exists and how we can all help. Our children show thoughtfulness and empathy when understanding the situation that so many children and their families are in and it is heartening to know that, as our future generation, they have such compassionate natures. I know many children want to watch the show on television tonight so they can see how the efforts of others can help.

As part of our discussion of how we can help each other, we would like to encourage more families to use our ‘Community Hub’ facilities. This is such a wonderful resource to have on our doorstep and we want more people to access it and use the items on offer. It is like an Aladdin’s cave of wonderful, useful items that we know many families desperately need. **To ensure that all of our families can access this resource we will be opening the Hub on Saturday 26th November 9-11am.** We welcome you all to come along and have a look. We will have refreshments available and look forward to seeing you there - we guarantee you will be surprised at how much is available to take - and it’s all free!

In addition to this we have also been informed that there is an NCT Nearly New Sale at King James I Academy, Bishop Auckland on this Sunday, 20th November. There will be Stalls, refreshments and lots of baby and children’s clothing and equipment.

**Crossing patrol**

A text was sent out earlier this week to inform families that there is currently no crossing patrol until further notice. Please ensure that your child is able to cross a road safely as we are aware of a number of children who simply run across the road without looking. In school, we will be focusing on road safety and will have the police delivering an assembly on how to stay safe. This is in conjunction with the ‘be bright, be seen’ campaign that we are also promoting. This encourages children to have bright clothing that can be seen on dark nights so they are safe when crossing the road.

**Childhood Flu immunisation**

We have been asked to remind our families that the NHS are offering school age children the nasal flu vaccine at our school on Friday 2nd December. To administer this, the NHS must have written consent and this is completed by filling in the online form that was issued, a reminder of this was sent earlier this week. Please note, we cannot give parental consent on your behalf, parents must complete the form for this to be administered. If you have problems completing the form you must use the contact details provided as we are not part of the administration of the vaccine and therefore are unable to manage this process. If you have already completed the form, you do not need to complete this again.

**Community events**

St Andrew’s Church will be hosting their Christmas Fair on Saturday 19th November. Please pop along and support the church from 10:30am. The church hall will be filled with stalls, toys, refreshments, homemade cakes, a tombola and grand draw and of course, a visit from Santa! It certainly is starting to feel Christmassy!

We will be hosting our own school fair on Thursday 8th December. We are asking for donations of chocolate on Friday 2nd December and in return children can wear non-uniform. We are also asking families if they have any items that they feel would be suitable for our ‘100 square’ stall, please send these into school too. This could include gift sets, stationary or other small gift items. All donations are gratefully received as the funds raised go back into enrichment activities for our children. Thank you.

There is currently a ‘warm space’ scheme running through DCC and we would like to let you know that your local warm areas are:

St Andrew’s Church Hall- Friday mornings from 9am

St Paul’s Centre – anytime during opening hours

Spennymoor library – anytime during opening hours

**Staff car park**

Just a polite reminder to families not to use the staff car park to drop off or collect children. This space is very tight with over 20 staff needing to park. There is a risk that children could be knocked over or vehicles could be damaged when sharing such a small space. We encourage as many families as possible to walk to school.

**Diary dates**

A full list of diary dates were sent out yesterday but those that are happening in the near future are:

Tuesday 22nd November – Y4 class visit

Wednesday 23rd November- Y3 class visit

Wednesday 23rd November – Y5 visit to Whitworth Academy

Thursday 1st December – Christmas panto in school

Thursday 1st December – Movie night after school

Friday 2nd December – NHS Nasal Flu vaccine

Thursday 8th December – Christmas Fair (after school)

Tuesday 13th/Wednesday 14th  - Christmas nativity performances

Thursday 15th December - Dress down day/Christmas jumper day

Thursday 15th December - Christmas Lunch

Friday 16th December – Santa visits for Nursery - Year 4

Monday 19th December – Christmas parties for all classes

Tuesday 20th December- St Andrew’s Church Service.

**Contact details update**

Please ensure that your contact details, including your email address, are up to date on our school systems. This is vitally important if we need to contact you if your child falls ill. We also use these details when we issue the household support vouchers and we expect these will be due out again towards the end of this term. If contact details are not up to date and vouchers are issued to the incorrect email, these cannot be redirected. Please ensure your details are correct. For families who are **not entitled** to household fund vouchers, we are currently exploring an idea of a Christmas food hamper. These would be limited in number but would hopefully help some families really enjoy Christmas without the additional cost of a Christmas lunch. More information will be issued in due course.

**A reminder of financial help and support**

We are always looking for ways to help our families and are proud to be more than just a school. Please see this range of information for parents regarding financial help and support:

**Financial help and support for families -**A dedicated web page [Help with your money](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.durham.gov.uk%2Fhelpwithyourmoney&data=05%7C01%7Cj.bromley200%40kingstreet.durham.sch.uk%7C423a8f21ba274e87e34708daa79edb03%7C45dfff5283644d73bf3a8f98bdf10d87%7C0%7C0%7C638006601548671637%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=q%2BHxx%2FZFZQQR7kVg4zA95zAplGrB%2F%2FmoPwsNli1gcSo%3D&reserved=0) has been developed for County Durham residents and contains specific help for families. The page has information on a range of support available including applying for Free School Meals (FSM), debt advice/financial help and help with heating and fuel bills.

**Help with buying items for school including school uniforms** - A dedicated web page has been developed for families to find out about this support [Help with buying items for school - Durham County Council](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.durham.gov.uk%2Fschooluniform&data=05%7C01%7Cj.bromley200%40kingstreet.durham.sch.uk%7C423a8f21ba274e87e34708daa79edb03%7C45dfff5283644d73bf3a8f98bdf10d87%7C0%7C0%7C638006601548671637%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=lsBaRYu%2FRPh9OAsH%2Fr8l%2BQrdKhgH0e0EeXkreaAcze8%3D&reserved=0)

**The Bread and Butter Thing (TBBT) -** TBBT collects surplus food and staple goods that often end up going to waste from supermarkets, factories and farms, and distributes it at a discount price through 10 community hubs across County Durham. You will need to become a member to use the service, but this is free to do. For just £7.50, TBBT members' shopping bags can be filled with an average of £35 worth of items made up of quality, nutritious food. Each week members can access three bags of produce, including fresh fruit and vegetables, chilled goods, as well as cupboard staples such as pasta and cereal.     [Bread and Butter Thing: membership](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.breadandbutterthing.org%2Fmembers&data=05%7C01%7Cj.bromley200%40kingstreet.durham.sch.uk%7C423a8f21ba274e87e34708daa79edb03%7C45dfff5283644d73bf3a8f98bdf10d87%7C0%7C0%7C638006601548671637%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=6sElvMB%2FsOZHJJVHNjUk%2BGIWVMr1yHWrC41tD2t27mE%3D&reserved=0)

In addition to this, this website may also be useful:

 [Fighting UK Poverty - Turn2us](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.turn2us.org.uk%2F&data=05%7C01%7Cj.bromley200%40kingstreet.durham.sch.uk%7Cd36bd99b356246c4fbb608daa6e2118a%7C45dfff5283644d73bf3a8f98bdf10d87%7C0%7C0%7C638005787127201868%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=kGO1L%2Frh7bogsi9NCONoM7FHz9UXJJdkSxssW5BKW2I%3D&reserved=0)

Turn2us is a national charity that helps people in financial hardship to gain access to welfare benefits, charitable grants and support services – online, by phone and face to face, through partner organisations and our volunteers.

[www.turn2us.org.uk](http://www.turn2us.org.uk/)

As always, if you have any questions, queries or concerns please contact class teachers or the school office. Kingstreet@durhamlearning.net . We are also looking for volunteers to help across school and also in our Community Hub. If you are interested. Please speak to the school office for a volunteer pack.

Yours Sincerely

Joanne Bromley

Head Teacher