King Street Primary & Pre - School

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County Durham

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 17th September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Another week of wonderful activities across school reminds us how fortunate we are that things continue to be more normal for our children. Our new Reception and Nursery children are settling well and seem to be enjoying their new environment. This week saw the return of swimming lessons to our Year 4 children (much to their delight) and Mr Colling has been very busy organising sports festivals for across the Autumn term. There appears to be a lot to look forward to and the children continue to impress us with their ability to step straight back into school routines. Towards the end of the Autumn term we will be holding parents’ evenings to discuss how your child has settled and more information on these dates will be given in due course.

Water bottles

Please remember to send your child with a water bottle every day. We will always send these bottles home each evening so they can be cleaned for the next day. Please note that it should contain water only - no fizzy or diluted juice. If you do forget to send the bottle in one day though, please do not worry about getting it to us as we do have cups available in school.

Y6 parents

Please remember to apply for a secondary school place for your child. These are not automatically allocated so please apply by the deadline. Every year we find that we have some parents who do not get their choice of school because they have not applied for a place. The application process is now open. Parents can make their application for Secondary School online by visiting: [www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions)

**The Closing Date for Secondary School Applications is the 31st October 2021**.

If parents do not wish to apply online they can complete a paper application form. These are available from the Durham County Council website. Alternatively these application forms can be requested by e-mail to schooladmissions@durham.gov.uk or by telephone from the School Admissions and Transport Team on 03000 265896.

Job Opportunities

*School Crossing Patrol*

We have now been advised that the Local Authority are looking to reappoint a school crossing patrol after the resignation of the current post holder. We have highlighted the dangers we feel are posed whilst a replacement is found, given the location of our school but we have been advised there is no alternative at present. Last time there was a vacancy we found it took a very long time to fill. To speed up the recruitment process, if you know anyone who would be interested in this part time post please look on the Local Authority website for details. We want the vacancy filled as soon as possible so spread the word!

*Kitchen staff*

The catering company we use, Taylor Shaw, are currently looking to recruit kitchen staff for various schools across the county. If you would be interested in a kitchen staff role, please see the Taylor Shaw website or their Facebook page.

Covid cases

Please remember that, after the latest guidance change on 16th August, there is no need for your child to self-isolate if they have been a contact of a positive case. It is recommended they have a PCR test as a precaution. Unless they display symptoms they do still attend school. Where we notice symptoms in school, we will ask you collect your child and take them for a PCR test. If they receive a negative result, and feel well enough, they can return to school. Please bear with us over Autumn and Winter as normal childhood viruses start to spread as we still require children to be PCR tested if they display symptoms of a cough or high temperature – even if you believe to be a general cold. This is part of the Government guidance that all schools will be required to follow and we promise we are not just trying to be awkward! Please also note that if we do end up with a positive case of Covid in school, it is no longer guidance to inform parents each time. Parents will only be informed if there was a big enough outbreak to that we had to move to our ‘Outbreak Control Plan’.

As part of our commitment to ensuring that children’s education is not disrupted this year we will continue with online learning where required. The phrase used to describe education that is delivered partly in school and partly at home is ‘blended learning’. We will commit to offering children blended learning if:

* Children are self-isolating whilst waiting for a PCR test or result
* Children have to self-isolate due to a positive Covid test but are NOT unwell (asymptomatic)

Where children have tested positive and are unwell, school will not set them work to complete. This also applies if a child is absent due to any other childhood illness and is unwell.

Open Evening for Early Years provision

We are holding an open evening for anyone interested in applying for a child’s place in our Early Years Provision (Nursery or Reception places) on 6th October 2021 at 5pm and again on 6th December 2021 at 4pm. If you have a child who will be starting either Nursery or Reception in September 2022, we would welcome you along to view our provision and meet our friendly staff. Please contact school to have your name placed on the list of attendees.

Our eschools app is a great way of keeping up to date with what is going on in school. As soon as newsletters are published there are sent straight to parents and for those who have the app, they will be notified immediately. We also use eschools as a booking system for parents evenings (Y1-6) so it is important that you know your log in details ahead of this time as slots are booked on a first come, first served basis. If you have misplaced your log in please contact the school office and we can reissue this for you.

As always, if you have any queries or concerns please contact the school office by email kingstreet@durhamlearning.net If you require any support or advice, this is always held in the strictest confidence and we can often help find a solution. Mrs Livesley is also available if you feel you need support for yourself or would like help signposting alternative support. We are happy to help.

Joanne Bromley

Head Teacher