King Street Primary & Pre - School

High Grange Road

Spennymoor

County Durham

DL16 6RA Telephone: (01388) 8160781

Email: kingstreet@durhamlearning.net



2nd October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

It is hard to believe we are already into October and the Autumn term is nearly half way through. The weather has certainly taken a turn and most days now start very cold. Please do remember to send children with coats (and possibly hats and gloves) as we do try to take them outside when we can - this may even be when its drizzling so they need their coat to keep them dry.

At this time of year we would normally be sending out requests for disco tickets and organising a Halloween themed day but because we cannot allow the different bubbles to mix, we cannot have a whole school disco this year. However, the children will not be disappointed- we are organising a Halloween themed school meal and dress up day for Friday 23rd October. This is the final day of the half term. Each class will be decorated in a spooky theme and classes will have Halloween themed activities to take part in- much like a disco would be. The letter to request a Halloween meal will follow next week. Please do not feel that you have to purchase a dress up outfit, we always find that some of the home-made ones and a bit of face paint works really well! If your child does not want to take part they are welcome to come in normal ‘dress down’ clothing instead.

Government guidance

Attendance: You may have heard the many reminders from the Government that attendance is now compulsory and that they will look to follow previous procedures to ensure children who can attend school, do so. We have been given an updated advice sheet for parents regarding attendance and we will be sending this home next week. If you do have any queries about attendance or if your child is anxious about coming to school, please let us know. We do have systems in place to support children and their families in these situations. We appreciate that under the current circumstances, families are sometimes unsure whether their child can be at school if they have a mild illness but we hare happy to give advice following the guidelines we have been given. When you do contact the office, please do not be offended if the office staff ask more details about your child’s symptoms. We are required to ask about symptoms so we are able to keep track of children who may need to self-isolate.

Mixing households: We have been asked to remind families that under the tighter restrictions in the area, households are advised they should not be mixing. Please bear this in mind when you bring your child or are collecting at the end of the day. Some Durham schools are now advising parents to wear masks on school grounds where social distancing is lacking. At present, the majority of our families are following our procedures and *we do not feel* this is currently necessary at our school. However, please be aware, if we do hear of increased cases within the community or families fail to follow the guidance, we may decide that masks on school grounds are necessary to reduce the risk of infection.

Active Ted

We continue to have a ‘King Street Active Ted’ Facebook page which we would love to see full of children taking part in physical activities. We would encourage children to gather any of their own ‘Active teddies’ from home and take photos of any physical activity they take part in together. We would love to see photos of Autumn walks, trampolines, bike rides and even some of any children who still follow and take part in Joe Wicks’ workouts! We are really trying to promote healthy lifestyles and exercise at the moment as we understand that during lockdown only 19% of children under the age of 16 took part in an hour or more exercise a day. Hopefully, the current one-way system gets the day off to a good start and step counts should be high! Whilst our usual sporting festivals across the county will not be taking place we are still participating in ‘virtual events’. We have already participated in a virtual cross country which saw children from across different classes running laps around the school yard! Well done to all of the children who tell me they were “really tired!”

Online safety

As the world moves towards an ever-increasing amount of online activity, we remain really cautious of the content that children may be able to view. There was an incident a couple of weeks ago where a highly disturbing video was being shared on Tik Tok and whilst we have no reports of any of our children viewing it- we do know that young children worldwide did. The following link aims to defend children from online dangers and to educate the adults around them of the sites they may be accessing and potential dangers to be aware of. Please do take some time to have a look. Technology and games are changing rapidly and it is useful to have an insight into the appropriate age range that some of these platforms suggest. [https://protectyoungeyes.com](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fprotectyoungeyes.com%2F&data=02%7C01%7Cj.bromley200%40durhamlearning.net%7C7824b624ba53499473d208d83ac44355%7C45dfff5283644d73bf3a8f98bdf10d87%7C0%7C0%7C637323962016654070&sdata=fFu0YeEfLbbKSdK0d%2FFyfLFD%2BmfA9JbV3b2LPRnzx9c%3D&reserved=0). I personally found the ‘apps’ section informative as new apps are becoming available daily, are advertised through other apps and many are free to download so keeping track of them can be really difficult.

Eschools

Eschools remains our main form of communication and will inevitably become our online learning platform should a bubble be required to close. Please ensure that you have your own log in to receive communication from school and encourage your child to access their own account each week to complete their spellings. We really need children to be confident using the platform so their education is not disrupted. If you need us to help show you the system please email the school office and we can arrange for someone to talk you through the process.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries or concerns. If your circumstances have recently changed and you believe you may be entitled to Free School Meals, please let us know and we can check this for you. We also still have access to small amounts of funding to help families thorough these difficult times- if you need any support at all, please do not hesitate to get in touch. All calls are confidential. We can help with costs of new clothing, bedding, small electrical items or other essential items. Please do ask, we are here to help.

Yours sincerely

J Bromley

Headteacher