King Street Primary & Pre - School

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15th November 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

What a fantastic end to the week- the children have had a brilliant time hunting for Pudsey in the playground, completing Pudsey puzzles and raising awareness of the charity. Our children are often inspired by the Children In Need stories and we always see lots of empathy and a desire to help. It has been wonderful to hear children’s ideas for activities to raise money and how they want to donate their pocket money to the event. It has been heartening to see that, even in very tough times, families still find money to donate which will make a difference to a huge number of children. Whilst we did not request donations in school, those who do wish to donate can do so directly through the Children In Need website. <https://donate.bbcchildreninneed.co.uk/> You can choose your donation amount and every pound raised makes a huge difference to the lives of young people.

**Parents’ evenings**

Teachers have asked for me to thank families who attended the SEND parents’ evenings this week. They have really appreciated catching up with you and sharing information about your child. It is imperative that we work together to ensure that we can give your child the best start to life and the best opportunities to make progress.

Next week we are hosting parents’ evening for children in Years 1-6. Thank you to those who have already booked their appointment. We look forward to seeing you. If you have not made an appointment, the booking system is now closed but you can speak directly to your child’s class teacher to agree a mutually convenient time.

**Fun and Food holiday activity club**

It will not be long before we are talking about the end of term and the Christmas holidays. It is already an expensive time of year and the cost of entertaining children over the festive period can be an additional cost. Once again, DCC are holding their ‘Fun and Food’ activities clubs for vulnerable children and those families who are eligible for Free school meals. They will be issuing a full list of activities in due course, alongside the vouchers you will need to access the provision. Please keep an eye out for these. More information can be found on the council website. funandfoodtickets@durham.gov.uk

**Household vouchers**

Durham County Council have announced this week that they will also be issuing Household vouchers to eligible families. We do not yet have a date that these will be issued but we will contact eligible families in due course. You do not need to contact school, these are issued automatically based on the information we hold in school. We must however, have your most up-to-date email address as vouchers are issued by email and they cannot be reissued to different emails once they have been sent.

**Online safety**

As part of our curriculum, we teach children about being safe online and how to stop the bombardment of inappropriate content. We are aware that a number of our children do access sites and apps that are designed for older children and that sometimes this content scares or worries them. Technology is now very advanced and we would like your help to keep the children safe by monitoring what the children are accessing. We have reports that children have ‘friends’ that they have never met or are added to groups with children they do not know. Children also tell us that the language they hear on some of these sites and chat rooms is appalling but that it is becoming more and more common. Please talk to your child about the sites and chatrooms they use and use management tools such as ‘family link’ to monitor and restrict what your child can access.

**Movie night**

We are holding our Movie night on Thursday 5th December. At this time of year, we always choose Christmas themed movies to watch and it is always a popular event. We will be sending out request forms next week so please look out for these to ensure your child gets a place.

**Healthy meals**

We have noticed an increasing number of children with significant amounts of unhealthy food in their packed lunches. Sometimes we see children with multiple chocolate bars, family size bags of crisps and large bottles of fizzy pop. We always encourage children that we should have everything in moderation and whilst treats are always acceptable, they should not become the main portion of their lunch. Please help us promote healthy diets and ensure children have a balanced meal.

Chartwells, our lunch caterer, will be available during parent’s evenings next week if you wish to sample their menu and consider school meals as an option for your child. They always have a range of tasty food and it is a great way to encourage your child to try new foods.

**Eco group**

Some of our Year 5 children have been very keen to spread the word about saving our planet and ensuring everyone does their bit. They will be encouraging all children across school to recycle their plastic and paper waste, particularly from their lunchbox, where we always see significant amounts of plastic packaging. Please help encourage these habits by talking to your child about what you recycle at home and how this helps to create a better world for all.

**Community events**

St Andrew’s Church Winter Fair. Saturday 16th November 10.30am. There will be stalls, cakes, games, refreshments and even a visit from Santa. All proceeds support the work of the church in the community.

**School Fair**

Our school fair is being held on Thursday 12th December. If you would like a space to sell your crafts and creations, please contact the school office. This is always a busy event and we welcome members from the whole community to join us, with all money raised providing additional activities and experiences for our children.

If you have any queries or concerns please do not hesitate to get in touch. If there is any information you believe is important to pass on about your child, staff are always available on the school yard, by email or you can make an appointment through the school office.

Joanne Bromley

Head Teacher

**Upcoming diary dates**

Monday 18th November- school photograph day

Week beginning 18th November – Y1-Y6 parents’ evenings

Friday 22nd November – Dress down day - bring chocolate for the Christmas Fair Tombola.

Thursday 5th December - Movie night (3.15pm-5.30pm) information will be sent in due course

Friday 6th December - Dress down day - bring a bottle for the Christmas Fair Tombola.

Tuesday 10th December – Christmas Nativity

Wednesday 11th December – Christmas Nativity

Thursday 12th December – Christmas Fair (3.30pm)

Monday 16th December - Class Christmas parties.

Tuesday 17th December – Christmas Service at St Andrew’s Church (10am, parents welcome)

Friday 20th December - School finishes for Christmas break

Tuesday 7th January 2025 - School reopens