King Street Primary & Pre - School

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County Durham

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13th September 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

What a mixed bag of weather we have had this week! We have seen everything from sunshine to high winds and hailstone. As the weather is very temperamental at the moment, please do ensure your child comes to school with a coat. This ensures they can go outside at playtime and enjoy social time with their friends, regardless of the weather.

I have included the school diary dates for this academic year, alongside this newsletter. Please retain these for future use. We always try and issue reminders for events but having them in your diary will allow you to book your time off in advance.

**After School Clubs**

Some of our clubs were hugely oversubscribed this term but we hope that most children were given a club of choice and where this as not possible, these children have been prioritised for clubs in Spring Term. All families should now have received a text notification regarding the club children have been allocated and they will start next week. Please ensure all children are collected at 4:15pm. Late collections will be charged for at our After School Childcare rates.

**Bungalow update**

We are absolutely delighted to hear that the bungalow will not become a funeral home and, instead, has been sold to a private buyer and will now be the family home to one of our grandparents. I hope they enjoy their new home and I do hope families are respectful of our local residents and ensure that there is never any damage to their cars or property by supervising children on the way in and out of school.

**Parent behaviour**

In the past, I have had to issue reminders to parents to ensure that their behaviour in and around school is of a high standard. Whilst general behaviour has improved, I am aware that the language used by some families on the school grounds, has not improved. We are a primary school, we do not expect families to be using foul (and sometimes abusive) language on our premises. This includes when coming into school down our back lane. None of our children should have to hear this. As this is a recurring problem, police have now said they will patrol the areas and remind parents of the standards that are expected. Please think about your language and whether this is appropriate for a primary school environment.

**Harvest donations**

We will be holding our church service on Thursday 3rd October at St Andrew’s Church. We would be very grateful for any harvest donations of food that will be taken to our local food bank. Tins and dried foods such as pasta and rice are always a good choice to donate but we will accept vegetables and fruit to celebrate harvest time. If you would like to make a food donation, please send any items to school by Friday 27th September so they can be taken to church, ready for our school service.

**Eschools App**

Most of you will know we use Eschools as our communication platform. This is a fantastic platform that allows us to send messages and book parents’ evening appointments. I would ask that, where possible, parents download the Eschools app from their app store. This means that information, such as diary dates and newsletters, can be retained for future use. It also helps our school save money. Every message we send out costs the school money but if parents have the Eschools App, these messages are free. This could potentially save the school over one thousand pound a year. If you have any queries about how to do this, or need help with your login details, please contact the school office.

**Governor Vacancy**

We currently have a vacancy for a parent Governor. Information on this role was sent out earlier this week. If you are interested in applying, please speak to the office for a nomination form and join our friendly Governing Body.

**School applications**

It is that time of year again. The application process for both Primary and Secondary Admissions 2025 Intake (current Nursery and Year 6 children) is now open.

If your child is due to start **Reception (Primary School)** in September 2025, you can now apply online. Please visit [www.durham.gov.uk/primaryschoolplaces](http://www.durham.gov.uk/primaryschoolplaces) to apply. We will be holding an open evening for our Reception class places on 23rd September, 4.30pm for anyone wishing to visit. **The closing date for making your application is 15th January 2025.**

Parents can make their application for **Secondary School ( Year 7)** online by visiting [www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.durham.gov.uk%2Fschooladmissions&data=05%7C01%7Cj.bromley200%40kingstreet.durham.sch.uk%7C685015fadb284750356408da8f2b0f9d%7C45dfff5283644d73bf3a8f98bdf10d87%7C0%7C0%7C637979712346575138%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=zI3OLbaF7Jj63PvN4I2Z%2B%2BzUi3yt7p0aaZFUcVwIY74%3D&reserved=0)  **The Closing Date for Secondary School Applications is the 31st October 2024**.

If you have an queries, please contact school admissions directly on schooladmissions@durham.gov.uk or by telephone from the School Admissions and Transport Team on 03000 265896.

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**

Thursday 19th September- Year 6 visiting Whitworth school

Thursday 19th September- Whitworth Academy Open Evening for Y6 parents

Monday 23rd September- 4.30pm EYFS Open Evening for prospective Reception/Nursery children 2025.

Thursday 3rd October – 1.15pm harvest Service at St Andrew’s Church. (Parents are welcome to attend)

Wednesday 9th October- Year 6 at St Andrew’s church for a reflection session (children only)

Thursday 24th October – Halloween disco (Reception – Y6)

Friday 25th October- School breaks up for half term