King Street Primary & Pre - School

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20th September 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

The term is now in full swing and the children are already practicing for our Harvest Festival. Familiar songs fill the classrooms and children are excited to share these with you. We do hope you can join us at St Andrew’s Church on Thursday 3rd October at 1:15pm, this will be for children in Y1 – Y6.

**School clothing**

After just a couple of weeks back at school, our lost property box is already overflowing. I would like to remind parents to always name their children’s clothing as this really helps us when returning items back to children. Uniform is really expensive and we do not want parents re purchasing items that could be in a box in school. Later this term, we will be holding a uniform event and parents will be able to collect any items we have in school that may have been donated or have been left over. Hopefully, this will reduce the cost pressure on parents but also prevents the uniform going to landfill. Most of the items we have are in very good condition and we have some lovely winter coats we have had donated that we would like to offer out to our families. More information on this will follow.

**Harvest donations**

We will be holding our church service on Thursday 3rd October at St Andrew’s Church. Thank you to those who have already donated. We would be very grateful for any further 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.

**Sickness bugs and childhood illness**

We have lots of bugs circulating at the moment, which is typical of this time of year when children are returning to school and socialising again. Please do remember that children must be absent for 48 hours after their last episode of vomiting or diarrhoea before they can return. Hopefully this will minimise the spread of germs.

**Autumn themed meal**

Information has been sent out this week on our Autumn Themed Lunch. If your child already has a school meal, you do not need to sign up but if your child is usually on a packed lunch and you would like them to enjoy this meal, please complete the form that was issued.

**Online Safety**

We frequently talk to children about the benefits of online technology but also that there are times when it can become quite difficult for children to navigate and we teach them how to stay safe. WhatsApp is advised as a 13 Years+ app but we appreciate that many younger children are now using it. Whilst it is always a great tool for communicating with others, children can often find it becomes a platform for saying unkind things to each other or leaving other children out. I have included some information on this newsletter for what you can do as parents to help keep your child safe while using the app. The NSPCC also has some brilliant tips on how to keep your child safe on WhatsApp. Please watch out on our Facebook page for our weekly online safety posters which will return next week.

**Get to know privacy settings.** There are four main settings that you can use to help your child control who can see their information:

1. Everyone – allows all users to see your profile photo, about or status.

2. My contacts – only allows people from your phone contacts to see your profile photo, about, status, last seen and online.

3. My contacts except… – allows you to exclude certain people in your phone contacts from seeing your information.

4. Nobody – doesn’t allow anyone to see your information.

The default setting on WhatsApp is ‘everyone’ but you can help your child to set their privacy controls by clicking the 3 dots in the top right-hand corner and selecting ‘settings’ cog and selecting ‘privacy’. Here you can select each type of information and change it to the setting that you want. To prevent children being added to groups by people they don’t know, we recommend changing the group settings to ‘My contacts except’ and using the tick icon to select all contacts. This option means only your child’s phone contacts, except those you exclude, can add your child to groups. But by selecting all contacts, it means that nobody can add your child to a group chat without first sending them an invitation. In the same section, you can also switch off ‘read receipts’, which means other people cannot see when you have read their message. This might help if your child is feeling under pressure to respond to messages.

**Make use of safety features**. Show your child how to block and report other users of the app or inappropriate content.

**Talk about sharing** Talk to your child regularly about what they should and shouldn’t share with others on WhatsApp. Remind your child that, even if they think what they are sending will stay private, others might save, forward or screenshot it. Talk to them about making sure others are comfortable with what they are sending and let them know they can come to you if they are worried about something they have shared on the app.

**Set rules about location sharing**. Decide with your child if it is appropriate for them to share their location with others and who they are allowed to share it with. You can disable location permissions by going into your device settings and switching off location services for WhatsApp

**EYFS Open night**

On Monday 23rd September we will be holding our Open Evening for children entering our Nursery or Reception in September 2025. We look forward to welcoming current and new families to see the provision we have to offer. Please remember that the school admission portal is now open for Reception school places for September 2025.

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 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 for Y1- Y6. (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

Friday 25th October- School breaks up for half term