

Werrington Primary School
Newsletter
December 2009

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have made it to the last few days of the term and what an exciting place school has been. Christmas performances, parties, exchanging of greetings cards and Christmas lunch all wrapped up in the last fortnight. Achievement assembly on Friday will provide us with an opportunity to celebrate the hard work of all the children but in particular those receiving Headteacher awards. We shall also be issuing 100% attendance certificates too – we do have some despite the Swine Flu/Colds/Coughs and sickness bugs that have sadly affected some of our pupils.

Pupil Absence Policy

We wish to sensitively remind Parents/Carers that in addition to alerting the school of a child's absence (on the first morning) a note/letter is required explaining the absence upon their return. Thank you for your support with regard to this.

Site Officer

Mr Foreman (Site Officer) sadly resigned from his post in November. I am very pleased to say that we have successfully recruited to this post Mr Ashworth who will join us towards the end of January.

Snow and adverse weather

It seems that snowy/icy weather is close by and we may have a dusting overnight. Please do take care getting in to school. School closure notices as in past years will be communicated via the school website – www.werringtonprimaryschool.co.uk and Heart FM Radio Station. School will open/stay open as far as is safe and practicable. We are currently without Site Officer cover, it may be that we limit the access points onto the school site once they have been treated appropriately. Please be aware that pathways will be treated as a priority – icy patches off such routes may well be icy. Please ensure that your child is safe whilst coming onto the school site - your support is appreciated.

E-safety (Use of the internet/MSN/Mobile Phones)

It may be that your child/children will be receiving laptops/'e' books/PC's/mobile phones this Christmas. Social networking, Facebook, MSN Messaging now seem commonplace amongst Primary aged (and older) children. Technology has advanced so much that nowadays a basic mobile phone let alone laptop is Wi-Fi enabled and with a couple of clicks can access the internet. E-Safety whilst on line is now part of everyday practice in schools and we are ever mindful of the steps we have to take to protect our pupils and staff whilst on line. The internet is an amazing tool when used appropriately and with suitable awareness.

In school we have an Acceptable Use Policy and all pupils and adults must accept the policy every time they log on to a computer (please see attached Acceptable Use Policy and safety tips for pupils using the Internet in school).

In order to keep children safe and in addition to high level security firewalls, we have invested in a monitoring package (Securus). Securus monitors the ICT network for inappropriate language/use it alerts us if pupils/staff use: Bullying or threatening behaviour/Inappropriate internet sites/Computers being used for unacceptable personal use during lessons. It also notifies us of potentially harmful situations, such as Predator grooming /Sexual, racial or religious harassment/Pornography.

We strongly encourage you to establish rules and guidelines to ensure the safety of your child while on the Internet at home. Some Web sites offer parental or family guidance for Internet safety; for example, SafeKids.com, located online at <http://www.safekids.com>. We would also encourage you to talk with your son or daughter about the potential danger of the Internet and meeting strangers on-line. An increasing number of children now know someone they have never met via an online community. Ask if they have an account with Facebook, Myspace, or similar Web sites. If your child is using such a site with your permission, you may want to review his or her profile to ensure that no personal and identifiable information has been posted.

If you are concerned about anything mentioned above please do not hesitate to make contact.

I would like to wish you all a fantastic Christmas holiday and I look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Tuesday 5th January (Staff First Aid Training Day Monday 4th January).

Mr Wilding
Headteacher

