

Werrington Primary School  
December 2008 Newsletter

Dear Parents,

I would like to start this newsletter with a huge thank you to everyone and well done! We have had a very productive half term with lots of help from parents as well as support for Mufti Day-Hamper donations, school performances in Key Stage 1, Year 4 and Y6 at Ken Stimpson. We really do appreciate your efforts on our behalf. We are fast approaching the Christmas Holiday and I extend to everyone season's greetings and best wishes for a happy and healthy new year.

#### Key Stage 2 Healthy Tuck Shop

The School Council have piloted a new Healthy Tuck Shop in Years 3/4/5 and 6. I am very pleased to report that this has been very popular and successful. The Healthy Tuck shop has been selling items ranging from fruit 10p to cereal bars at 20p. From January we will be asking parents not to send their child in with chocolate, chocolate biscuits and crisps. We do have Healthy School status and KS2 break snacks has been identified as an area for dramatic improvement.

The Healthy Tuck Shop aims to cover costs and offer a healthy option for families to use. We are now able to offer parents the option to purchase Healthy Tuck Shop Tokens, available from the Office in the New Year. Actual money will still be accepted however we urge parents to strongly consider use of the tokens. Key Stage 1 will continue to have a healthy snack provided through the government's Fruit and Veg for schools scheme.

#### Bad Weather

The school may be forced to close due to a significant weather event or associated impact on the staff's ability to get into school ie snowfall, flood or high winds. It is very difficult during such times to assess the situation locally as well as have consideration for staff who live outside the area with significant journeys. The decision to not open or close the school is based on many factors and your support with regard to any decision made will be appreciated. If we have snowfall or weather that prohibits enough staff from safely getting into school an announcement will be made via local radio / notice outside school or via the school website ([www.werringtonprimaryschool.co.uk](http://www.werringtonprimaryschool.co.uk)) . The local radio stations are very good at relaying bad weather school closures. You may find these useful: Hereward FM(102.7 FM), Lite FM (106.8 FM), BBC Radio Peterborough (96.5 FM), BBC Radio Cambs (95.7 FM). It has been known for schools to close during the day. In this instance we would attempt to make direct contact with you to collect your child via email, phone as well as radio announcements. Any children remaining will be looked after until such time as they are able to be collected.

#### Working Group Activities

There are two pieces of work which we hope parents, pupils, staff and governors can collaborate on in achieving transparency and improved information for all. They are namely:

#### Annual Pupil School Report

- During the course of next term we will be reviewing the Annual Pupil School Report format. The Government/DCSF are asking schools to be more proactive in sharing attainment and achievement information with parents. We wish to keep pace with this agenda and an example of this could be the sharing of attainment data at the last parent - teacher consultation. The Spring Term consultation will involve another more formal update with attainment/achievement and attendance data being shared. We have established a staff working group and seek parental representation to join us. If you are interested please make this known via letter or email to the school office. The principal aims for the working group will be to consult with all stakeholders including

pupils, create several report models and feedback to parents, pupils, governors and staff.

### Homework

- Our current policy is being reviewed by the Governor's Curriculum Committee. The general principles of Homework will be considered but perhaps more importantly a whole school timetable for homework activities will be established. A consultation questionnaire will be issued and a working group will be leading on this with the governors. Once again if this is something you feel you can positively contribute to please let us know.

### School Improvement

Our whole school focus is ensuring all pupils reach their target milestones. This means that teachers have set targets for individual pupils to achieve over this academic year. These targets can be seen in pupil's books, referenced in marking comments, shared with pupils and at Parent-Teacher consultations. We have just reviewed progress so far towards achieving our targets. Writing is an area that we are focussing on in particular and this will continue into the New Year. Please do ask your child on a regular basis how they are getting on with their targets. They should be able to share them with you and talk about their progress. If they cannot do this please contact your child's class teacher for further clarification. I have no doubt that sustained improvement is achieved through high quality teaching and learning where pupils know what they need to do next to achieve, they receive regular feedback on their learning, where parents engage with their child's learning in school and at home and where teachers accurately inform parents of their child's milestone achievements. This I hope sets out very clearly what we are trying to achieve in partnership with you.

### Pupils returning after sickness absence

A gentle reminder regarding sickness absence:

- Ring in on first morning (by 10.00am if possible) to report absence
- All pupil's returning after sickness absence must have a letter explaining the absence on their first day back at school.

We are subject to DCFS absence monitoring and ask for your co-operation and assistance with regard to this matter.

### Fund Raising

Book Fair sold £1300 of books which will lead to a good level of commission for school. The Christmas Fair £570 profit – well done Y6 and all Stall Holders.

Thank you very much for supporting these events.

Staff Training day on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> where we will be developing our Modern Foreign Language provision. **School re-opens for pupils on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January.**

Happy Christmas and happy holidays everyone.

Mr Wilding  
Headteacher