

## Werrington Primary School Newsletter

March 2009

We find ourselves at the end of a successful term with Easter just around the corner. I know from my own observations as well as discussions with the children and staff that everyone has been working hard this term with excellent progress being made towards targets and other milestones. I have been very pleased to hear from happy parents/carers attending our Parent/Carer – Teacher consultations recently. Thank you for taking time to find out about the learning journey your son/daughter is enjoying Werrington Primary School. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of the parent volunteers who give of their time so freely - it really does make a difference. I wish you all happy holidays and hope that over this time you will enjoy precious time together.

**Fund raising for charity :** We have had a very productive term raising funds for charity. This follows on from the excellent example set by some of our Year 6 pupils who baked and sold cakes in aid of the Special Baby Care Unit at PDH. This half term we held an auction of promises offered by Year 6 as well as a staff auction. The auction of promises raised a massive £625. In addition to this a daffodil silver collection taken at the end of the KS1 Mum's and carers assembly raised a further £100. We have had great pleasure in forwarding a cheque for £725 to the charity. But that's not all – Red Nose day contributions raised a superb £300 for the charity. The school has certainly contributed to making a difference to those who are in receipt of support from these charities. Along the way the children and staff have had great fun too!

**Homework – feedback:** We would like to thank the parents/carers who took the time to complete the Homework Questionnaire which was made available via paper and on line. The response sample represents 25% which as far as surveys go is deemed an average response. We have also completed a Pupil Survey which represents 40% of our pupil population. The working group have met to consider the parental survey and are due to meet on our return from the Easter holiday. Some of the headlines from this survey are:

Summary of Findings from the Parents questionnaire:

- *78% said that homework tasks were useful and important. 8% disagreed the rest were either not sure or chose not to respond.*
- *Model B was selected as the preferred model 66% (streamlining across the school with a weekend in between), Model A 22% (current model) and Model C 12% (an alternative suggested by the parent)*

Summary of Findings from the Parents questionnaire:

- *90% of pupils felt homework was important and helps them to understand and progress*
- *84% said that they had someone at home to help and support them with their homework*
- *60% said that they thought homework should be set fortnightly.*

Copies of the survey will be posted on the school website and paper versions will be displayed on the various notice boards around school. The group will be looking at the homework tasks as well as guidance for completion at the next meeting.

**Pupil Annual School Report:** We are currently reviewing the format of the Pupil Annual School Report. The review is timely for many reasons but driven by our intention to provide parents/carers/pupils/teachers with a user friendly, relevant and informed report format. You will, I hope have noticed over this year more detailed assessment information being shared with you at Parent/Carer – Teacher Consultations. It is vital that we all know where we are going on our learning journey and this relies on up to date teacher assessment/targets being shared with all stakeholders – pupils/parents/carers. The Staff/Parent/Governor Report working Group have met to review the current report format and consider alternatives going forward. The information shared at the recent consultations provides the necessary platform to move to a new report format. All of this work complements the drive as directed by the DCFS (formerly DfES) to provide parents/carers with on line assessment data. Whilst schools are expected to hit a 2012 deadline Werrington Primary School will be well on the way by 2010. The Peterborough Learning Platform is with us already in school and the next stage of its roll out will be to enable parents/carers to log into this secure system to view personalised attainment and attendance data. Please watch this space.

**Healthy Lunches:** I hope you enjoyed the opportunity to sample from the Hot School Lunch (Summer) menu as supplied by Cambridgeshire Catering Service during the consultations this week. We are ever mindful of the need for children to have healthy diets/lifestyles. Whilst there are very tight dietary guidelines for the school kitchen to operate within we rely on parents/carers support to ensure packed lunches are of a healthy nature. Under the Every Child Matters - Five Outcomes (DCFS) schools are expected to ensure pupils adopt healthy lifestyles which includes diet. The mid – day staff will be monitoring packed lunches using the guidance attached which we hope will be useful for those preparing packed lunches at home.

I look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Wilding  
Headteacher