

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to start with a huge thank you for all the support you have given over the Autumn Term. We have enjoyed an exciting build up to the Christmas Holiday with the Christmas Fayre, class parties, nativity performances from Reception and Y4, KS1 carol singing and KS2 - Y3 hosted service at St John's Church Werrington. Year 5 and 6 have been carol singing in the local community which has been very well received. The PTA hamper raffle has once again raised in excess of £1200 which is simply tremendous - made possible by your very kind donations, ticket buying and the magical work of our PTA. Many of our direct school community won hampers which is great.

The Christmas Fayre

I must offer my sincere apologies for not providing the opportunity to have sponges thrown at me - I actually visited A+E that afternoon. I did explain to the children in school but in case you wondered, there was a reason. However the Christmas Fayre was very successful and incredibly well supported - thank you once again. As you know each year group hoped to raise funds for the revamp of the School Library. Our Year 6 games provided great entertainment raising a massive £575.86 - it was super to note everyone had so much fun.

I am truly delighted to share with you the amazing total of £2111.47 was raised which will be adjusted to account for expenses but which represents an amazing total. It is fantastic that our school community is so supportive. Once again **THANK YOU** very much indeed.

Fund raising for Charity

I would also like to acknowledge the support you have given regarding our other charity fund raising activities. The following totals were raised for: Children in Need £398.52; Shoeboxes 74; Food Bank 249.30kg's; Jeans for Genes - Macmillan Cancer Care £251.98. WPS certainly thinks of others - **THANK YOU** once again for your support.

WPS - Soke Education Trust (SET - Sustain Empower Transform) Academy News

The Soke Education Trust will celebrate its first birthday this January. This has been a very busy year ensuring we gain the maximum out of working in collaboration with our Trust schools. I am sure the coming year will enable us to build upon the solid foundations we have formed. Our focus is always on the children in our schools, ensuring we provide the very best opportunities for them to thrive. My personal dual role of Headteacher and CEO has required us to work differently. I hope you have felt able to share concerns and celebrations not only with myself but with Mrs Threadgill and Mr Moody who have been Acting Headteacher each Thursday and Friday.

Car Parking and consideration for our neighbours

It is regrettable that School has been in receipt of wholly justified complaints regarding the inappropriate parking behaviour exhibited by some parents/carers associated with WPS. Sadly this has regrettably been against Disabled/Blue Badge holders where provisions are made for alternative parking arrangements. The effect of such behaviour is very distressing and upsetting on those who are impacted by such actions. I do urge everyone to consider the impact of their vehicle management around the local environment and support us in maintaining positive contact with our neighbours and the wider community.

Staying Safe Online

As the Christmas holidays are now upon us, many of you may be considering buying or indeed have bought new games consoles, mobile phones or tablet devices for your children. Whilst such devices provide lots of enjoyment and form an important part of the high-tech lives that we live, it must be remembered that they may also pose risks. One of our main concerns is the risk of young people being contacted by people they do not know and who may wish them harm. In school, children are taught never to give out their personal information online, never to arrange to meet anyone online and to report anything upsetting or strange to a trusted adult. It is important that you encourage your child to tell you, or another trusted adult, if someone they do not know starts talking to them online. In order to help protect your children further, you should ensure parental controls and security & privacy settings are in place and monitor what they are accessing online. You can find further help and advice at www.internetmatters.org and www.nspcc.org.uk/onlinesafety. Should you have any concerns about the online safety of your child, please do not hesitate to speak to their class teacher or the police on 101, depending on the level of urgency.

I wish everyone a Happy Christmas and holiday - I look forward to welcoming you all back on **Monday 7th January.**

Ben Wilding - Headteacher