

18th December 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Apologies for the later than usual Sunday newsletter. As you will have noticed, I do try to get newsletters out on a Friday or Saturday but Christmas is almost upon us and it's that time of year where family and friends come first! I hope you are feeling festive and are gearing up to the new year.

It's been a really busy week at school! On Wednesday, we took four children to meet the Mayor of Gedling, Peter Barnes. The winners and runners up of the Christmas card competition – Seren, Lyra, Ebony and Micah – were taken on a tour of the chamber and also got to meet Gedling Youth Mayor, Fatima Malik.



Thursday evening gave parents the opportunity to meet Hannah from Rattle and Roll who are our new Wraparound provider from January. This meeting was well-attended and gave parents the chance to ask questions about the new provision and we were also fortunate enough to have some new parents attend with a view to their children accessing the breakfast and after-school clubs from January.

Another competition that we entered as a school was the David James Estate Agent Christmas Window Competition. Eight children from our school will have their designs displayed from Monday in the Estate Agent's window. As well as winning book vouchers for themselves, we have also secured £100 to go towards books for the school.

We were lucky enough to have our Christmas dinner on Wednesday. Many thanks to Justyna and the team for the magnificent feast. It's the first school dinner I've had since joining the Westdale Team; I didn't realise what I was missing out on! All of the amazing shortcake biscuits were hand-piped by the kitchen team!



The children are understandably excited about Christmas and last week ended with the Year 3 and 4 Christmas party. Year 5 and 6 will have their party on Monday. They are welcome to bring clothes to change in to after lunch.

On Friday evening, the Year 6s held their first Pound Project cake sale of the year. I could not believe the amount of work and effort that had gone into the creations brought in by the children. Thank you so, so much to the families of the children who contributed and to those of you that spent money at the cake sale. All proceeds from this particular initiative will go towards the end of year experience for the Year 6s.

Tuesday 20th December sees two Christmas carol concerts at school. You should have received the tickets you reserved for this by now. If you have not, please contact the office. We can't wait for you to join us for what will be the first major parent/community event of the year. We would ask that, wherever possible, children are allowed to stay to perform during the evening performance and are collected at 4.30 on this day. They have been working really hard on this performance and it would be a shame for them to miss it. If your child is unable to attend, please let their class teacher know in advance.

The final day of term is Wednesday 21st December. We will be holding a Christmas Bake Off competition on this day. Children are given the chance to enter by baking something Christmas themed. This could be biscuits, cakes or cupcakes. Our Chair of Governors, Anne Yates, will select a winner from each year group and an overall winner. The creations will be sold at the end of the day. All creations should have a clear name label and the price per unit. Should you wish to reserve your child's creation, please create a name label and how much you are willing to donate to the school fund towards our new books and outdoor learning area. We will put the cake to one side for you to collect at the end of the day. All proceeds from this cake sale will go towards reading books and our outdoor area.

Dates for your diary

Monday 19 th December 2022	Year 5 and 6 Christmas Parties
Tuesday 20 th December 2022 9.20-10.20 am and 3.30-4.30 pm	Christmas Carol Concert
Wednesday 21 st December 2022	Last day of term Christmas Bake Off competition Cake sale after school
Wednesday 4 th January 2022	First day of Spring Term
Friday 6 th January 2022	INSET day – school closed to all children

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support over this last half term, during which it has been an absolute pleasure to be Head of School at Westdale. Thank you for your kind comments and feedback. Thank you for supporting your children and the school. Have a wonderful Christmas a New Year and I look forward to continuing our journey together next year.

Yours sincerely,

Ruth Kyle – Head of School