

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to you and your children to the start of the Spring term, which (although short) is set to be a really busy one! January is always met with a mixture of feelings: disappointment that the excitement of Christmas is over mixed with a sense of a fresh start and new beginnings. I hope you are all refreshed and feeling positive about the year ahead.

I wanted to start this week's newsletter with a huge thank you for your support with the Christmas Carol concert and the two cake sales that were held at the end of last term. The children were thrilled to be able to perform to you all as they had worked hard on the preparations. The Christmas Bake Off Cake Sale was a phenomenal success and I know that Chair of Governors, Anne Yates, really struggled to pick year group winners and an overall winner from the hundreds of entries.

The winning entries won Amazon vouchers of £5 for runners up and £10 for the overall winners.

**Runners up:**

Amrita Kaur – Year 3  
Arlo Farhall – Year 5  
Micah and Daniel Watkins – Year 6 and 3

**Overall winners:**

Ruby and Jonah Hallam – Year 4 and Year 6

Here are the winning entries:



We raised an incredible £214.42! This money will go towards improving our library and outdoor area which is what we as a school are raising money for this year. Many thanks for your support with this, in particular to the parents who jumped on the stall and helped serve cake to the ravenous crowd! It was very much appreciated.

I also had the pleasure of dropping off a large donation of canned and dried food to Arnold Food Bank on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2022. The food bank, who are run by The Trussell Trust were really grateful and I know that many families will have benefited from your generous offerings. Many thanks. We will be running this food drive again in the run up to the Easter holidays.

Looking ahead to this term, we will be having a really tight focus on attendance. Last week, I wrote and handed out over 60 certificates for children who celebrated 100% attendance last term. Well done to all of them! Whilst we do recognise that children are ill from time-to-time, and we are also aware that there are a number of illnesses circulating at the moment, good levels of attendance and punctuality are vital to achievement at school and social development. I have written before about Westdale's target of 98% attendance. Good attendance is considered to be above 95% and where a child's attendance drops below 90%, it is viewed as a cause for concern. We will be contacting parents of children whose attendance has fallen below this level to try to ascertain ways of working together to improve their child's attendance. As a school, we are here to listen and support in whatever way we can. If you are experiencing problems with getting your child to school, please do contact me for a discussion.

Another focus this term will be uniform – especially footwear. At the end of last term, we noticed a significant number of children in brightly-coloured trainers, which do not form part of our school uniform. School shoes can be expensive and we are aware that there are many families struggling financially at the moment. Again, if you are struggling to afford uniform for your child, please do get in contact as there may be a way we can support.

### **Fundraising – School Discos**

Next week, I will be contacting those parents who have been kind enough to volunteer to be part of our Fundraising Taskforce. We have school discos to plan and execute over the coming weeks and I look forward to working with parents to make these events really special for the children and a successful fundraising event for the school. If you are interested in being involved, please drop me an email at [rkyle@westdalejuniors.co.uk](mailto:rkyle@westdalejuniors.co.uk)

### **Parent Partnership Meeting**

I will be hosting our third Parent Partnership meeting on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2023. The morning session will be held at 9.00am-9.45 am and will be combined with another coffee morning. The school council have chosen a children's charity that they would like the proceeds from the cake sale to go towards. More details will follow next week. I am intending on hosting an evening meeting as well. However, the last meeting was not particularly well-attended and I have been considering other options to make the meeting as accessible to all parents as possible. This week, I will be sending out a Microsoft form for you to complete exploring some different meeting options.

Have a wonderful weekend and I look forward to seeing you all on Monday morning!

Yours sincerely,

Ruth Kyle – Head of School