20th December 2023

## **Dear Parents**

What a busy term! The children have worked so hard and they are all definitely ready for a break and some quality, festive time at home. Well done to all our performers and thank you for your lovely comments and for your support in making it all so special. It has been lovely to see them getting ready for Christmas in their classes and to enjoy many of the significant milestones for this time of year.

We raised just under £400 from the ticket/raffle sale for "Child of the World" production. Mrs Reavill has already allocated this to some new music equipment and is looking into purchasing a set of class ukuleles. Any funds raised from such events are spent on the musical curriculum each year.

As a school, we have been pleased with the work children have done and the leaps they have made in many areas in the curriculum. Around the country many schools are still concerned about the attendance levels in schools, but we have been amazed at how high ours have been up to last Friday. This has made it much easier to get the children to where they need to be – so keep it up and thank you!

Thank you for all your support over this term and for helping us to raise money along the way. We made £1400 in our Christmas Bazaar, £60 in the Advent Calendar raffle, £94 for Bags2school and a staggering £100 for second hand uniform since September—so a huge thank you to every one of you. I am sorry that we do not say "thank you" often enough to you all.

The PTA are keen to support the school in improving the computing provision we currently have. This is an area that was highlighted by those of you that completed and submitted the recent governor survey. Teachers are keen to improve this provision too. There is quite a sum to find and the PTA contribution will make a huge difference to all the children. The PTA always seek how parents want to support the school financially so please do let them know so they can share this as their meetings. The PTA can be contacted on <a href="mailto:pta@woodfordvalley.wilts.sch.uk">pta@woodfordvalley.wilts.sch.uk</a>. They also ask the school direct for our wish list too. All ideas are welcome and shared so that the most popular is agreed.

Sadly, we will be saying goodbye to Mrs Smith, our Food technology and Spanish teacher, who moves to another post within a local secondary school. We wish her all the best and a huge thank you for all she has done over the years. Mrs Rowe will be taking over the Spanish for us and Mrs Reavill will be teaching Food technology, both will start their additional posts in the New Year.

We are currently advertising for a part time cleaner(s). If you are interested and wish to enquire about the role please contact office @woodfordvalley.wilts.sch.uk. Working hours can be flexible to work around a busy family. Closing date for any interest is the 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

Just to remind you that we return back to school on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2024. Please continue to use the same drop off and collection arrangements. Overall this is working well and we will not be changing it in the short term.

As we approach the very coldest time of the year please can you make sure children arrive at school wearing coats so that we can make the most of going outside. It is often a good idea to make sure they have hats, gloves and a scarf too. Please make sure these are all labelled so that we can promptly return any lost property to its owner.

If we have snow then please remember to check ParentPay and the school website for any updates to closures. We try to stay open if we have enough staff and it is safe.

Can I also remind you to contact <u>office@woodfordvalley.wilts.sch.uk</u> with any general day to day matters. This email address is monitored throughout the school day compared to any other. Please refrain from using the <u>admin@woodfordvalley.wilts.sch.uk</u> email address for general information regarding the children.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very **Merry Christmas** and a **Happy New Year**. See you all in 2024!

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 19th December – Christmas Lunch Wednesday 20th December – Lake Class and Y2 Nativity 9.30am in the Church Wednesday 20th December – Last day of term – Normal collection

Thursday 4th January – Return to School Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February - School Disco for children in years 1-6 Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February – Last day of term

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February – Return to School Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March - Parents Evening Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March – Parents Evening