



Little Stoke Primary School

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December 20th 2019

Dear Parents,

As we come to the end of another term, I just wanted to write to thank you all for your support. It has been a busy few weeks but there are many positive things to celebrate as we head home for the Christmas holidays.

Fund raising events have been very successful, both on behalf of school and for other good causes. The grand total for the Christmas Fair is going to be around £2000 which is incredible. We will send out information on the next projects which FOLS are supporting school with after Christmas.



Thank you!

The Junior Leaders want to thank all that donated for Children in Need. We collected coins in rockets, sold hundreds of rocket cakes and had an excellent afternoon building rockets made from recycled materials which were kindly contributed. The giant rocket made from coins was only a tiny portion of the coins we received on the day. We have now given the money raised to Children in Need to fund the amazing work they do. This totaled just over £232.00



We have had two weeks of fantastic Christmas celebrations. This began with our wonderful Christmas Nativity. Key Stage 1 performed brilliantly and looked fantastic. It is incredible how well that even our youngest children are able to perform. The songs raised everyone's spirits and got us all in the mood for Christmas.



The Red Tie choir has performed three times out of school in the last two weeks. Firstly in John Lewis, then outside Tesco at Willowbrook and finally at the Three Brooks Pub.

Thank you to everyone who has supported us by enabling children to attend any of these events. It is very much appreciated. As usual, the Christmas festivities at school have culminated with our fabulous Carols by Candlelight, attended by nearly 300 parents, grandparents, relatives and friends over the two nights. We were treated to an absolute delight of songs, dance, drama and poetry. There were some very moving performances by groups and individuals and the whole choir learnt a total of 30+ songs word perfectly.



We are so proud of all our children and their wonderful achievements over this period and very grateful to all the staff who, in whatever capacity, have given up their own time to ensure the events were such a success.

Online Safety

Children will inevitably have more free time during the Christmas holidays and may end up using the internet and/or gaming for longer than they usually would. It is important to check in with children often; make sure they take regular breaks; do not spend too long looking at a screen and keep active over the Christmas holidays.

Christmas often means children may receive new technology so when setting up any item, make sure you set up parental controls to help keep your child safe. Parental Controls help you control what your child is able to access on line so by setting up these controls, children are less likely to see things they shouldn't.

Internet Matters have created over 70 parental control 'how-to guides' for major networks (e.g EE), devices (e.g Xbox, iPad) and entertainment providers (e.g. Netflix). These guides provide you with simple step-by-step instructions and are available here:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/>

Parental Controls are important in order to minimise risks online, **but no system is completely effective** so ensure your child knows that they can talk to you about anything they see online.

I hope the New Year will bring better health for children. Attendance has been very low this term and we know there have been some nasty bugs around. Hopefully, plenty of sleep and rest over the holiday will give children better resilience for the coming term. Please remember, it is fine to send children in with minor coughs and sneezes; we will send them home if we are worried they are not coping. If they are well enough to play at home, please send them in as they are undoubtedly well enough to be in school! It is helpful if you tell us if you are concerned about them but our advice is to do this when your child has gone down to class. Sometimes hearing that you are happy to come and pick them up can mean they feel they cannot cope much more quickly. Often when children get on with their learning and are with friends they feel a little better. Every day of learning is significant and broken weeks in particular have a devastating effect on children's progress.

Finally, all of us at Little Stoke Primary School would like to wish all our families a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year. We trust the holiday season brings you time to relax with the people you love and brings much laughter and happiness. We shall look forward to seeing you all on **Tuesday 7th January** for the beginning of term 3. There is no school on the Monday because it is a staff inset day.

Yours sincerely,

Anne Sargent and Chris Jelf

Head Teacher Deputy Head teacher

