 December 2023

**Dear Parents and Carers,**

Christmas is the time of year when we remind ourselves of the good sentiments customarily associated with this very special celebration. One of my favourites is the wish of the Angels which is for “Peace on Earth and Goodwill to Mankind” We don’t often use the word “goodwill” in our daily lives, but kindness is another good way of expressing goodwill.

As Chair of Governors, I don’t always get things right, but I do try on a daily basis to be kind and generous to others.

A good education is one of the best possible starts that we can give our children and I feel that Mrs McEniff and all the Staff at St Wilfrid’s School are in a very real way being kind towards the Children. It is hopefully a kindness that will reap great rewards for a lifetime. Teaching our Children how to behave both inside and outside of the school is also an act of kindness, as it is preparing them how to be good citizens of the 21st century, so that they in turn may be kind and generous towards others.

Peace on Earth especially at this very difficult time in the world, may seem hard to achieve but every one of us, no matter how young or how old, can do their best to be So, what one change could you make to your life in **2024** to help bring a little

 **“Peace on Earth”**

Mrs McEniff, Mrs Harkness, the Senior Leadership Team and all the Staff are working extremely hard to provide an essential balance for your child’s learning and development. However, there are wider skills, attitudes and understanding that must not be forgotten. Your children are given really important opportunities to develop these through physical, creative and emotional growth. So I would like to thank you for continuing to share and support these.

At the start of this term, we welcomed Mrs Alderton our new foundation governor along with Mr Jackson who was elected as the new parent governor representative. The Governing Body throughout this term have been supporting Mrs McEniff and Staff in reviewing school data on the whole school progress, pupil premium, financial matters as well as general school issues. Governors have also attended the level one safeguarding course at the start of this term. We have also participated in the school inset day held at the end of October, where Fr Paul said a beautiful Mass for all staff and governors. Following this governors then listened and participated in a range of activities in relation to Catholic Social Teaching at St Wilfrid’s School.

On behalf of the Governing Body, I would like to take this opportunity to say

**“Thank you”** to Mrs McEniff, Mrs Harkness and the whole Staff team, for their dedication, skill and hard work they have all given this term in whatever role they do to ensure that the school and all the children are looked after so very well.

A huge vote of **Thanks** must also be given to the members of the PTFA for organising once again a very successful Christmas Fair and to all our families and the wider school community for supporting yet again this wonderful event.

As we all rush towards Christmas and life seems to get busier and busier. Perhaps it helps to pause and consider the really important things in life. Over the past two weeks the children’s excitement and great pleasure at sharing all of their Christmas performances with you and each other has been a real example of this. I have enjoyed being part of these performances and I feel immensely proud to be Chair of Governors of such a warm, kind and caring School.

Finally on behalf of all the members of the Governing Body may I wish you and all your families a very,

 **“Happy and Holy Christmas and a Peaceful and Prosperous New Year.”**

Best Wishes

Mrs **Morrissey**

Chair of Governors

 **A Christmas Blessing**

 During this Christmas season,

 May you be blessed,

 With the spirit of the season,

 Which is peace,

 The gladness of the season,

 Which is hope,

 And the heart of the season,

 Which is love,

 Somehow, not only for Christmas,

 But all the long year through,

 The joy that you give to others,

 Is the joy that comes back to you,

 And the more you spend blessing,

 The poor, the lonely and sad,

 The more of your heart’s possessing,

 Returns to you glad and happy.