

## **Chair of Governors**

Nascot Wood Junior School

Nascot Wood Road

Watford WD17 4YS

01923 238784

15 December 2017

Dear Parents

I would like to put on record my appreciation of the efforts made by Mrs Singh, Mr Watts and all the staff of Nascot Wood Junior School to ensure that the school was able to open on Monday this week at a time when the vast majority of schools in the county were closed. I know that this took a vast amount of time, planning and physical effort to achieve.

This exceptional effort was, in part, in an attempt to ensure that the school's annual visit to the Christmas pantomime at the Palace Theatre was able to go ahead. Unfortunately, in view of the forecast of freezing temperatures as well as the insufficient ratio of staff to children and the need to ensure that those staff who had made it in to school were able to get home safely, the decision to cancel the trip was taken and parents and carers were informed of the fact late morning to ensure that there was adequate time to make arrangements to collect children from school at the normal time.

Whilst the majority of parents accepted the decision of the school, there was a significant number that did not and telephoned the school or turned up with a view to taking their children out of school in order that they could attend the pantomime. This course of action was not sanctioned by the school or the Governing Board and caused serious administrative and safeguarding issues for the school as well as undermining the decision made by the school to abandon the trip.

I further understand that members of staff were subjected to aggressive language and behaviour both on the telephone and in person. This is unacceptable behaviour and will not be tolerated by the Governing Board. I would draw the attention of all parents and carers to the school's behaviour policy which applies to both children and parents and carers alike.

While I understand the disappointment of children and parents that the visit was cancelled I fully support the decision of Mrs Singh. I have spoken with her and agree that the decision to cancel the trip was the only option available, taking into account all of the factors previously mentioned.

Mrs Singh and the Senior Leadership Team are routinely having to make difficult decisions which could potentially have a significant impact on the welfare and wellbeing of the children. These decisions are not taken lightly and are based on an expertise and experience gained from many years working in the field of education. I think that it is only right that parents and carers respect the fact that such decisions are made in the best interests of the children in all cases.

Yours faithfully

*Simon Harrison*

Chair of Governors