

Dear Samuel Barlow Primary and Wainwright Primary Academy families,

Wow what a long term it's been, starting on the 2nd of September with an inset day, looking at safeguarding and planning for the academic year 24/25. And now here we are at the end of the first term of 2024/25, it's been a busy term at both academies.

We welcome Carly Ripley to Wainwright Academy, a great addition to the team, also we welcomed Jon Chapman to Samuel Barlow Academy, moving from Wainwright, and again a great addition to the team, they both bring lots of experience and knowledge to our academies, their passion and drive for the development of students and staff is second to none, as Chair of governor I feel privileged to be working with them, the future look bright.

Your governors continue to support both academies and thank staff, students and parent/carers for their continued support and commitment to educating our students. Governors continue to meet as a board and carrying out link visits. We are also keen to support events at both academies, meeting parents and carers.

I would like to make a plea to parents and carers to think about becoming a governor, and in doing so, having a voice in the continued development of both academies, we especially need parent governors, if you think this is something you would like to look at, please talk to our principals.

Even though it's been busy, both academies have achieved so much, below are some bullet points of the success across both academies and supported by the Academy Committee and Senior Leadership Team.

- Christmas Nativities and Shows
- The Key Stage 2 Carol Concert held at St Marys (Wainwright) and All Saints (Samuel Barlow)
- Christmas Fayre
- The Candy Cane disco at Samuel Barlow
- Raising monies for Children in Need
- Successful trips and visits – including Year 6's trip to the Headstocks in Clipstone (Samuel Barlow) and the whole academy visit to the Mansfield Palace theatre (Wainwright)
- We celebrated Wainwright's 70th birthday on 2nd October. The children all learned about a decade, and we had parties.
- We had Hello Yellow day where we explored mindfulness and mental health.
- Harvest Festivals took place, and we collected donations for a local food bank.
- Local police have delivered assemblies to Year 5 and 6 relating to being safe in the community and knife crime.
- Years 1-6 have visited the local library and local church.
- Years 1-6 visited Mansfield Place Theatre to watch the pantomime Aladdin whilst Foundation stage watched an Aladdin pantomime in school. This was a Christmas treat from school.
- We hosted Breakfast with Santa and a visit to Santa's Grotto in school.

As governors, mental health and well-being of staff and students has been a concern and a priority, in all our conversations with the Senior Leadership, this along with safeguarding and SEN/D has been at the forefront of our conversations

On behalf of the governors, I would like to wish all staff, students and their families a very Merry Christmas and look forward to a prosperous 2025.

Kind regards

Mr Pete Edwards, Chair of Academy Committee governors