

Wirksworth Junior School Newsletter- May 2026



This month the sun has come shining out and with the lighter mornings everyone in school has had a lot more energy as we can see from the newsletter where we have only had two weeks in school, yet we have been up to so much.

We are Creative. At the start of April, we held our Easter service, which now feels such a long time ago.



Many people commented on how much they enjoyed the singing and how confidently the children spoke their lines. It was a wonderful way to send us into the Easter holidays, and it certainly left us all smiling.

We would also like to say a huge thank you for supporting your children in taking part in the Easter challenges. It was an amazing day. Those who had made something really enjoyed sharing their creations with others, and for us it was exciting to see which egg mobile would travel the furthest, as well as the creativity shown in the bonnets and 'Eggs in a Scene'. It is definitely one of our favourite times of the year.

To continue on the performing theme, the Year 4 and 5 children shared the moving vehicles they had completed as part of their DT topic last term. They explained that, as well as learning about sawing and gears, they also had to problem-solve and show a great deal of perseverance to overcome challenges.

We are Curious.

Well done to our Science Ambassadors, who visited Anthony Gell School last Wednesday to take part in the cluster Science Fair. They made paper planes and tested their designs, applying their scientific thinking throughout the activity. Although we did not win a prize, the children were highly commended for their impressive scientific knowledge and use of subject-specific vocabulary.



We are Caring.

As part of the School Council action plan, we are collecting plastic bottles to turn into flowers for a display. Please do send in a clean plastic bottle for your child to use with Mrs Doxey during her after-dinner art club, where they will create a flower from it.



Daisy the dog has now been in school for three weeks, and the impact she is having is wonderful to see. It is lovely watching everyone smile as she walks into school. Many children are excited to see her, sharing their stories and discussing how Daisy responds to their commands and actions. They are also learning how Daisy reads body language, even though she cannot speak. Some children are beginning to understand just how important body language can be, which has been a valuable and exciting learning experience for them.

Creative. Curious. Caring. We make every moment count.



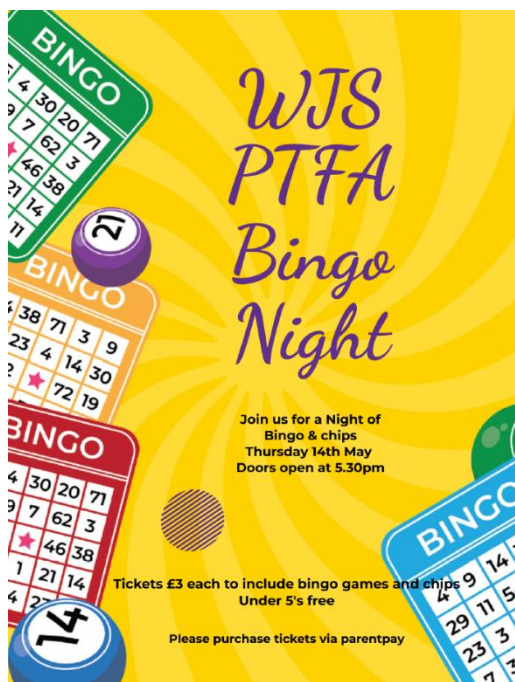
We make every moment count.

Year 3 attended a sports festival where they took part in archery, cricket and dance activities. Photos shared on ClassDojo show that the children had a fantastic time being active. Sam commented that it was his first time playing cricket and that he loved it. The Year 5/6 children attended a cricket event on Thursday, where they enjoyed being active and competing against other schools.

Book Fair- update on how much we have made.

Thank you to all those that supported the book fair we managed to raise **£170** for us to spend on books.

Green Fingers! Gardening Club has started up again this term, and the children have been busy planting strawberries, carrots, sweet peas and beetroot. The school grounds are already looking great, and we are looking forward to setting up our composting system, along with a watering rota across the school. This will allow everyone to take responsibility for tending and caring for the produce growing in our school grounds.



Thursday 14th May - Please keep this evening free and come along to our PTFA Bingo Night for a fun and sociable evening. For just **£3.00**, you'll enjoy a delicious chip cob *and* have the chance to win some bingo prizes. It's a great opportunity to relax, have fun, and support our school at the same time.

Tickets are available now on **ParentPay** — we'd love to see you there!



Panda Club in school

Jamie and Abbie are offering wraparound care from 7:30 to 9:00am and from 3:30- 5:30pm every day. If you are interested, please follow the link to find out more.

[Wirksworth Junior School –Premier Education](#)

Attendance Figures

Over the past few weeks lots of people have been requesting holidays. Please remember holidays will only be granted if they are exceptional and fines will be issued. Children only spend 190 days in school, and holidays should be taken outside of these times.

As you know, in school we do track every child's attendance via a traffic light system: green 100-96%, amber 95.9% to 90% and red is below 90%. We also track class attendance weekly where classes receive extra play for having the best class attendance and we track this as a whole school termly. Last month, the

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whole school attendance was **95.8%**. As you can see our attendance figure is below our target and this is something we want to improve on by reducing holidays taken in term time and supporting children coming into school. If you would like any help with getting your child into school, please do contact Mrs Davies who will happily support you with this.

Please note, although we try and support children to come into school, families that do not engage in this process of support offered maybe at risk of having a penalty notice issued which could result in a fine.

INSET days for 2025/2027

- Friday 26th June 2026

INSET days for 2026/2027

- Friday 4th September 2026
- Friday 23rd October 2026
- Monday 22nd February 2027
- Monday 7th June 2027
- Monday 26th July 2027

Important Dates

- Monday 4th May – School Closed – Bank holiday
- Monday 11th May – Thursday 14th May – SATs Week
- Thursday 14th May – PTFA Bingo Night – 5.30pm (tickets available on ParentPay)
- Friday 15th May – Year 6 Celebration Day
- Monday 25th May – Friday 29th May – Half term

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