Wirksworth Junior School Newsletter- November 26

Another month has flown by. We hope you have had a lovely half-term, and the monthly newsletter will remind you of what a busy month we had in October.



We are Creative.

Our Harvest Festival was a wonderful occasion, with some truly spine-tingling harmonies from the children. Thank you to everyone who came along to support the event and for their generous donations. The children worked extremely hard to learn the songs, words and actions, and their efforts were reflected in a fantastic performance.

Year 3 pupils have been learning to play the clarinet and are excited to share their learning with you during our Christmas church service.



As part of Forest School, Year 6 pupils have been designing and creating their own sundials.

We are Curious.

The children have been learning about the importance of washing their hands this month through a fascinating science investigation. They tested four pieces of bread: the first was a control sample and was not touched; the second was handled after washing hands for 10 seconds; the third after washing for 20 seconds; and the fourth after washing for 20 seconds with soap. As you can see from the results opposite, the differences were striking. The investigation provided a powerful visual reminder of the importance of washing our hands thoroughly for the length of time it takes to sing Happy Birthday.



Year 4 pupils have continued this scientific theme by investigating which material is best at keeping hot chocolate warm. Their results showed that a China mug lost the most heat over a 20-minute period, while a thin plastic cup, like those found next to a water dispenser, and a cardboard Costa-style cup retained the most heat. Mrs Cooke was delighted with the pupils' teamwork throughout the investigation and commented on how well they supported one another when taking temperatures, recording results and drawing conclusions from their findings.





We are Caring.

The Year 3 children have been busy getting the garden ready for winter and spring. They have been clearing the garden beds and planting a colourful mix of spring bulbs and cheerful pansies. The children also harvested the apples and used them to make a delicious apple crumble for the rest of the school to enjoy.

We make every moment count.

The newly elected School Council recently carried out their annual litter pick around the school grounds to investigate the types and amounts of litter being dropped. During the activity, the children noticed a

positive change, with overall litter levels decreasing compared to previous years. However, plastic waste continues to be the most common type of rubbish found.

The children have once again shown great enthusiasm for environmental projects. They are keen to continue litter-picking activities and have expressed an interest in creating artwork from recycled plastic waste. We have also secured an exciting STEAM event with the Derbyshire Makers Project, where the children will design and create moving models using recycled materials. This event will take place in December, and further details will be shared soon.

In addition, the School Council has shown an interest in organising more themed days across the school and hopes to hold a clothes and toy swap shop in the coming weeks to encourage reusing and recycling.

The children have also worked together to develop an action plan for the year ahead, focusing on sustainability, pupil voice, and school improvement. You can view the School Council's action plan by visiting the school website.

PTFA updates

The PTFA Halloween tuck shop raised an amazing £82.53. Our PTFA would like to thank everybody who s upported this event. Their AGM will be held on **Thursday 19th November, starting at 2 pm in** the school. If anyone would like to get involved with the PTFA, then please feel free to come along.

Donation of £50 to the school.

We would like to say a huge thank you to the local U3a crime fiction book group who have donated £50 to us to buy some new books. I have asked each class for suggestions of books they would like to be added to our reading corners.

Anti-bullying week in school is coming up on 16-20th



Monday 16th November, the children will be allowed to wear odd socks and will take part in activities to learn about online bullying and learning what seems a joke may not be a joke to the person you are teasing. The children will also get to review their policy and complete a survey to tell us how we can continue to keep them safe.

We'll be holding a follow-up drop-in session on ***Monday 17th November at 2:30pm,*** where we'll go through the updated policy and offer time for questions and discussion. The revised policy is attached to the email for your reference.

Reminder to join Our TT Rockstars Club!



This is a reminder to the Year 3 and Year 4 children that they can still join our TT Rockstars Club, held every morning from 8:30 AM. This is a fantastic opportunity for children to practise their times tables in a fun and engaging way. Children who regularly attend often achieve higher scores in their Year 4 multiplication check, which gives them a strong foundation for maths throughout primary school and even into secondary education.

There's no need to book and no requirement to attend every day — just pop in when you can! And don't forget it is our rockstar day on **Friday 27th November** where the children can come dressed as rockstars.

Attendance matters

Whole school attendance for October was 97.1**%**, which is above our target of 96%— a fantastic effort overall, and a clear sign that we're making great progress! The areas we need to work on is children coming in late to school. Mrs Davies, our attendance officer, is here to support if you are struggling to create a routine to getting your child in on time.

Pupil spot.

If you have anything you would like to share on Pupil spot, please let me know via Class Dojo.

Polite Reminder

The play equipment in the playground is only for children aged 7-11, when supervised by school staff.

Important Dates

- Children In Need – Friday 13th November – Wear your own clothes
- Singing around the Christmas Tree & Bauble Run – Friday 11th December
- Christmas Reindeer Dash – Wednesday16th December
- Christmas service in St. Mary's Church – Friday 18th December

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