

Wirksworth Junior School Newsletter- May 2025



Following a refreshing Easter break and a recent bank holiday, the children have returned to school with renewed energy! We've been busy revisiting the highlights of the past few weeks, celebrating our Easter events before the holiday, and of course, diving into focused SATs revision. Let's take a look at what we've been up to..

We are Creative.



Though it feels like a distant memory now, the children delivered a truly beautiful Easter Service at St. Mary's Church. They thoughtfully explored the symbolism of various crosses, while our Year 3 and 4 students wonderfully explained the diverse ways Easter is celebrated globally. Their creative Easter bonnets, confident reading, and remarkable courage in addressing a packed church filled us with pride and sent us off for the Easter break with beaming smiles..

We are Curious.

The final week of term was a hive of activity for Year 5 and 6 as they put the finishing touches on their locomotives for Engineering Day. For weeks, the children had been engrossed in designing and constructing vehicles capable of moving forward, backward, and even tackling inclines. Their hard work culminated on Friday, May 2nd, when a team of eight students, accompanied by Mrs. Lofts, proudly represented our school against others with similar engineering challenges. Despite some waiting, our children shone, articulating their design choices with confidence and insightful detail. A special congratulations to Paige and Esmay, whose imaginative creations earned them well-deserved prizes. Perhaps we have some budding Primary Engineers among us!

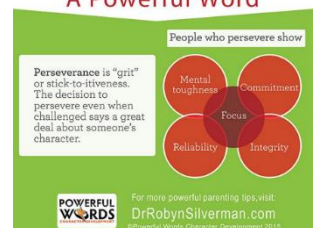


We are Caring.

During our assemblies this term, we are learning about our school value, perseverance. The children will be learning that perseverance they need the following 5 skills.

- Mental toughness- Thomas Edison when he was creating the light bulb.
- Commitment – Edie the Eagle Edwards, when he wanted to compete at the winter Olympics.
- Reliability – the story of the Knight Galbraith, who followed what he was told and was not distracted by others.
- Integrity- Understanding that they must do the right thing, not telling the truth to themselves and others, may mean they do not achieve their goals and dreams
- Focus – learning how we all need to focus. As I reflect on focusing on learning to swim and play the piano.

Perseverance A Powerful Word



Please talk to the children about their goals and dreams and what small steps they can take to achieve them.

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

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Easter challenges in school is one of my favourite annual events in school. We had a great time, and some of the furthest distances travelled that we have ever seen! Well done to Erin and Arlo's Batmobile, which went 21.92 metres, Hayden's mobile (18.2 metres) and Ruby's Easter Eggspress (15 metres)! Also, huge congratulations to the children who won the egg in a scene and bonnet competitions, and to everyone who gave up their time to make something at home. The children of WJS are very creative!

This Girl Can event

Our Year 5 and 6 girls enthusiastically embraced the #thisgirlcan event! They threw themselves into trying new activities with real spirit and gusto. Meanwhile, the boys at school had fantastic opportunities to engage in orienteering and fitness activities. It was a brilliant way for everyone to foster a love of physical activity for both a healthy mind and body.



Little Reminder: Keeping Toys & Collectables at Home

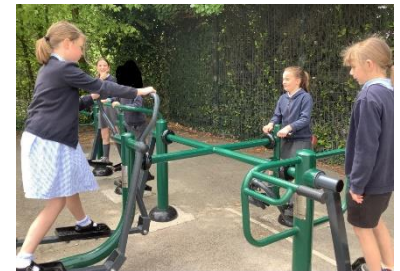
Just a friendly little note about bringing toys, stickers, and collectables to school. To help keep things happy and focused for all the children, we'd really appreciate it if these special items could stay safe and sound at home for the time being. Sometimes they can cause little upsets, and we want everyone to have a smooth and enjoyable day together! Thanks so much for your understanding – it really helps!

Building more independence in school

To support your child's growing independence and ensure smooth mornings, we encourage drop-offs at the school gates or classroom door from this Monday, 12th May. If you wish to talk to the class teacher, please message them via Class Dojo to arrange a mutually convenient time to meet to discuss this.

Fantastic new gym equipment- Just a quick update on the fantastic new gym equipment that arrived a couple of weeks ago thanks to the amazing fundraising by our PTFA!

The children have absolutely loved exploring and using all the new additions during their PE lessons and break times. It's been wonderful to see so much enthusiasm and energy in the gym!



We just wanted to reiterate our huge thanks to the PTFA for their incredible support in making this happen. The positive impact on our children's activity and enjoyment is already clear.

Online safety links to the website. PC Kirsty Hunt



It was great seeing PC Kirsty and PC Sarah in school last week, sharing some fliers and how to keep your children safe online. If you missed this event, you can pick these up in school or find them on the school website by following the link.

<https://www.wirksworth-junior.com/e-safety/>

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Superstars ' school activities.

Don't forget we have the trial sessions with Super Stars activity clubs. To sign up follow the link to the website. [Super Star Sport | Premier Sports Activities for Healthy Kids](#)

SATS support

SATs are almost here, and some may find this an exciting time to demonstrate what they know, others may be building up a lot of unnecessary pressure and anxiety on themselves. Build Sound Minds have produced some useful guides on how to help you, as parents, to navigate and support children through this stressful time. Please click on the link to find out more.

https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/parents-a-z-mental-health-guide/exam-time/?utm_source=eshot&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=360schools&utm_content=april2023&utm_term=exams



Pupil spot



Undeterred by a very early 4 am start, Isaac, accompanied by his Mum, embarked on an arduous trek that would eventually see them conquer the mighty Snowdon. Their journey, marked by an impressive accumulation of 30,000 steps, culminated in reaching the breathtaking summit. This climb represents a truly magnificent achievement, a testament to their determination and resilience.

Keeping Children Safe in Hot Weather- A note from Health Protection Team

As the summer months roll in, temperatures are expected to rise and whilst many of us look forward to this, high temperatures can be dangerous for young children. Below are some top tips to help you keep young ones safe during hotter weather.

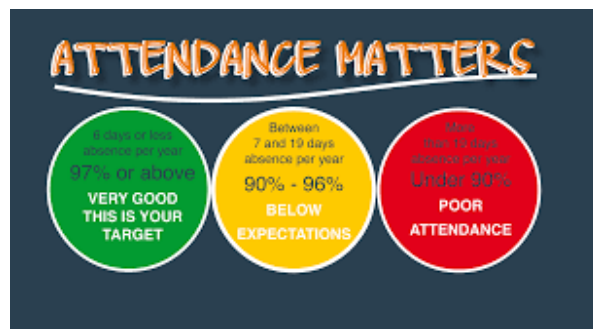
- Sign up to Heat- Health Alerts to ensure you are alerted to periods of hot weather in order to take appropriate action - <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/warnings-and-advice/seasonal-advice/heat-health-alert-service>
- Look at creating shade including with blinds, shutters, sun awnings and planting
- Encourage frequent fluid intake across children and adults – assess access to water points and toilets to increase water intake
- Encourage shade during outside breaks, sun cream and hats for both children and adults
- Look at timing of events where children, staff and parents/carers are spending time outdoors. Avoid the hottest part of the day between 11am to 3pm. Children should not take part in strenuous physical activity on very hot days.
- Know the signs of heat illness and the actions to take
- Look at the guidance for reducing Indoor air temperature [Beat the heat: keep cool at home checklist - GOV.UK](#)

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Attendance this term

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 maybe 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 whole school attendance was **95.53%**. As you can see our attendance figure is below our target and this is something we want to try and 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.



Reminder of INSET days 2025-2026

Thursday 4th September 2025

Friday 5th September. 2025

Friday 24th October 2025

Monday 23rd February 2026

Friday 26th June 2026

Important dates

Thursday 8th May – VE Day Celebrations, children to come dressed in red, white and blue

W/C Monday 12th May – Year 6 SATS assessment week

Friday 16th May – Y6 Celebration event

W/C Monday 19th May – Y6 creating the well dressing

Wednesday 21st May – Family to lunch

Friday 23rd May – Last day in school

Monday 2nd June – Back to school

Monday 2nd June – Y6 Leavers & Class photo's

Friday 27th June – INSET Day

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